

MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STATISTICS SURVEY UPDATE

Situation: An update on the status 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).

At the Council's June meeting, Mr. Porter reported to the Council that a budget shortfall may result in cancellation of field sampling in Wave 6 (November-December) 2001, and Wave 1 (January-February) 2002. Subsequently, several Council members and two PSMFC representatives met with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Dr. William Hogarth. Dr. Hogarth promised to provide funds needed for year-round field sampling and indicated an intent to meet the Council's request for an additional \$50,000 for meetings to evaluate possibilities for development of a better system to meet West Coast data needs. Subsequent to that meeting, different interpretations have been given on the intended use of the \$50,000. This led Mr. Randy Fisher, Director of PSMFC to draft the attached letter requesting further clarification.

Council Task:

- 1. Comment and guidance as appropriate on evaluation and possible redesign of the recreational data system.**

Reference Materials:

1. Briefing paper for the July 5 Hogarth meeting (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 1).
2. Letter from Randy Fisher to Dr. William Hogarth (Exhibit C.2.b, PSMFC Letter).

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The GFSP calls for data collection, monitoring and analysis: "To provide comprehensive, objective, reproducible, and credible information in an understandable and timely manner to meet our conservation and management objectives." Recommendations reference the need to create cooperative interagency-industry partnerships, implement the West Coast Fisheries Economic Data Plan and integrate Council research and data needs into the NOAA budget process. Council activity with Dr. Hogarth is entirely consistent with the GFSP.

PFMC
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