

RECREATIONAL FISHERY INFORMATION NETWORK DATA AND SAMPLING REFINEMENTS

The Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN) is a recreational fisheries database managed by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) that is designed to integrate state and federal marine recreational fishery sampling efforts into a single database to provide important biological, social, and economic data for Pacific coast recreational fishery managers, anglers, and the general public. RecFIN has been primarily used to support groundfish management, but has the potential to more fully support the management of other Council fishery management plan species that are caught in recreational fisheries.

In November 2005, the Council acted on a recommendation from PSMFC staff, the RecFIN Technical Committee, and Council advisors by requesting a RecFIN workshop be convened to review substantive changes implemented for RecFIN and to explore RecFIN refinements regarding recreational fishery data needs. The RecFIN Workshop was convened on August 28-September 1, 2006 in Portland, Oregon and all interested Council advisors and the general public were invited to attend. Mr. Russell Porter, a senior program manager for PSMFC, will present a report of last year's RecFIN Workshop (Agenda Item B.3.b, PSMFC Report). Various improvements in data collection, data reporting, sampling protocols, and catch estimation methodology were recommended by workshop attendees.

Specific recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) offered at the RecFIN Workshop are provided in Agenda Item B.3.c, SSC Report. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) recently met to discuss their RecFIN recommendations, which are provided in Agenda Item B.3.c, HMSMT Report. The Council is tasked to provide recommendations to PSMFC regarding refinements to RecFIN to better support Council management. The Council should consider the advice of its advisors and the general public before making these recommendations.

Council Action:

Provide recommendations for making appropriate refinements to RecFIN.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.3.b, PSMFC Report: RecFIN Status Report.
2. Agenda Item B.3.c, SSC Report: Recreational Fishery Information Requirements for Stock Assessment and Regulatory Analysis.
3. Agenda Item B.3.c, HMSMT Report: Highly Migratory Species Management Team Report on Recreational Fishery Information Network Data and Sampling Refinements.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations for Making Appropriate Refinements

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