

## MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STATISTICS SURVEY UPDATE

Situation: With reductions in the groundfish fishery in recent years, data collected on recreational harvest of groundfish has become increasingly important. Recreational harvest data is also important for other fisheries of interest to the Council such as those for highly migratory species and salmon.

An update on status and progress of the Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN) program will be provided by Mr. Russell Porter of Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). RecFIN is administered by PSMFC. The Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) is an integral part of the RecFIN program. Traditionally, there are two primary components of the survey, field intercept surveys (administered under supervision of PSMFC) and a random phone survey of coastal populations (administered by a third party contracted by NMFS). The results of these two efforts are combined in the RecFIN data system maintained by PSMFC and estimates of total effort and fishing mortality are produced along with other data useful for management and stock assessments. Numerous efforts have been undertaken in recent years to increase the efficiency, precision, and public confidence in the estimates produced by this data project. These efforts have included review of differences between state and MRFSS estimates (where the two have overlapped), the development of a party/charter vessel census approach for effort estimation (to replace the sample method currently used to produce estimates for the party/charter fishing mode), and better integration of MRFSS and state sampling programs. While these efforts have been underway, RecFIN has been level funded and the program may have to eliminate sampling for some portions of the coming year. The following are among the topics that Mr. Porter will cover under this agenda item:

- (1) Status of the RecFIN budget.
- (2) The party/charter vessel effort survey.
- (3) New results forthcoming from the review of differences between MRFSS estimates and Oregon and Washington estimates for recreational fishing activities.
- (4) Catch numbers to date for 2001.
- (5) Economic surveys being conducted in the coming year.

**Council Action: Comment and guidance as appropriate.**

Reference Materials: None.

PFMC  
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