

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STATISTICS SURVEY UPDATE

Mr. Russell Porter with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the status of the Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN) program that is administered by the PSMFC. Inadequacies in the RecFIN budget could eliminate Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) field sampling on a coast-wide basis from November 2001 through February 2002. The RecFIN database provides information essential to stock assessments of some species. A reduction in the data quality and coverage in the RecFIN database due to budget limitations could negatively impact future stock assessments for several recreationally-important species such as black rockfish, bocaccio, lingcod, and cowcod.

Mr. Porter reported there has been continued progress toward integrating the MRFSS data with information collected by the state agencies. This is an important improvement to the RecFIN database and the SSC recommends these efforts continue.

There has also been continued progress toward rectifying differences between state and MRFSS estimates when both are available. The analysis and report for Oregon has been completed. A report examining the state-produced and MRFSS estimates for Washington is expected in August. The SSC looks forward to seeing this report.

PFMC
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