

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL FISHERY SURVEY
2004 PROGRAM REVIEW

In response to concerns from the Council, constituents, and policy representatives about the credibility of the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey (MRFSS), staff from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) designed a new program for estimating the catch of groundfish in California's marine recreational fisheries, incorporating some modified elements of the previous MRFSS program and the high quality sampling of California's Ocean Salmon Project.

This new program, the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS), was implemented in January 2004 and preliminary results are anticipated for review at this Council meeting. MRFSS has been an integral part of recreational fishery monitoring, but was not designed to estimate catch and effort at the level of precision needed for management or assessment; it was designed to provide a broad perspective on national fisheries. Until 2004, California recreational groundfish fishery monitoring has relied solely on MRFSS, however, because these data may be imprecise and are highly variable, particularly for rare or non-retained species, management of California recreational groundfish fisheries has been difficult. Aspects of the MRFSS program will be conducted in parallel with the new CRFS program for 2004 to allow calibration of prior year estimates to the CRFS methods.

Mr. Russell Porter, Field Programs Administrator for PSMFC, and Mr. Steve Crook, CRFS Mandate Coordinator for CDFG will update the Council on CRFS program methodology and implementation.

The Council is to hear the program review, as well as advice from the Council advisory bodies and the public, and consider providing recommendations and guidance on further implementation of the CRFS program.

Council Task:

Consider the report on CRFS and provide guidance on the next steps in the CRFS program.

Reference Materials:

1. Agendum C.1.b, Attachment 1: California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS), A Review of the New Sampling Methods for 2004.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Program Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Guidance on the Next Steps in the CRFS Program

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PFMC
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