

Briefing Paper

Exhibit C.2
Attachment 1
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PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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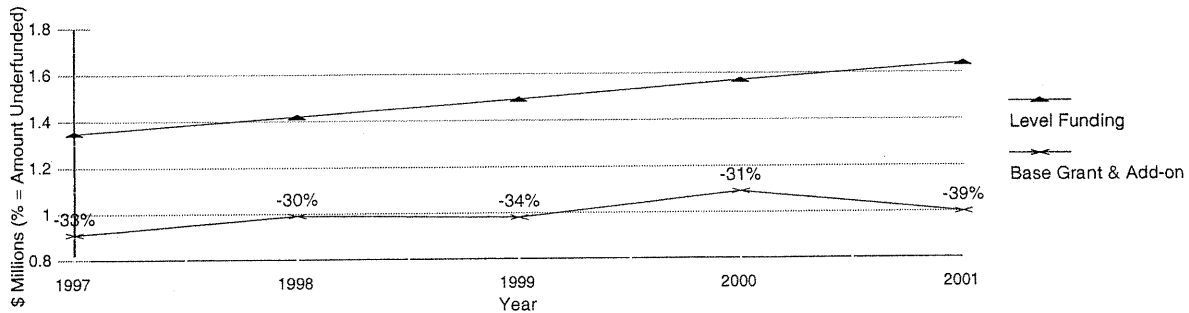
Funding Needs for RecFIN/MRFSS

What is needed and why?

1. RESTORATION OF YEAR-ROUND FIELD SAMPLING
2. IN-SEASON AND MORE ACCURATE CATCH ESTIMATES
3. NEW APPROACHES TAILORED TO THE WEST COAST

1. RecFIN NEEDS \$240K TO RESTORE YEAR-ROUND SAMPLING

There is a significant and growing gap between level (inflation adjusted) and actual funding for the RecFIN/MRFSS project



- ◆ The funding gap has substantially deteriorated the RecFIN program's ability to gather field data to support the MRFSS. A list of past program cutbacks is attached.
- ◆ The least harmful cutback to keep the program within its 2001 budget appears to be complete discontinuation of November-December field sampling.
- ◆ RecFIN needs \$240K added to its base grant in order to maintain year-round field sampling and its ability to make estimates of total annual catch and effort.

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2. INSEASON & MORE ACCURATE ESTIMATES

- ◆ Current sampling levels provide estimates usable for management only when data for an entire year is aggregated.
- ◆ Complete annual data lags the management decisions by one to two years (e.g. for 2002, management measures will be set with partial information on the effects of the regulatory changes implemented for 2001).
- ◆ Recreationally targeted species are now being declared overfished
 - Rebuilding and associated recreational allocations have resulted in a dramatic increase in the need for inseason catch estimates.
 - While statisticians advise not using current inseason estimates, the estimates indicate significant violation of the sport allocation for some species will likely occur again in 2001 (see attachment).
- ◆ Rapidly changing regulatory regimes reduce managers' ability to project harvest using past years' data.
- ◆ The commercial fishery is managed inseason. The alternatives to recreational inseason management appear to be untenable; either
 - (1) severely restrict recreational fisheries to account for previous year's overages, or
 - (2) distribute a significant portion of the conservation burden to the commercial sector.
- ◆ Recreational information is needed on a smaller geographic scale for assessment of community level impacts and marine protected area analysis.

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3. NEW APPROACHES ARE NEEDED FOR DATA COLLECTION ON THE WEST COAST

- ◆ The level of accuracy for estimates of catch of West Coast species appears to be less than what is needed for management of the fisheries and public confidence in the data is very low.
- ◆ Progress is being made as new methods are developed. In particular, the charter vessel survey pilot study for California and the potential for using state electronic license databases as a sampling frame hold promise for increasing public confidence in estimates.
- ◆ A review of current methods is urgently needed in order to determine whether there are better ways to meet the information needs for Federal and state management of West Coast species. This review should include identification of the optimal design for generating inseason catch estimates. In particular, non-MRFSS alternatives for generating inseason estimates for the groundfish fishery need to be evaluated.
- ◆ \$50K is needed to fund committee work to design an adequate program capable of generating inseason estimates and meeting other data needs.

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Attachment

Adjustments through 2000:

Program: reduced seasonal help, eliminated funds for sampling design effort

California: put samplers on part time, eliminated employee benefits, reduced sample size by 10% compared to 1996

Oregon: laid off two samplers for two months a year, state absorbed some travel expenses, reduced sample size by 5% compared to 1996

Washington: moved experienced samplers out of MRFSS sampling positions, cut new data entry person, reduced sample size by 30% compared to 1996

New Budget Impacts: in addition to normal cost increases, California now requires overtime be paid on a daily basis (1.5* wage for hours in excess of 8 hrs; and 2* wage for hours in excess of 12 hrs)

Recent Data Problems:

In 2000:

- The preliminary estimate for **bocaccio** catch for Jan-Apr was 74 mt (38 mt south of Mendocino).
- The annual recreational allocation was 45 mt (south of Mendocino).
- Industry concern over the estimate lead to the identification of problems in the sample.
- Later, the Jan-Apr estimate was revised downward to 52 mt.
- The CDFG Jan-Apr estimate based on logbook information was 40 mt.
- The MRFSS estimated catch through the end of the year was 122 mt.

In 2001:

- The preliminary estimate for the **canary rockfish** catch for Jan-Feb is 16 mt.
- The annual recreational allocation is 44 mt (coastwide).
- Based on the pattern for last year the projected catch for 2001 would be about 80 mt, almost twice the allocation.
- Given last year's experience, the Council is reluctant to adjust based on the preliminary estimate.
- The **bocaccio** catch also appears to be high for Jan-Feb, 2001.