

Pacific Fishery Management Council

Council Meeting Schedule

www.pcouncil.org/events/future.html

Meeting dates and/or locations are subject to change depending on availability of meeting space. Any changes will be published in the Council's Newsletter and updated on this page.

2005		
WEEK OF	LOCATION	HOTEL
March 6-11	Sacramento, California	Doubletree Hotel 2001 Point West Way Sacramento, CA 95815 916-929-8855
April 3-8	Tacoma, Washington	Sheraton Tacoma Hotel 1320 Broadway Plaza Tacoma, WA 98402 253-572-3200
June 12-17	Foster City (San Mateo County), California	Crowne Plaza Mid Peninsula 1221 Chess Drive Foster City, CA 94404 800-227-6963 or 650-570-5700
September 11-16	Portland, Oregon	Embassy Suites Hotel 7900 NE 82 nd Avenue Portland, OR 97220 503.460.3000 or 800-EMBASSY
October 30-November 4	San Diego, California	Hyatt Regency Islandia 1441 Quivira Road San Diego, CA 92109 619-224-1234 or 800-233-1234

2006		
WEEK OF	LOCATION	HOTEL
March 5-10	California	To Be Determined
April 2-7	Oregon or Washington	To Be Determined
June 11-16	Foster City (San Mateo County), California	Crowne Plaza Mid Peninsula 1221 Chess Drive Foster City, CA 94404 800-227-6963 or 650-570-5700
September 10-15	Washington, Oregon or California	To Be Determined
November 12-17	California	To Be Determined

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
2001 POINT WEST WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95815
916-929-8855

FROM AIRPORT DIRECTIONS:

Take I-5 south to the Garden Highway exit. Turn Left on Garden Highway, following Garden Highway as it turns into Garden-Arden access. Continue until it turns into Arden Way. Continue on Arden Way, going under Interstate 80. Doubletree Hotel is just past Interstate 80 on Arden Way. Directly after I-80, on Arden Way, the hotel grounds will be on the right hand side. Turn right on Point West Way, and right into the hotel parking lot.

SUPER SHUTTLE:

Sacramento International Airport Super Shuttle is located directly outside the baggage claim area at each terminal. Reservations are not required unless for large parties, or private charters. Simply go to the Super Shuttle service center, and purchase either a round-trip or one way ticket. Taxis are also available at the airport.

General Arrival Directions:

GOING I-5 NORTH:

Take I-5 to HWY 50. Take HWY 50 east to Business 80/Capital City Freeway East. Exit at Arden Way East, keep right. Take the first right onto Point West Way.

GOING I-5 SOUTH:

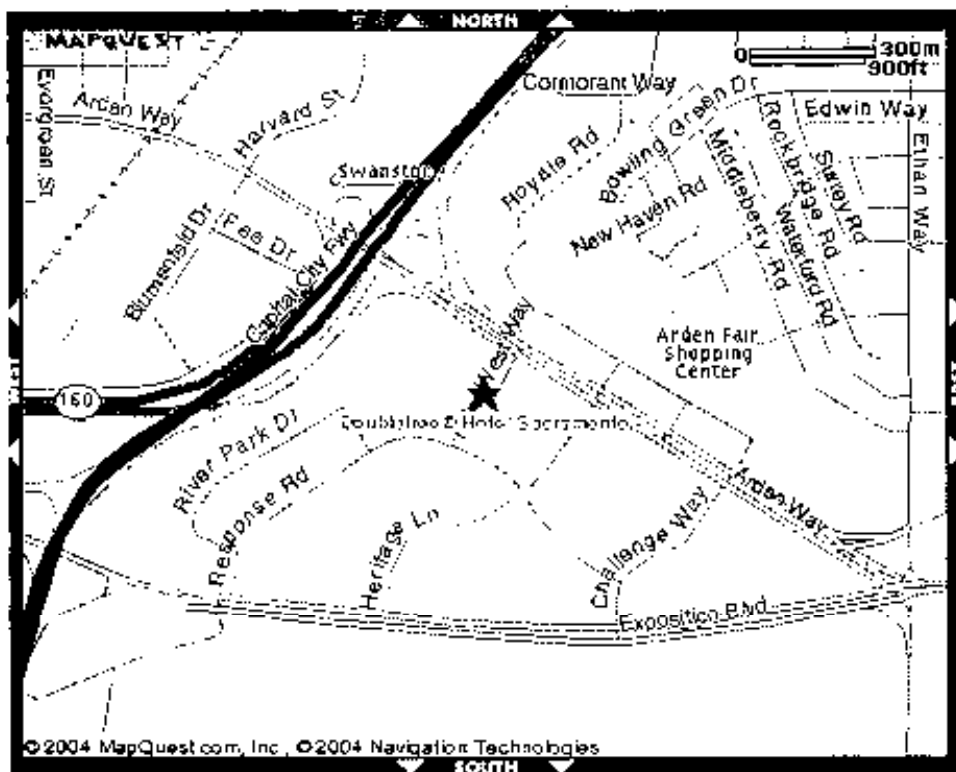
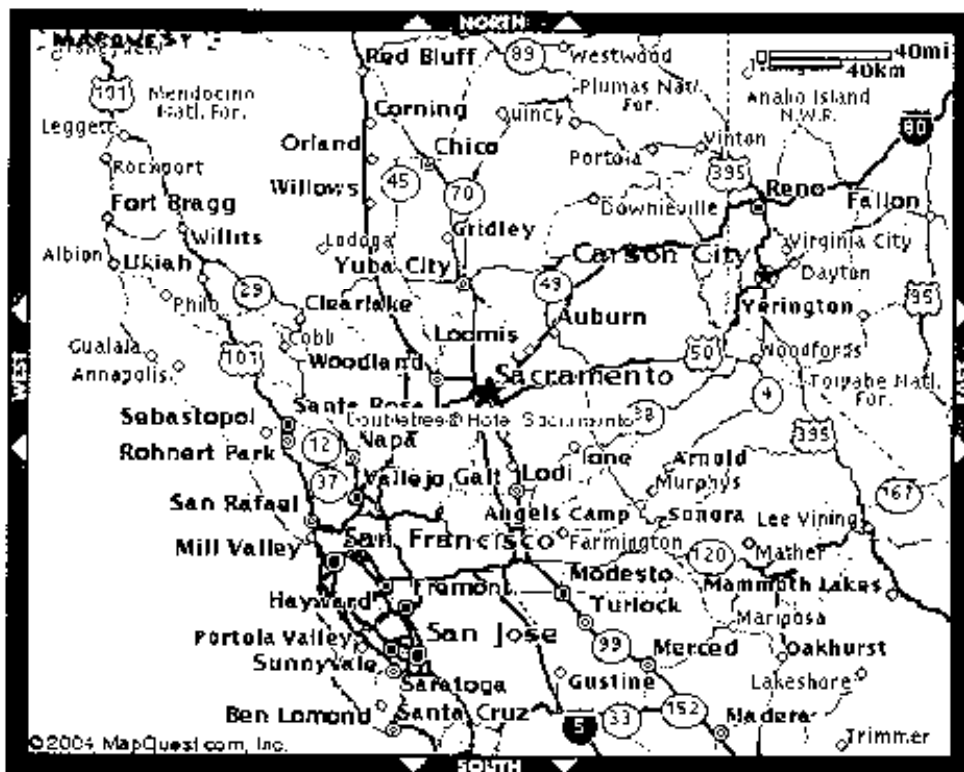
Take the Garden Highway exit, turning left onto Garden Highway. Continue on Garden Highway until it turns into Garden-Arden. Continue on Garden-Arden as it turns into Arden way. Continue on Arden Way, going under Interstate 80. Just past Interstate 80 you will turn right onto Point West Way, and right into the hotel parking lot.

FROM HIGHWAY 99:

Keep to the left when approaching Sacramento. HWY 99 merges into Business 80/Capital City Freeway. Take the Arden Way east, keep right. Take the first right onto Point West Way. FROM HWY 50: Take the Business 80/Capital City Freeway split. Exit at Arden Way east, keep right. Take the first right onto Point West Way.



Doubletree® Hotel Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento, CA 95815 US







Find It

[Revise Search](#) | [Expand to 50 Miles](#) | [New Search](#) | [Browse Categories](#)

Results 1-10 of 150+ for **(All) Restaurants** near **2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815-4702**

Sort by Distance ▾

1) Maxi's American Cafe

2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA (0.00 miles away)
916-929-8855
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

2) Elephant Bar Restaurant

1500 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.07 miles away)
916-564-2526
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

3) El Torito Mexican Restaurant

1598 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.16 miles away)
916-927-0071
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

4) Papayas Cafe

1555 River Park Dr # 100, Sacramento, CA (0.22 miles away)
916-564-3633
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

5) California Cafe Bar and Grill

1689 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.25 miles away)
916-925-2233
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

6) La Salsa

1689 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.25 miles away)
916-565-0144
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

7) Waffle Shop

1540 River Park Dr # 109, Sacramento, CA (0.25 miles away)
916-564-8880
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

8) Cafe Europa

1689 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-929-4140
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

9) Burger King

1689 Arden Way # 2018, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-929-3792
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

10) China Inn

1689 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-925-0959
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

11) Frank & Stein Dogs & Drafts

1689 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-924-1249
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

12) Fresh Choice Restaurants

1689 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-646-3839
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

13) Nestle Toll House Cafe

1689 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-646-5772
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

14) Oishi

1689 Arden Way # 2028, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-920-5579
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

15) Orange Julius

1689 Arden Way # 1112, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-646-6484
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

16) Paradise Bakery & Cafe

1689 Arden Way # 2032, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-565-5890
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

17) Sbarro

1689 Arden Way # 2014, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-564-6341
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

18) Steak Escape

1689 Arden Way # 2026, Sacramento, CA (0.26 miles away)
916-924-8352
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

19) Point West Cafe

1610 Arden Way # 155, Sacramento, CA (0.27 miles away)
916-646-1928
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

20) Anthony's Bistro

1735 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.31 miles away)
916-925-4800
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)



Find It

[Reverse Search](#) | [Expand to 50 Miles](#) | [New Search](#) | [Browse Categories](#)

Results 21-30 of 150+ for **(All) Restaurants near 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815-4702**

Sort by Distance ▾

21) Bistro Market Square

1735 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.31 miles away)
916-925-2333

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

22) Kanpai Sushi

1735 Arden Way # 210, Sacramento, CA (0.31 miles away)
916-641-2216

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

23) Market Square Grill

1735 Arden Way # 218, Sacramento, CA (0.31 miles away)
916-925-3500

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

24) Max's Opera Cafe

1735 Arden Way # 200, Sacramento, CA (0.31 miles away)
916-927-6297

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

25) Panda Express

1735 Arden Way # 224, Sacramento, CA (0.31 miles away)
916-921-5386

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

26) California Pizza Kitchen

1735 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.31 miles away)
916-569-0932

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

27) Chuck E. Cheese

1650 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.31 miles away)
916-920-9181

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

28) Monterey Bay Cannery

1785 Challenge Way, Sacramento, CA (0.36 miles away)
916-920-3474

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

29) Olive Garden

1780 Challenge Way, Sacramento, CA (0.36 miles away)
916-649-8105

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

30) Tokyo Gardens Sushi & Seafood

1801 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA (0.39 miles away)
916-402-9041

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

31) Tokyo Gardens Sushi & Seafood

1801 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA (0.40 miles away)
916-648-9745

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

32) Dos Coyotes Border Cafe

1735 Arden Way # 230, Sacramento, CA (0.41 miles away)
916-927-0377

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

33) Coco's Family Restaurant

1830 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.43 miles away)
916-922-6741

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

34) Grace Restaurant Co

1830 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.43 miles away)
916-922-0220

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

35) Harvard Street Grill

2200 Harvard St, Sacramento, CA (0.47 miles away)
916-922-4700

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

36) Food To You

1000 Sacramento Inn Way # 209, Sacramento, CA (0.48 miles away)
916-649-3665

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

37) Sudwerk Brewery And Grill

1375 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA (0.49 miles away)
916-925-6623

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

38) Luau Garden Chinese & American

1890 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.54 miles away)
916-929-3690

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

39) Burger King

1915 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA (0.59 miles away)
916-920-8498

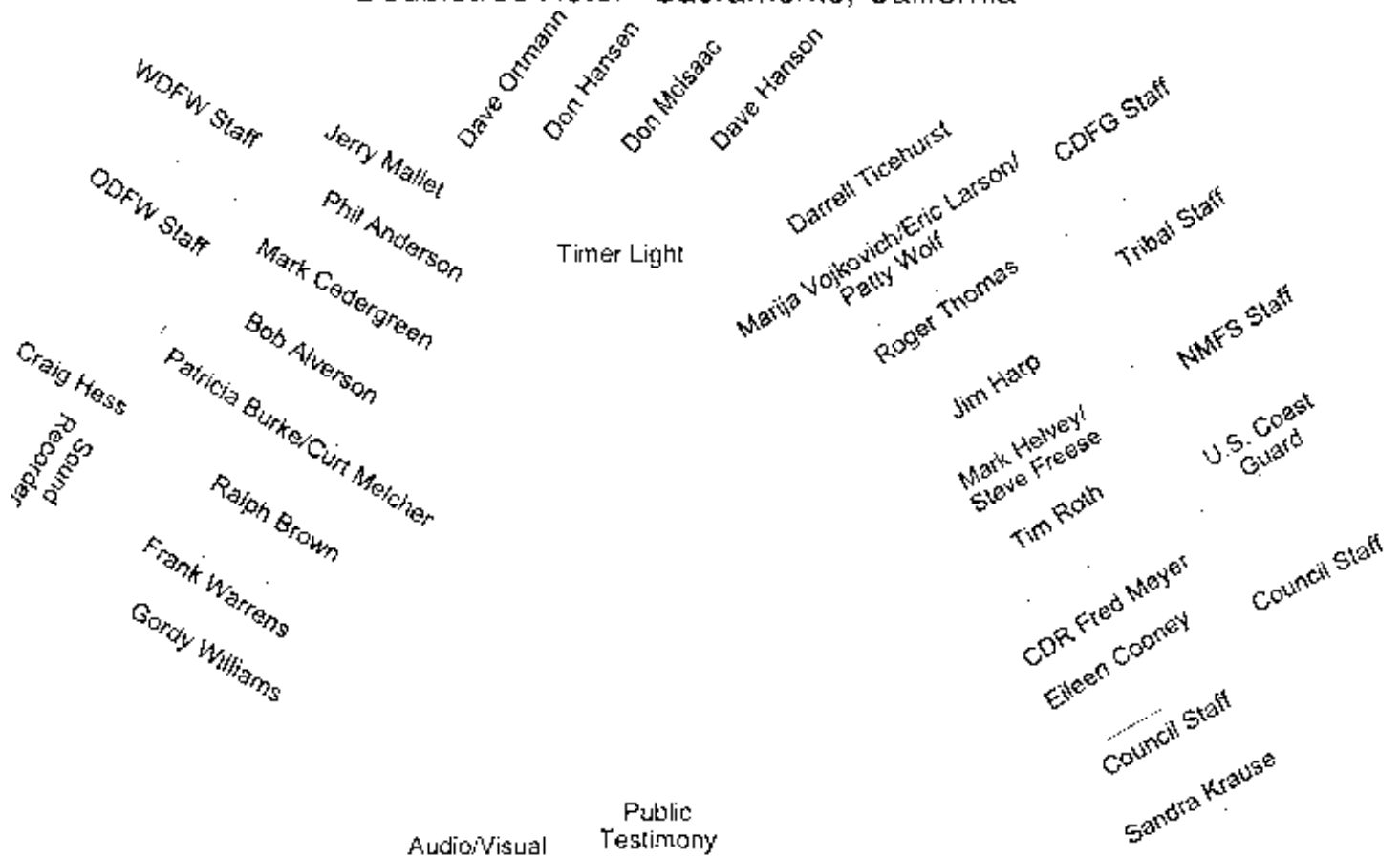
[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

40) Romano's Macaroni Grill

2001 Arden Arden Expy, Sacramento, CA (0.66 miles away)
916-921-2711

[Map](#) | [Directions To](#) | [Directions From](#)

**PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM DIAGRAM**
Doubletree Hotel - Sacramento, California



Coffee/Water

TO BE RETAINED BY OPERATORS OF HOTELS
MOTELS, AND SIMILAR ACCOMMODATIONS AS
EVIDENCE OF EXEMPT OCCUPANCY

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
TAX ON OCCUPANCY
OF HOTEL ROOMS

Imposed Pursuant to
Articles 28 and 29 of the Tax Law

DoubleTree Hotel Sacramento

March 6-11, 2005

NAME OF HOTEL, APARTMENT HOTEL, OR LODGING HOUSE

DATES

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento, California 95815

ADDRESS

This is to certify that the above individuals are representatives of the United States Governmental department, agency or instrumentality indicated below; that the charges for the occupancy at the above establishment on the dates set forth below have been or will be paid for by such governmental unit; and that such charges are incurred in the performance of official duties as representatives or employees of such governmental unit.

DATES OF
OCCUPANCY

Group Name: Pacific Fishery
Management Council

Dates: March 6-11, 2005

SIGNATURE

GOVERNMENTAL
UNIT

DOC/NOAA/NMFS/
Pacific Fishery Management Council

TITLE



The Pacific Fishery Management Council is a federal instrumentality operating under authority of the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



STATUS OF 2005 COUNCIL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PACIFIC HALIBUT

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) held its annual meeting January 18-21, 2005, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. At that meeting, the IPHC set an Area 2A (waters off Washington, Oregon, and California) total allowable catch (TAC) of 1,330,000 pounds, a 10% decrease over the 2004 Area 2A TAC.

Area 2A TAC Comparison, 2004 & 2005 (in pounds)		
	2004	2005
Treaty Indian	543,000	490,500
Commercial	523,600	452,500
Ceremonial & Subsistence	19,400	38,000
Non-Indian	937,000	839,500
Commercial	367,029	336,122
Directed	252,475	226,203
Salmon Troll Incidental	44,554	39,918
Sablefish Incidental	70,000	70,000
Recreational	569,971	503,379
WA Sport	272,942	237,257
OR/CA Sport	297,029	266,122
WA Inside Waters	76,220	64,800
WA North Coast	126,857	115,437
WA South Coast	61,565	50,146
Columbia River	14,241	13,747
OR Central, Inside 40 fm	22,574	20,101
OR Central (Spring)	194,703	173,372
OR Central (Summer)	64,901	57,791
South of Humbug Mt.	8,911	7,984
TOTAL	1,480,000	1,330,000

In November 2004, the Council had recommended:

1. For the Oregon Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. all-depth recreational spring fishery (May through July), add Thursdays to all openings and for the summer fishery (August to October), add Sundays to all openings.
2. For the Oregon Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. all depth recreational summer fishery, additional fishery openings will be scheduled when necessary to provide more angler opportunity to harvest the entire season subarea quota.
3. In setting the recreational quota for the Leadbetter Point, Washington to Cape Falcon, Oregon, subarea , the State of Oregon will match the pounds allocated to this area by the State of Washington to determine the total quota.

4. For all recreational subareas south of Leadbetter Point, Washington, eliminate the minimum length requirement.
5. For all-depth recreational fisheries south of Leadbetter Point, Washington, prohibit retention of groundfish except sablefish (when allowed by groundfish regulations) while fishing for halibut.
6. Adopt a “yelloweye rockfish conservation” five-sided closure area located on Stonewall Bank to be closed to recreational halibut fishing, and defined by the following coordinates in the order listed:
 - 1) 44° 37.46 N. latitude; 124° 24.92 W. longitude;
 - 2) 44° 37.46 N. latitude; 124° 23.63 W. longitude;
 - 3) 44° 28.71 N. latitude; 124° 21.80 W. longitude;
 - 4) 44° 28.71 N. latitude; 124° 24.10 W. longitude;
 - 5) 44° 31.42 N. latitude; 124° 25.47 W. longitude;
 - 6) and connecting back to 44° 37.46 N latitude; 124° 24.92 W longitude
7. For the Oregon Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. Recreational subarea, add language that allows quota projected to be unused to be transferred to the Columbia River subarea;
8. For the Washington south coast recreational subarea, add language allowing remaining quota to be used to accommodate incidental catch in the northern nearshore fishery.

On February 7, 2005 (70 FR 6395,) NMFS published a proposed rule to implement the 2005 TAC and the Council’s recommended changes to the Catch Sharing Plan, and to solicit public comment on two options proposed for implementing number 5 (above) in the Columbia River subarea. Regarding number 5 (above), the Council will make a further recommendation on how to implement the proposal in the Columbia River subarea at its March meeting (See Agenda Item D.1, March 2005). NMFS expects that rule to be finalized in early April, prior to the start of the Area 2A recreational fisheries.

PFMC
02/17/05

California Recreational Fishery Survey Catch and Effort Estimates for 2004
Selected Groundfish Species or Species Groups
March 2005

SUMMARY

The California Recreational Fishery Survey (CRFS) program provides catch and effort estimates for all fisheries in both boat (private boats, rental boats and party/charter boats) and shore (pier, jetty, beach and bank) modes of fishing. It is a joint effort between the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). The program is designed to meet the specific data needs for managing California's numerous and diverse recreational fisheries. Begun in January 2004, CRFS combines the prior party/charter boat (PC) sampling program, CDFG's Ocean Salmon Project (OSP), and several new methodologies specifically designed for CRFS into a single, coordinated, statewide program.

CDFG believes that the preliminary CRFS estimates provided in this document will not change significantly, and are a reliable representation of the recreational fishery removals for groundfish species of concern and species with harvest targets in 2004. Information from the prior sampling program indicate that most of the take of these groundfish species comes from the primary private and rental boat sites (PR1) and PC fishing modes. Validation of the CRFS estimates is complete for the PR1 survey and comparisons between the different sources of party/charter boat data also show no major differences. California recreational harvest guidelines or allocations for overfished species were not exceeded in 2004.

The CDFG is committed to producing timely, precise and accurate catch and effort estimates for California's recreational fishery. In collaboration with the PSMFC, the CDFG will be making necessary changes or enhancements to the CRFS program in 2005 to fulfill that goal.

METHODOLOGY

CRFS includes several different methodologies for sampling different modes of fishing.

- Private and rental boats (PR) are divided into primary (PR1) and secondary (PR2) sampling sites. Primary sites are sampled using a public launch ramp access point survey for effort and catch at high use sites during daylight hours. These sites are defined as those where 90 percent or more of the catch of important species are landed. Secondary sites are sampled using a roving access point survey for effort and catch. These

- sites are defined as those sites in a particular month where less than 10 percent of the total catch of important species is landed.
- Man-made (MM) sites, composed of piers, jetties and breakwaters, are sampled using a roving access point survey for catch and effort.
- Beach and Bank (BB) sites are sampled using two surveys: a roving access point survey at publicly accessible beaches and banks during daylight hours for catch rates and an angler license database (ALD) telephone survey for all effort.
- Party and charter vessels (PC) are sampled using two surveys: a weekly telephone survey of all PC vessels for effort and on board sampling for catch.
- Estimates of private access and night fishing (PAN) effort and catch for PR, MM and BB by trip type are derived using the ALD telephone survey for effort and catch rates from access point surveys for catch.

DATA IMPROVEMENTS OF THE CRFS

CRFS offers several improvements over the previous program used to estimate recreational catch in California. First, CRFS was designed to produce accurate and precise annual estimates. By expanding species catch rates based upon trip types and stated target species, estimates of catch and effort will be more accurate than those from the prior program (where catch rates were expanded and applied to all trip types). This gives managers the ability to examine specific changes in catch rates and effort for each of these trip types. Second, by increasing the number of field samples conducted by CRFS (in excess of three times that sampled by the previous program), catch estimates will be more accurate and precise, especially for overfished species such as bocaccio and canary rockfish, or fish that are rarely taken. Third, by reporting in monthly intervals, fishery managers can track changes in fishing activities and progress towards annual harvest limits in a shorter time period. This could allow fishery managers to respond more quickly to time-sensitive issues. Finally, by reporting catch and effort by six geographical regions in the State, finer regional differences in fishing activity and catch can be determined. This will eventually provide fishery managers with the ability to examine shifts in catch rates, average fish weights and fishing activities on a finer scale. It may also allow managers to tailor regulations and seasons to each region, thus providing increased fishing opportunities while protecting overfished stocks.

2004 CRFS PROGRAM RESULTS

CRFS field supervisors and samplers worked diligently in 2004 to maximize the field sampling effort. As a result, fifty-four CRFS samplers interviewed 120,008 individual marine anglers in the state. Over 75,000 interviews were in the PR1 mode and another 7,700 were in the PR2 mode. The

PC mode accounted for 13,990 interviews and shore sampling (MM and BB) accounted for 22,326. Samplers visited 664 individual sites with a large majority of those sites being in the shore mode. As expected, the greatest number of fish was measured in the PC mode (40,838) since anglers on these vessels are generally more successful than other anglers. On the other end of the scale, only 2,476 fish were measured in the BB mode due to the relatively lower success rate of those anglers and because they are more difficult to intercept. The MM fishery yielded the most forms because pier anglers are readily available for interviews. The PR1 form number is deceptively low because several boats can be recorded on the same form and there may be many anglers on a single vessel (information is taken as a group).

Table 1. Selected CRFS statistics for 2004.

Mode of Fishing	Number of Anglers Interviewed	Number of Sites Sampled	Number of Fish Measured	Number of Forms Submitted
PR1	75,498	34	36,023	*8,525
PR2	7,744	112	4,485	7,712
PC	13,990	65	40,838	13,812
MM	19,221	188	8,088	19,362
BB	3,105	265	2,476	3,121
TOTAL	120,008	664	91,910	52,532

*all anglers on a boat as well as multiple boats are captured on one form.

Likewise the dedication of the PSMFC and CDFG staff involved in producing the catch and effort estimates and parallel validation programs allows the CDFG to report the following:

Table 2. California Recreational Fishery Survey Estimate of Angler Days for 2004 by Region and Mode

Region	Fishing Mode				Area Total
	PR	PC	MM	BB	
OR/CA Border to 40° 10' N. lat.	52,996	6,795	44,840	4,482	109,113
40° 10' N. lat to 34° 27' N. lat.	208,895	148,358	1,581,140	103,956	2,042,349
34° 27' N. lat. to CA/Mexico	411,074	570,166	6,540,057	194,030	7,715,327
Statewide	672,965	725,319	8,166,038	302,468	9,866,789

Catches for selected groundfish species, and how those catches compared with established PFMC 2004 harvest targets are reported in Table 3 on the following page.

Table 3. California Recreational Fishery Survey Estimated 2004 Recreational Take (MT) for Groundfish Species of Interest*

Species Group by Area in California (CA)	Recreational Fishing Survey Type					Total Catch Estimate (MT)	Harvest Target ^{a/}	Recreational Reserve ^{b/}
	PR	CPFV	MM	BB	PAN			
Statewide								
Lingcod	48.5	42.5	2.0	12.2	17.2	122.5	268.9	38.9
Black Rockfish	56.6	28.4	0.7	3.7	17.1	106.4	186	
Canary Rockfish	1.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	4.5	6.3	9.3	
Widow Rockfish	0.0	14.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.6	8.2	
Yelloweye Rockfish	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	3.5	3.7	
Cabazon ^{c/}	10.9	4.1	1.9	12.4	5.3	34.7	53.7	
Greenlings ^{/c/d/}	2.1	2.7	1.1	3.2	1.4	10.5	15.5	
Oregon/CA Border to 40°10' N. lat								
Black Rockfish	42.7	7.7	0.6	0.0	1.8	52.9	72	
Other Nearshore Rockfish	8.3	3.5	0.2	0.0	0.5	12.4	6.6	
40°10' N. lat. to CA/Mexico Border								
Minor Nearshore Rockfish ^{e/}	63.9	251.6	3.8	19.0	23.4	361.7	375	
Shallow Nearshore Rockfish ^{f/}	11.9	26.3	2.1	8.8	6.4	55.4	66	
Deeper Nearshore Rockfish ^{g/}	48.8	187.6	1.3	10.1	16.1	263.9	245.1	
California Scorpionfish	3.2	37.7	0.4	0.1	0.9	42.4	63.9	
Black Rockfish	13.9	15.2	20.7	0.1	3.7	53.6	114	
Bocaccio Rockfish	5.5	53.9	0.0	0.0	1.8	61.1	62.8	75.4
36°00' N. lat. to CA/Mexico Border								
Cowcod Rockfish	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.8	

PR= Private/Rental Boat Sites

CPFV= Party/Charter Boats

BB= Beach/Bank Sites

MM= Man-Made Sites

PAN= Private Access & Night Fishing at PR, BB, & MM Sites

* California Recreational Fishery Survey Estimates for retained and discarded catch from all marine areas; estimates extracted 2/9/05.

a/ Harvest targets are recreational estimates for all species except cabazon and greenlings.

b/ A recreational reserve is available for harvest by the recreational sector should the projected annual harvest be exceeded.

c/ State harvest limits set by California.

d/ Greenlings include all species within the Genus Hexagrammos.

e/ Minor Nearshore Rockfish consists of Shallow and Deeper Nearshore Rockfish and California Scorpionfish.

f/ Shallow Nearshore Rockfish consists of black and yellow, China, gopher, grass, and kelp rockfish.

g/ Deeper Nearshore Rockfish consists of blue, brown, calico, copper, olive, quillback, and treefish rockfish.

CRFS IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

CRFS has faced many challenges in 2004 including implementation of an expanded field sampling program, the management of an increased stream of data, production of expansion programs to generate catch and effort estimates, validation of catch and effort estimates, and implementation of a limited Angler License Database (ALD) to provide effort estimates for angler activities that cannot be estimated by direct observation. The biggest challenge and success of the program has been the implementation of the extensive coastwide field sampling program including its numerous field sampling methods. Each fishing mode has required a different approach in interviewing anglers, with PR sampling being the most intensive because of time constraints for an interview and because it requires the most biological knowledge (numerous fish species encountered). Also, despite the complexity of the sampling protocols and the associated expansion programs, the production of catch and effort estimates for all modes of fishing has been successfully completed.

Perhaps the greatest challenge that any new program like CRFS faces is validating the catch and effort estimates. While the CDFG believes the CRFS estimates are significantly more accurate and precise compared with estimates from the previous program, we continue to identify and address data shortcomings. CDFG is most confident in the PR1 estimates because for 2004, these can be compared directly against parallel estimates generated by the OSP. Confidence in the estimates from the party/charter boats is high also because these estimates too can be checked against estimates of party/charter catch from the previous program, the CDFG Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel logbook program, and another OSP estimate. One weakness in the party/charter estimates, however, centers around the effort estimate which is generated using a telephone survey of active boats. Over the last two years, the number of boats participating in the survey has been decreasing, thereby reducing the precision of the effort estimate. CDFG currently has no other programs, except the prior program, against which to compare the estimates from the PR2, MM, and BB modes. In addition the CDFG is unable to validate the PAN estimates of effort (and corresponding catch), as there are no other programs against which to compare these estimates. In addition, they are calculated using results from the ALD survey, not actual field observations of effort.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2004 CRFS NUMBERS

Several issues must be considered when contemplating using the CRFS estimates to support fishery management processes such as inseason actions in 2005. As with the bi-monthly estimates from the prior program, the CRFS catch and effort estimates are preliminary and may be adjusted to reflect corrections of errors in the database. These estimates may also be adjusted to reflect changes to the ALD effort estimates after California closes its 2004 license sales

accounting. The major consideration however, should be that the estimates from these two programs are not directly comparable because most survey methodologies from the CRFS program are significantly different from those of the previous program. In addition, because the current stock assessments and harvest targets are based on data from the previous program, it is unknown what role the CRFS data may play. CDFG will be working with NOAA Fisheries staff, the RecFIN Technical Committee, and the RecFIN Statistical Sub-committee to determine how the CRFS data can best be used in managing the groundfish fisheries in 2006. At the very least, the CDFG believes these CRFS estimates to be the best readily available data for accounting for the groundfish removals by the recreational fishery in 2004.

CHANGES TO CRFS IN 2005

The only major change to CRFS in 2005 will take place in the ALD telephone survey. Sample size will be doubled to provide more accurate estimate of effort, especially for private access anglers in the PR mode and night time anglers in PR, MM and BB modes. The data pool of annual license holders contacted each month will also be expanded to include all anglers who purchased a license previous to the month interviewed. In 2004 only annual license anglers who purchased a license in the previous month were interviewed leading to an overestimate of effort, which was corrected mathematically for the 2004 effort estimate.

In addition to the ALD work, the CDFG along with the PSMFC will undertake tasks to increase, where appropriate, the confidence level of the estimates by conducting sampler deployment reviews, enhancing data processing, evaluating the estimation program, conducting validation exercises, exploring methods to sample PAN, and finding ways to get better compliance with the PC phone survey.

REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

*North Pacific Council
Pacific Council
Western Pacific Council*

*New England Council
Mid-Atlantic Council
South Atlantic Council*

*Gulf Council
Caribbean Council*

November 18, 2004

Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher
NOAA Administrator
14th Street & Constitution Avenue NW, Room 6217
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Admiral Lautenbacher:

The eight Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) consider themselves to be direct partners with NOAA Fisheries in managing our Nation's fisheries and other marine resources, and we were extremely pleased to meet with you and other NOAA officials last month in Baltimore. The workshop provided a very useful dialogue among the Councils and NOAA Fisheries regarding key issues facing our shared management mission. One of the most critical issues, which is the focus of several recommendations in the report from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP) and also of the pending Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) reauthorization, is the subject of ecosystem-based management. We understand NOAA's desire to be on the leading edge of the movement to ecosystem-based management, and appreciate your comments in this regard in Baltimore; however, based on presentations we received in Baltimore, coupled with other, less formalized ecosystem related initiatives ongoing within NOAA, we are very concerned that these collective initiatives are reaching an advanced stage of development without any meaningful input from the RFMCs.

NOAA's recent Draft Strategic Plan emphasizes the focus on ecosystem-based management, and it contains brief reference to the creation of regional ecosystem councils. In Baltimore last month we received a report from Mark Holliday regarding NOAA's initiatives in creating and coordinating regional ecosystem councils, which appears to involve a broad, multi-agency bureaucratic super-structure, but without any defined regulatory authority or specific mission. Neither does this plan identify the role of the existing RFMCs, or how the existing structures and authorities of the RFMCs and NOAA Fisheries could be built upon to accomplish the ostensible mission of regional ecosystem councils. We believe that building upon existing structures and authorities would be a more logical, efficient approach. We further understand that the current 'goal team' structure within NOAA

includes an ecosystem goal team as one of four primary divisions, and that significant resources are being devoted to the overall ecosystem initiative, including an internal, draft discussion paper containing guidelines for the regional ecosystem approach. We also understand that NOAA is in the process of creating, or assigning, high-level ecosystem coordinator positions to at least 10 ecosystem regions across the country. Finally, we understand there is a draft NOAA position paper relative to amending the MSA with specific requirements and provisions for ecosystem-based management. Other than the very recent overview we were given in Baltimore, and an invitation to participate in an August 2004 workshop relative to possible delineation of geographic ecosystem regions, the RFMCs have not seen any of these materials, nor have we been invited to provide input into any of these planning efforts.

We are unclear on how these numerous ecosystem-related initiatives relate to one another, and what the end result could be relative to the role and responsibilities of the RFMCs, NOAA Fisheries, and other agencies. It is clear to us however that development of Regional Ecosystem (or Ocean) Councils, associated regional initiatives including new ecosystem coordinator positions within NOAA, a national strategy for ecosystem focus, and legislative requirements for ecosystem management plans (under MSA or otherwise) will all directly and significantly affect the role, function, and responsibilities of the RFMCs, as well as that of NOAA Fisheries. The most likely focus of any regional ecosystem council will be on fisheries and fisheries related activities, for which there is already a management council system in place. We all support the concept of ecosystem-based management, we already incorporate ecosystem principles in our management approaches, and four of the regions have received funding to establish explicit pilot programs for ecosystem plans. That the other four regions have not received support for such explicit ecosystem development adds to the confusion we are experiencing with regard to overall coordination of these efforts.

Moreover, we are very concerned about setting up a process that could directly or indirectly usurp existing processes and authorities, or at a minimum could prescribe the role of the Councils without our input. We should also be very careful that we do not set overly ambitious timelines, or impose impossible requirements upon ourselves, and create fertile grounds for additional litigation that could further stymie our ability to meet existing management goals. Given the apparent high priority the agency has placed on this initiative, and the resources being applied, we are also concerned that funding not be diverted to the point of compromising existing management responsibilities and critical management initiatives. It may be prudent to focus initial ecosystem strategies on scientific research, and attaining a better understanding of ecosystem components, before designing new policy and management structures.

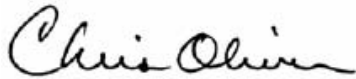
Again, we recognize the agency's desire to get a jump start on potential legislation arising from MSA reauthorization, or potential action by the President and Congress relative to US COP recommendations. However, we respectfully request that the agency proceed carefully with development of these ecosystem related initiatives, and that you do so in an open, collaborative manner with early input from the RFMCs. Defining ecosystem-based management, and appropriate

Admiral Lautenbacher
November 18, 2004
Page 3

application of its attendant principles, is one of the key issues on the agenda for our co-sponsored "Managing our Nation's Fisheries" conference next March in Washington D.C. The RMFCs and NOAA Fisheries need to work together to define a responsible, realistic approach, and to coordinate the appropriate authorities under which this approach will be administered.

We appreciated your comments in Baltimore regarding the Councils, NOAA, and all of our constituencies being "under the same tent", and we look forward to that collaboration as the agency moves forward with this initiative. The Council Executive Directors and Chairs request an opportunity to meet with you and other NOAA leadership at your earliest convenience, before the agency's various ecosystem related initiatives become solidified. Our designated point of contact on this issue is Chris Oliver at the North Pacific Council. Again, we very much appreciate the importance of the ecosystem-based approach, and the significant implications to NOAA Fisheries' and the Councils' management mission. We look forward to working with NOAA to design that approach.

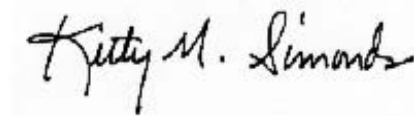
Sincerely,



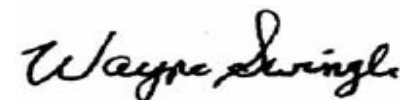
Chris Oliver
Executive Director, North Pacific Council



D.O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Pacific Council



Kitty Simonds
Executive Director, Western Pacific Council



Wayne Swingle
Executive Director, Gulf Council

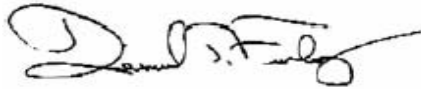
Admiral Lautenbacher
November 18, 2004
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for Miguel Rolon
Executive Director, New England Council



Paul Howard
Executive Director, New England Council



Daniel Furlong
Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Council



Robert Mahood
Executive Director, South Atlantic Council

CC: Bill Hogarth
Jack Dunnigan
RFMCs
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Daniel Inouye



Capture Fisheries Evaluation

Species: <i>Insert Species</i>	Region: <i>Insert Region</i>
Analyst: <i>Insert Analyst</i>	Date: <i>Insert Date</i>

Seafood Watch™ defines sustainable seafood as originating from sources, whether fished¹ or farmed, that can maintain or increase production in the long-term without jeopardizing the structure or function of affected ecosystems.

The following **guiding principles** illustrate the qualities that capture fisheries must possess to be considered sustainable by the Seafood Watch program. Species from sustainable capture fisheries:

- have a low vulnerability to fishing pressure, and hence a low probability of being overfished, because of their inherent life history characteristics,
- have stock structure and abundance sufficient to maintain or enhance long-term fishery productivity,
- are captured using techniques that minimize the catch of unwanted and/or unmarketable species,
- are captured in ways that maintain natural functional relationships among species in the ecosystem, conserves the diversity and productivity of the surrounding ecosystem, and do not result in irreversible ecosystem state changes, and
- have a management regime that implements and enforces all local, national and international laws and utilizes a precautionary approach to ensure the long-term productivity of the resource and integrity of the ecosystem.

Seafood Watch has developed a set of five sustainability **criteria**, corresponding to these guiding principles, to evaluate capture fisheries for the purpose of developing a seafood recommendation for consumers. These criteria are:

1. Inherent vulnerability to fishing pressure
2. Status of wild stocks
3. Nature and extent of discarded bycatch
4. Effect of fishing practices on habitats and ecosystems
5. Effectiveness of the management regime

Each criterion includes:

- Primary factors to evaluate and rank
- Secondary factors to evaluate and rank
- Evaluation guidelines to synthesize these factors
- A resulting **rank** for that criterion

Once a rank has been assigned to each criterion, an **overall seafood recommendation** for the species in question is developed based on additional evaluation guidelines. The ranks for each criterion, and the resulting overall seafood recommendation, are summarized in a table. Criterion ranks and the overall seafood

recommendation are color-coded to correspond to the categories of the Seafood Watch pocket guide:

- (G) **Best Choices/Green:** Consumers are strongly encouraged to purchase seafood in this category. The wild-caught species are sustainable as defined by Seafood Watch.

¹ Note: "Fish" is used throughout this document to refer to finfish, shellfish and other wild-caught invertebrates.

(Y) ~~Good Alternatives~~ Yellow: Consumers are encouraged to purchase seafood in this category, as they are better choices than seafood in the Avoid category. However there are some concerns with how this species is fished and thus it does not demonstrate all of the qualities of a sustainable fishery as defined by Seafood Watch.

(R) ~~Avoid~~ Red: Consumers are encouraged to avoid seafood in this category, at least for now. Species in this category do not demonstrate enough qualities to be defined as sustainable by Seafood Watch.

CRITERION 1: INHERENT VULNERABILITY TO FISHING PRESSURE

Guiding Principle: Sustainable wild-caught species have a low vulnerability to fishing pressure, and hence a low probability of being overfished, because of their inherent life history characteristics.

Primary Factors to evaluate**Intrinsic rate of increase ('r')**

- High (> 0.16)
- Medium (0.05 - 0.16)
- Low (< 0.05)
- Unavailable/Unknown

■ G
 □ Y
 ■ R
 □

Age at 1st maturity

- Low (< 5 years)
- Medium (5 - 10 years)
- High (> 10 years)
- Unavailable/Unknown

■ G
 □ Y
 ■ R
 □

Von Bertalanfy growth coefficient ('k')

- High (> 0.16)
- Medium (0.05 - 0.15)
- Low (< 0.05)
- Unavailable/Unknown

■ G
 □ Y
 ■ R
 □

Maximum age

- Low (< 11 years)
- Medium (11 - 30 years)
- High (> 30 years)
- Unavailable/Unknown

■ G
 □ Y
 ■ R
 □

Reproductive potential (fecundity)

- High (> 100 inds./year)
- Moderate (10 - 100 inds./year)
- Low (< 10 inds./year)
- Unavailable/Unknown

■ G
 □ Y
 ■ R
 □

Secondary Factors to evaluate

Species range

- Broad (e.g. species exists in multiple ocean basins, has multiple intermixing stocks or is highly migratory)
- Limited (e.g. species exists in one ocean basin)
- Narrow (e.g. endemism or numerous evolutionary significant units or restricted to one coastline)

☒ G

☐ Y

☒ R

Special Behaviors or Requirements: Existence of special behaviors that increase ease or population consequences of capture (e.g. migratory bottlenecks, spawning aggregations, site fidelity, unusual attraction to gear, sequential hermaphrodites, segregation by sex, etc., OR specific and limited habitat requirements within the species' range).

- No known behaviors or requirements OR behaviors that decrease vulnerability (e.g. widely dispersed during spawning)
- Some (i.e. 1 - 2) behaviors or requirements
- Many (i.e. > 2) behaviors or requirements

☒ G

☐ Y

☒ R

Quality of Habitat: Degradation from non-fishery impacts

- Habitat is robust
- Habitat has been moderately altered by non-fishery impacts
- Habitat has been substantially compromised from non-fishery impacts and thus has reduced capacity to support this species (e.g. from dams, pollution, or coastal development)

☒ G

☐ Y

☒ R

Evaluation Guidelines

1) Primary Factors

- a) If 'r' is known, use it as the basis for the rank of the Primary Factors.
- b) If 'r' is unknown, then the rank from the remaining Primary Factors (in order of importance, as listed) is the basis for the rank.

2) Secondary Factors

- a) If a majority (2 out of 3) of the Secondary Factors rank as Red, reclassify the species into the next lower rank (i.e. Green becomes Yellow, Yellow becomes Red). No other combination of Secondary Factors can modify the rank from the Primary Factors.
- b) No combination of primary and secondary factors can result in a Critical Conservation Concern for this criterion.

Conservation Concern: Inherent Vulnerability

- Low (Inherently Resilient)
- Moderate (Inherently Neutral)
- High (Inherently Vulnerable)

■ G
□ Y
■ R

CRITERION 2: STATUS OF WILD STOCKS

Guiding Principle: Sustainable wild-caught species have stock structure and abundance sufficient to maintain or enhance long-term fishery productivity.

Primary Factors to evaluate**Management classification status**

- Underutilized OR close to virgin biomass ☒ G
- Fully fished OR recovering from overfished OR unknown ☐ Y
- Recruitment or growth overfished, overexploited, depleted or "threatened" ☒ R

Current population abundance relative to B_{MSY}

- At or above B_{MSY} (> 100%) ☒ G
- Below B_{MSY} (50 – 100%) OR unknown ☐ Y
- Substantially below B_{MSY} (e.g. < 50%) ☒ R

Occurrence of overfishing (current level of fishing mortality relative to overfishing threshold)

- Overfishing not occurring ($F_{curr}/F_{msy} < 1.0$) ☒ G
- Overfishing is likely/probable OR fishing effort is increasing with poor understanding of stock status OR Unknown ☐ Y
- Overfishing occurring ($F_{curr}/F_{msy} > 1.0$) ☒ R

Overall degree of uncertainty in status of stock

- Low (i.e. current stock assessment and other fishery-independent data are robust OR reliable long-term fishery-dependent data available) ☒ G
- Medium (i.e. only limited, fishery-dependent data on stock status are available) ☐ Y
- High (i.e. little or no current fishery-dependent or independent information on stock status OR models/estimates broadly disputed or out-of-date) ☒ R

Long-term trend (relative to species' generation time) in population abundance as measured by either fishery-independent (stock assessment) or fishery-dependent (standardized CPUE) measures

- Trend is up ☒ G
- Trend is flat or variable (among areas, over time or among methods) OR Unknown ☐ Y
- Trend is down ☒ R

Short-term trend in population abundance as measured by either fishery-independent (stock assessment) or fishery-dependent (standardized CPUE) measures

- Trend is up
- Trend is flat or variable (among areas, over time or among methods) OR Unknown
- Trend is down

■ G
□ Y
■ R

Current age, size or sex distribution of the stock relative to natural condition

- Distribution(s) is(are) functionally normal
- Distribution(s) unknown
- Distribution(s) is(are) skewed

■ G
□ Y
■ R

Evaluation Guidelines

A ^G "Healthy" Stock:

- 1) Is underutilized (near virgin biomass)
- 2) Has a biomass at or above BMSY AND overfishing is not occurring AND distribution parameters are functionally normal AND stock uncertainty is not high

A ^Y "Moderate" Stock:

- 1) Has a biomass at 50-100% of BMSY AND overfishing is not occurring
- 2) Is recovering from overfishing AND short-term trend in abundance is up AND overfishing not occurring AND stock uncertainty is low
- 3) Has an Unknown status because the majority of primary factors are unknown.

A ^R "Poor" Stock:

- 1) Is fully fished AND trend in abundance is down AND distribution parameters are skewed
- 2) Is overfished, overexploited or depleted AND trends in abundance and CPUE are up.
- 3) Overfishing is occurring AND stock is not currently overfished.

A stock is considered a **Critical Conservation Concern** and the species is ranked "Avoid", regardless of other criteria if it is:

- 1) Overfished, overexploited or depleted AND trend in abundance is flat or down
- 2) Overfished AND overfishing is occurring
- 3) Listed as a "threatened species" or similar proxy by national or international bodies

Conservation Concern: Status of Stocks

- Low (Stock Healthy)
- Moderate (Stock Moderate or Unknown)
- High (Stock Poor)
- Stock Critical

■ G
□ Y
■ R
■ B

CRITERION 3: NATURE AND EXTENT OF DISCARDED BYCATCH²

Guiding Principle: A sustainable wild-caught species is captured using techniques that minimize the catch of unwanted and/or unmarketable species.

Primary Factors to evaluate

Quantity of bycatch, including any species of "special concern" (i.e. those identified as "endangered", "threatened" or "protected" under state, federal or international law)

- Quantity of bycatch is low (< 10% of targeted landings on a per number basis) AND does not regularly include species of special concern ■ G
- Quantity of bycatch is moderate (10 – 100% of targeted landings on a per number basis) AND does not regularly include species of special concern OR Unknown □ Y
- Quantity of bycatch is high (> 100% of targeted landings on a per number basis) OR bycatch regularly includes threatened, endangered or protected species ■ R

Population consequences of bycatch

- Low: Evidence indicates quantity of bycatch has little or no impact on population levels ■ G
- Moderate: Conflicting evidence of population consequences of bycatch OR Unknown □ Y
- Severe: Evidence indicates quantity of bycatch is a contributing factor in driving one or more bycatch species toward extinction OR is a contributing factor in limiting the recovery of a species of "special concern" ■ R

Trend in bycatch interaction rates (adjusting for changes in abundance of bycatch species) as a result of management measures (including fishing seasons, protected areas and gear innovations):

- Trend in bycatch interaction rates is down ■ G
- Trend in bycatch interaction rates is flat OR Unknown □ Y
- Trend in bycatch interaction rates is up ■ R
- Not applicable because bycatch is low □

² Bycatch is defined as species that are caught but subsequently discarded because they are of undesirable size, sex or species composition. Unobserved fishing mortality associated with fishing gear (e.g. animals passing through nets, breaking free of hooks or lines, ghost fishing, illegal harvest and under or misreporting) is also considered bycatch. Bycatch does not include incidental catch (non-targeted catch) if it is utilized, is accounted for, and is managed in some way.

Secondary Factor to evaluate

Evidence that the ecosystem has been or likely will be substantially altered (relative to natural variability) in response to the continued discard of the bycatch species

- Studies show no evidence of ecosystem impacts
- Conflicting evidence of ecosystem impacts OR Unknown
- Studies show evidence of ecosystem impacts

■ G
□ Y
■ R

Evaluation Guidelines

Bycatch is "Minimal" if:

- 1) Quantity of bycatch is <10% of targeted landings AND bycatch has little or no impact on population levels.

Bycatch is "Moderate" if:

- 1) Quantity of bycatch is 10 - 100% of targeted landings
- 2) Bycatch regularly includes species of "special concern" AND bycatch has little or no impact on the bycatch population levels AND the trend in bycatch interaction rates is not up.

Bycatch is "Severe" if:

- 1) Quantity of bycatch is > 100% of targeted landings
- 2) Bycatch regularly includes species of "special concern" AND evidence indicates bycatch rate is a contributing factor toward extinction or limiting its recovery AND trend in bycatch is down.

Bycatch is considered a **Critical Conservation Concern** and the species is ranked "Avoid", regardless of other criteria if:

- 1) Bycatch regularly includes species of special concern AND evidence indicates bycatch rate is a factor contributing to extinction or limiting recovery AND trend in bycatch interaction rates is not down.
- 2) Quantity of bycatch is high AND studies show evidence of ecosystem impacts.

Conservation Concern: Nature and Extent of Discarded Bycatch

- Low (Bycatch Minimal)
- Moderate (Bycatch Moderate)
- High (Bycatch Severe)
- Bycatch Critical

■ G
□ Y
■ R
■ B

CRITERION 4: EFFECT OF FISHING PRACTICES ON HABITATS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Guiding Principle: Capture of a sustainable wild-caught species maintains natural functional relationships among species in the ecosystem, conserves the diversity and productivity of the surrounding ecosystem, and does not result in irreversible ecosystem state changes.

Primary Habitat Factors to evaluate

Known (or inferred from other studies) effect of fishing gear on physical and biogenic habitats

- Minimal damage (i.e. pelagic longline, midwater gillnet, midwater trawl, purse seine, hook and line, or spear/harpoon)
- Moderate damage (i.e. bottom gillnet, bottom longline or some pots/ traps)
- Great damage (i.e. bottom trawl or dredge)

☒ G☐ Y☒ R

For specific fishery being evaluated, resilience of physical and biogenic habitats to disturbance by fishing method

- High (e.g. shallow water, sandy habitats)
- Moderate (e.g. shallow or deep water mud bottoms, or deep water sandy habitats)
- Low (e.g. shallow or deep water corals, shallow or deep water rocky bottoms)
- Not applicable because gear damage is minimal

☒ G☐ Y☒ R☐

If gear impacts are moderate or great, spatial scale of the impact

- Small scale (e.g. small, artisanal fishery or sensitive habitats are strongly protected)
- Moderate scale (e.g. modern fishery but of limited geographic scope)
- Large scale (e.g. industrialized fishery over large areas)
- Not applicable because gear damage is minimal

☒ G☐ Y☒ R☐**Primary Ecosystem Factors to evaluate**

Evidence that the removal of the targeted species or the removal/deployment of baitfish has or will likely substantially disrupt the food web

- The fishery and its ecosystem have been thoroughly studied, and studies show no evidence of substantial ecosystem impacts
- Conflicting evidence of ecosystem impacts OR unknown
- Ecosystem impacts of targeted species removal demonstrated

☒ G☐ Y☒ R

Evidence that the fishing method has caused or is likely to cause substantial ecosystem state changes, including alternate stable states

- The fishery and its ecosystem have been thoroughly studied, and studies show no evidence of substantial ecosystem impacts
- Conflicting evidence of ecosystem impacts OR unknown
- Ecosystem impacts from fishing method demonstrated

■ G
□ Y
■ R

Evaluation Guidelines

The effect of fishing practices is "Benign" if:

- 1) Damage from gear is minimal AND resilience to disturbance is high AND both Ecosystem Factors are not red.

The effect of fishing practices is "Moderate" if:

- 1) Gear effects are moderate AND resilience to disturbance is moderate or high AND both Ecosystem Factors are not red.
- 2) Gear results in great damage AND resilience to disturbance is high OR impacts are small scale AND both Ecosystem Factors are not red.

The effect of fishing practices is "Severe" if:

- 1) Gear results in great damage AND the resilience of physical and biogenic habitats to disturbance is moderate or low.
- 2) One or more Ecosystem Factors are red.

Habitat effects are considered a **Critical Conservation Concern** and a species receives a recommendation of "Avoid", regardless of other criteria if:

- Four or more of the Habitat and Ecosystem factors rank red.

Conservation Concern: Effect of Fishing Practices on Habitats and Ecosystems

- Low (Fishing Effects Benign)
- Moderate (Fishing Effects Moderate)
- High (Fishing Effects Severe)
- Critical Fishing Effects

■ G
□ Y
■ R
■ B

CRITERION 5: EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MANAGEMENT REGIME

Guiding Principle: The management regime of a sustainable wild-caught species implements and enforces all local, national and international laws and utilizes a precautionary approach to ensure the long-term productivity of the resource and integrity of the ecosystem.

Primary Factors to evaluate

Stock Status: Management process utilizes an independent scientific stock assessment that seeks knowledge related to the status of the stock

- Stock assessment complete and robust ☒ G
- Stock assessment is planned or underway but is incomplete OR stock assessment complete but out-of-date or otherwise uncertain ☐ Y
- No stock assessment available now and none is planned in the near future ☒ R

Scientific Monitoring: Management process involves regular collection and analysis of data with respect to the short and long-term abundance of the stock

- Regular collection and assessment of both fishery-dependent and independent data ☒ G
- Regular collection of fishery-dependent data only ☐ Y
- No regular collection or analysis of data ☒ R

Scientific Advice: Management has a well-known track record of consistently setting catch quotas beyond those recommended by its scientific advisors and other external scientists:

- No ☒ G
- Yes ☒ R
- Not enough information available to evaluate OR not applicable because little or no scientific information is collected ☐

Bycatch: Management implements an effective bycatch reduction plan

- Bycatch plan in place and reaching its conservation goals (deemed effective) ☒ G
- Bycatch plan in place but effectiveness is not yet demonstrated or is under debate ☐ Y
- No bycatch plan implemented or bycatch plan implemented but not meeting its conservation goals (deemed ineffective) ☒ R
- Not applicable because bycatch is "low" ☐

Fishing practices: Management addresses the effect of the fishing method(s) on habitats and ecosystems

- Mitigative measures in place and deemed effective ☒ G
- Mitigative measures in place but effectiveness is not yet demonstrated or is under debate ☐ Y
- No mitigative measures in place or measures in place but deemed ineffective ☒ R
- Not applicable because fishing method is moderate or benign ☐

Enforcement: Management and appropriate government bodies enforce fishery regulations

- Regulations regularly enforced by independent bodies, including logbook reports, observer coverage, dockside monitoring and similar measures ☒ G
- Regulations enforced by fishing industry or by voluntary/honor system ☐ Y
- Regulations not regularly and consistently enforced ☒ R

Management Track Record: Conservation measures enacted by management have resulted in the long-term maintenance of stock abundance and ecosystem integrity

- Management has maintained stock productivity over time OR has fully recovered the stock from an overfished condition ☒ G
- Stock productivity has varied but management has responded quickly OR stock has not varied but management has not been in place long enough to evaluate its effectiveness OR unknown ☐ Y
- Measures have not maintained stock productivity OR were implemented only after significant declines and stock has not yet fully recovered ☒ R

Evaluation Guidelines

Management is deemed to be "Highly Effective" if the majority of management factors are green AND the remaining factors are not red.

Management is deemed to be "Moderately Effective" if:

- 1) Management factors "average" to yellow
- 2) Management factors include one or two red factors

Management is deemed to be "Ineffective" if three individual management factors are red, especially those for Stock Status and Bycatch.

Management is considered a Critical Conservation Concern and a species receives a recommendation of "Avoid", regardless of other criteria if:

- 1) There is no management in place
- 2) The majority of the management factors rank red.

Conservation Concern: Effectiveness of Management

➤ Low (Management Highly Effective)

■ G

➤ Moderate (Management Moderately Effective)

□ Y

➤ High (Management Ineffective)

■ R

➤ Critical Management Effectiveness

■ B

Overall Seafood Recommendation

Overall Guiding Principle: Sustainable wild-caught seafood originates from sources that can maintain or increase production in the long-term without jeopardizing the structure or function of affected ecosystems.

Evaluation Guidelines

G

A species receives a recommendation of "Best Choice" if:

- 1) It has three or more green criteria and the remaining criteria are not red.

Y

A species receives a recommendation of "Good Alternative" if:

- 1) Criteria "average" to yellow
- 2) There are four green criteria and one red criteria
- 3) Stock Status and Management criteria are both ranked yellow and remaining criteria are not red.

R

A species receives a recommendation of "Avoid" if:

- 1) It has a total of two or more red criteria
- 2) It has one or more Critical Conservation Concerns.

Summary of Criteria Ranks

<u>Sustainability Criteria</u>	<u>Conservation Concern</u>			
	<u>Low</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Critical</u>
Inherently Vulnerability	■ G	■ Y	■ R	
Status of Wild Stocks	■ G	■ Y	■ R	■ B
Nature and Extent of Discarded Bycatch	■ G	■ Y	■ R	■ B
Habitat and Ecosystem Effects	■ G	■ Y	■ R	■ B
Effectiveness of Management	■ G	■ Y	■ R	■ B

Overall Seafood Recommendation

Best Choice

■ G

Good Alternative

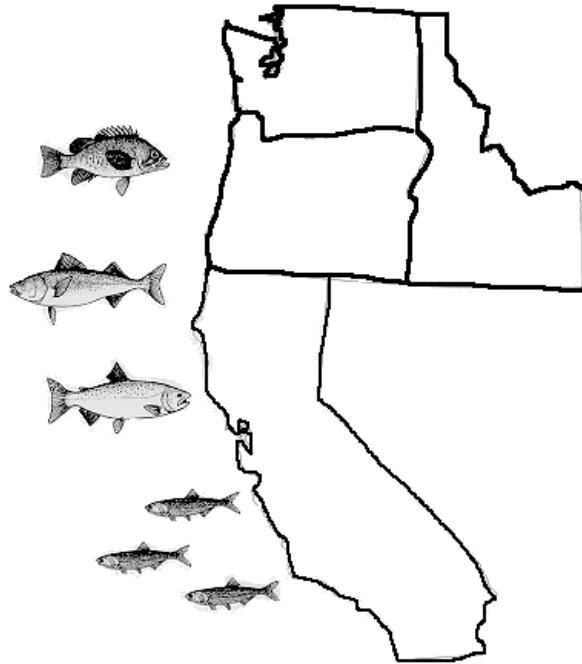
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GROUND FISH ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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OREGON OCEAN SEAFOODS

Home of **SKIPANON BRAND**

4 P.M. Public Comment
March 2005

225 SE Galena • Warrenton, OR 97146
503-861-1434

February 2, 2005

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. John Devore, Staff
770 NE Ambassador Place Ste200
Portland OR 97220-1384

Dear Sir:

I'm sending the information concerning our Groundfish Permit transfer, and I am encouraged by our telephone conversation this morning.

Here is a brief outline: We have a small fishing business here in Warrenton, and we requested the National Marine Fisheries to transfer our Groundfish Limited Entry Permit. We asked that the Permit transfer from our boat Cygnet II (50' LOA) to our new boat Cape Windy (58' LOA). NMFS NW Regional District denied our request. We maintain that our request is reasonable and that the "5' maximum increase" in boat length is outdated. This regulation was implemented 13 years ago and is baseless, now, in view of subsequent changes in the fishery. We have outlined our reasons in the enclosed pages.

We ask for the approval of the Council for the financial and safety reasons we've described. We are grateful for your bringing this request before the PFMC next meeting. If you have any questions, please call us at the above number. We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Norman Kujala, Owner, Permit Holder

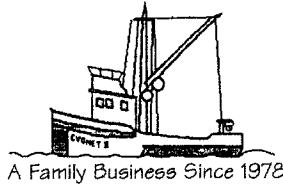
Encl.: Copies of:

- 1-page enclosure letter to Kevin Ford
- 6-page letter to Kevin Ford
- 2-page Change of Vessel Application
- 1-page Vessel Permit
- 2-page Certificate of Documentation
- 2-page reply from Kevin Ford

OREGON OCEAN SEAFOODS

Home of **SKIPANON BRAND**

225 SE Galena • Warrenton, OR 97146 • 503-861-1434



December 28, 2004

National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg 1
Seattle WA 98115-0070

Att'n: Kevin Ford, Fisheries Permit Office

Dear Mr. Ford:

Thank you for sending the permit transfer application and the other information.

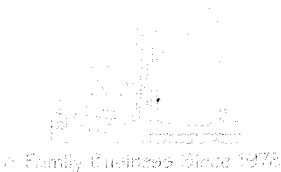
My request is for a transfer based on keel length, since some permits were issued originally on that basis. Enclosed is information I feel is pertinent to today's permit transfers. I hope you can help us in our request.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I'll be contacting you for further advice. If you have any questions, please call me at the above number.

Yours truly,

Norman Kujala, Owner and
Permit holder

Encl.: Permit Transfer Application
Exemption Request
USCG Vessel Documentation Copies
Federal Pacific Coast Groundfish Permit 2005



OREGON OCEAN SEAFOODS

Home of **SKIPANON BRAND**

225 SE Galena • Warrenton, OR 97146

503-861-1434

December 28, 2004

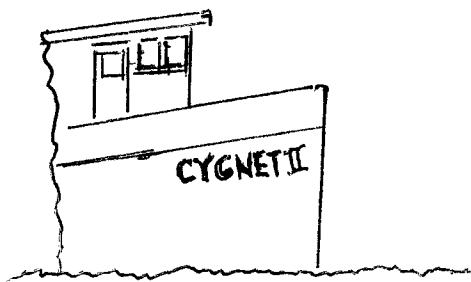
United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
Fisheries Permits Office
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg. 1
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

Dear Sirs:

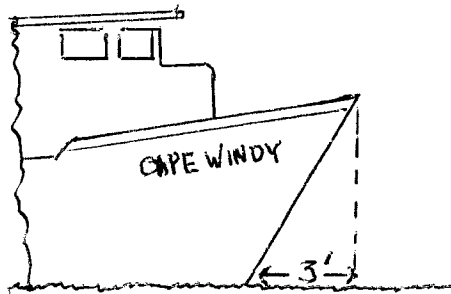
We are applying for a change of vessel for our Pacific Groundfish A Trawl Permit for the boat Cygnet II, 50' LOA, to the boat Cape Windy, 58' LOA. We are asking for a transfer by keel length that was legal at the time the law was written.

We realize current regulations allow for an increase of only five feet in LOA for a permit change. However, the keel lengths of the two vessels are within the five foot allowance: Cygnet II: 45.7 feet, and the Cape Windy: 49.7 feet, a four foot increase on the USCG documents (See enclosed copies.).

The actual difference of 8-foot length overall of the two boats is due to the construction of wooden boats 60 years ago and the newer steel boats (See illustration below.).



Perpendicular Bow



Extended Bow



OREGON OCEAN SEAFOODS

Home of **SKIPANON BRAND**

225 SE Galena • Warrenton, OR 97146
503-861-1434

December 28, 2004

We appeal for an exception to the current regulations on the following bases:

1. Safety reasons. The Cygnet II is a wooden boat, 60 years old; we needed to upgrade to a newer boat. Cape Windy was built in 1973. It is a steel purse seiner, but was a trawler in early years, and included winches and net reel. Because the Cape Windy sank in the mooring last summer and was raised the next day and later put up for bids, we were able to secure the boat at a reasonable price, and my son has been repairing the damages the last few months, planning to fish this spring, 2005.

Few boats in the 55' range are available; we had been looking for about a year. Any that are available require major and expensive renovation for trawling. Buy-back trawlers are not available to any fishery. To build a completely new 55' steel boat is cost-prohibitive.

2. Permits available. No permits to allow for three extra feet are available, and anything for a bigger boat is cost prohibitive. The only permit exchange going on is between fishermen who received a large sum of buy-back money last year and sought out an inactive permit to buy at an inflated price.

Originally, about 400 permits were issued in 1993-94. Last year about 115 Ground Fish Trawl permits were active.



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December 28, 2004

The buy-back last year eliminated most of the larger local boats; many were constructed under the NMFS Capital Construction Fund of the '60's and '70's to increase the fleet size. Now, larger boats can't operate with small quotas, closed areas, gear changes, etc..

3. Fishing limits. When the permit system was enacted, rockfish limits were many times larger than current limits, with no limits on flatfish. Today there are limits on virtually all species. A Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and gear restrictions have nearly eliminated all rockfish to smaller boats.
4. Closed areas. In 2004, prime fishing area, 75-150 fathoms, was closed all year. After Oct. 1, 2004, everything from 0-250 fm. was closed until Jan. 1, 2005, eliminating our 50' Cygnet II from the fishery. We can fish out to only 100 fm.. To alter our boat with bigger winches, more cable, and a more powerful net reel to go deeper would render the Cygnet II unseaworthy and unsafe. Quotas are always larger during the winter and early spring when we cannot fish, than the quotas during the summer months when we can and do fish.
5. Permit restrictions The trawl fishery has changed so much since the permit system was enacted, that we feel the arbitrary 5'-maximum increase is no longer applicable. Today we trawlers are restricted by much smaller quotas, closed



OREGON OCEAN SEAFOODS

Home of **SKIPANON BRAND**

225 SE Galena • Warrenton, OR 97146
503-861-1434

4

December 28, 2004

areas, some net-types no longer legal, observers on board, and Vessel Monitoring Systems 24 hr./da., 365 da./yr.. Thus the size of the vessel in the fishery is not as important as it was when permits were enacted. Apparently the maximum five-foot allowable increase was to prevent building bigger boats with bigger trip capacity.

Why is it only a five-foot increase for Pacific Coast trawlers? Pacific Coast dungeness crab fishermen are allowed to increase the boat-size by 10 feet. Another factor in this situation is the current proposal that the Individual Transferable Quota (I.T.Q.) be based on the boat's past catch history. Next year's catch will not affect the I.T.Q.. This program may be in place in 2006-2007, and boat length requirements will be eliminated.

6. Financial Hardship. When the Magnuson Act became law, financial hardship and safety factors were to be considered when making fishery management decisions.

For financial hardship consideration we are applying for an exemption to the five-foot LOA rule. We ask that our permit be increased to eight feet LOA. If our request is denied, we will be forced to alter the Cape Windy. Alterations will require a Marine Architect to change the plans to safely remove three feet, probably some from the bow and some from the stern; these changes are estimated to cost between \$40,000 to \$50,000. This expense, plus additional expenses from the sinking earlier,



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December 28, 2004

and conversion from purse seiner to trawler, becomes a financial hardship, especially when closures and quotas can stop fishing on short notice, and when 5% of our catch for the next 30 years is taken to pay for the buy-back program!

Even after shortening the Cape Windy by three feet, the carrying capacity would be the same.

SUMMARY

We are applying for an exemption to our permit transfer to allow for transfer by keel length. Please note that the keel lengths are within the five-feet increase allowed. They are, in fact, only four feet different in length.

Our wooden 50' boat, 60 years old, is one of two left in the Astoria-Warrenton trawl fleet. We purchased a new steel boat, 58', 31 yr. old, for safety reasons.

Boats in our permit size are few, and would require expensive renovation. Another permit for three more feet of length would be prohibitive in cost, and, in fact, is not available.

Presently, new restrictions, closed areas, and quotas on nearly all species, diminish the importance of the boat size. Plus, I.T.Q. (Individual Transferable Quotas) to be enacted within 2 or 3 years will eliminate boat size restrictions.

Currently the trawling is closed out to 250 fms. We were unable to fish the last three months of this year because our boat, Cygnet II, is not equipped to fish that deep. To properly alter it would make it unsafe.

A Family Business Since 1973

OREGON OCEAN SEAFOODS

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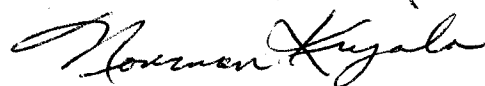
December 28, 2004

We feel that to require us to shorten our steel boat by three feet would be a financial hardship. Shortening the boat by three feet will not alter the carrying capacity, and it is estimated it would cost \$40,000 to \$50,000.

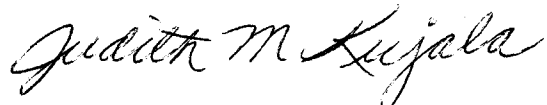
Boats in the Oregon-Washington-California fishery have dropped from 400 to 115. We are one of 115 left, bridled with tight restrictions. On top of this, we are required to pay 5% of our catch for 30 years to pay those fishermen that opted out.

In view of the above, we believe the keel length exemption does not seem important, and costs the government nothing. It seems the remaining fishermen should get some benefits to maintain a viable fishery. We ask that the Cape Windy replace the Cygnet II in our Pacific Groundfish Trawl Permit.

Appreciatively,



Norman Kujala, Owner, Permit Holder



Judith M Kujala, Owner, Permit
Holder

CHANGE OF VESSEL REGISTRATION OR PERMIT OWNERSHIP/HOLDERSHIP APPLICATION

**WEST COAST GROUND FISH
LIMITED ENTRY PERMIT**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
Fisheries Permits Office

7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg. 1
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

Phone: (206) 526-4353 Fax: (206) 526-4461 www.nwr.noaa.gov



SECTION A - ACTION(S) REQUESTED

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Change in vessel registered to permit (Fill out Sections B & C)
- ☐ Is this a request to stack a sablefish-endorsed permit?
- ☐ Is this a request to remove a sablefish-endorsed permit from an existing stack arrangement?
- ☐ Change in permit owner (Fill out Sections B & D)
- ☐ Change in permit holder (Fill out Sections B & E)

SECTION B - CURRENT PERMIT OWNER

Permit Number GF 0155	Vessel Name Cygnets II	USCG Doc or State Registration Number 247438
Current Permit Owner Name(s) (Last, First, Middle Name or Business Name) <i>Business Name</i>		Tax ID Number (If multiple owners, attach a list of their names and TIN)
Last Kujala Kujala	First Norman Judith	Middle Name M
Business Mailing Address <input type="checkbox"/> Is this a change of address? Street or PO Box 225 SE Gakena		SSN (If multiple owners, attach a list of their names and SSN) 542 32 1874 544 46 8464
		Business Phone (503) 861 1434
		Business Fax (optional) (503) 861 7602
City Warrenton	State OR	Zip Code 97146
Business Email (optional)		

The remainder of Section B must be completed by a notary to certify that the individual(s) signing this form have satisfactorily identified themselves.

Under penalties of perjury, I hereby declare that I, the undersigned, completed this application, and the information contained herein is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Representative (See Note 1)

Date

Norman Kujala Judith M Kujala

12-29-04

Printed Name of Applicant or Authorized Representative (NOTE: If form completed by a representative, attach authorization.)

Norman Kujala / Judith Kujala

Notary Public Signature

☐ ATTEST

Affix Notary Stamp or Seal Here

Susan Harkleroad

Date Commission Expires

1-21-2008



SECTION C - CHANGE OF VESSEL REGISTERED TO PERMIT**CURRENT** Vessel Name Cygnnet II**NEW** Vessel Name Cape WindyUSCG Doc or State Registration Number 247438USCG Doc or State Registration Number 546053Length Overall 50 feetLength Overall 58 feet

For the new vessel, submit a copy of the US Coast Guard "Certificate of Documentation" (CG-1270) or the registration certificate issued by a state. Also submit a marine survey documenting vessel length overall (LOA). The survey must be conducted by a certified marine surveyor according to the USCG method for determining LOA. NOTE: In order to register a permit for use with a given vessel, the vessel owner must be listed as either the permit owner or holder.

SECTION D - NEW PERMIT OWNER

New Permit Owner Name(s) (Last, First, Middle Name or Business Name)

Tax ID Number (If multiple owners, attach a list of their names and TIN)

Business Name

Last

First

Middle Name

SSN (If multiple owners, attach a list of their names and SSN)

Business Mailing Address ☐ Is this a change of address?

Business Phone

Street or PO Box

()

Business Fax (optional)

()

City

State

Zip Code

Business Email (optional)

Are you a person eligible to own a documented vessel under the terms of 46 USC 12102 (a)? (See Note 2) ☐ yes ☐ no**SECTION E - PERMIT HOLDER**☐ Add holder☐ Remove holder

Permit Holder/Vessel Owner Name(s) (Last, First, Middle Name or Business Name)

Tax ID Number (If multiple holders/owners, attach a list of their names and TIN)

Business Name

Last

First

Middle Name

SSN (If multiple holders/owners, attach a list of their names and SSN)

Business Mailing Address ☐ Is this a change of address?

Business Phone

Street or PO Box

()

Business Fax (optional)

()

City

State

Zip Code

Business Email (optional)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115
Telephone: (206) 526-4353



FEDERAL PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH PERMIT 2005

Issued Pursuant to: 50 CFR Part 320 Subpart G 16 U.S.C. 1801

Vessel No.	247438	Vessel Name	CYGNET II	Actual Length	50 feet
Permit No.	Date Effective				
GF0155	01-Jan-05				
ENDORSEMENTS:			PERMIT HOLDER		
TRAWL GEAR ENDORSED LENGTH: 50 FEET			KIJALA, NORMAN F AND KIJALA, JUDITH M		
PERMIT OWNER			225 SE GALENA WARRENTON, OR 97146		

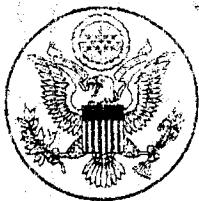
PERMIT CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

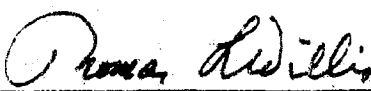

Groundfish permits and associated endorsements confer a privilege to participate in the groundfish fishery off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California with limited entry gear, in accordance with the limited entry system established under the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) as amended. Future amendments to the FMP or implementing regulations may modify privileges associated with this permit, or may abolish the limited entry system.

1. This permit is for the vessel as named and described above and such vessel owner(s) as named. This permit must be kept on such vessel at all times.
2. This permit authorizes fishing operations to be conducted by the vessel registered as noted above.
3. This permit is effective on the date indicated above. It continues in effect until the expiration date printed above. Any change in ownership information (including address, vessel name, or vessel length) must be reported to the Regional Administrator. Application permit must be made if the permit expires or if ownership changes.
4. This permit may be sanctioned (including suspension or revocation) if the vessel is not operated in accordance with the laws and for a new regulations pertaining to fisheries for which the vessel is permitted.
5. Loss or theft of this permit should be reported to the Special Agent in Charge, NMFS Law Enforcement (206-526-6133) or the Fisheries Permit Office (206-526-4353).
6. This permit may not be registered for use with a different vessel more than once every calendar year except in the case of death of permit holder, or if the permitted vessel is totally lost.
7. Annual renewal of the permit is required by November 30 of each year.

[Euaelbgcfhea]



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA****DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD****NATIONAL VESSEL DOCUMENTATION CENTER****CERTIFICATE OF DOCUMENTATION**

VESSEL NAME		OFFICIAL NUMBER	IMO OR OTHER NUMBER		YEAR COMPLETED
CYGNET II		247438			1945
HAILING PORT		HULL MATERIAL		MECHANICAL PROPULSION	
WARRENTON		WOOD		YES	
GROSS TONNAGE	NET TONNAGE	LENGTH	BREADTH	DEPTH	
35 GRT	24 NRT	45.7	15.4	8.3	
PLACE BUILT ASTORIA, OREGON					
OWNERS NORMAN F KUJALA AND JUDITH M KUJALA, SOLE OWNERS AS JOINT TENANTS WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP			OPERATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS COASTWISE FISHERY		
MANAGING OWNER NORMAN F KUJALA 225 SE GALENA WARRENTON, OR 97146					
RESTRICTIONS NONE					
ENTITLEMENTS NONE					
REMARKS NONE					
ISSUE DATE DECEMBER 16, 2003		 DIRECTOR, NATIONAL VESSEL DOCUMENTATION CENTER			
THIS CERTIFICATE EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2005					
VDS 1571852					

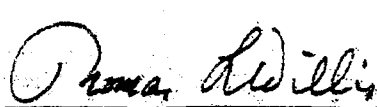


UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

NATIONAL VESSEL DOCUMENTATION CENTER

CERTIFICATE OF DOCUMENTATION

VESSEL NAME CAPE WINDY		OFFICIAL NUMBER 546053	IMO OR OTHER NUMBER		YEAR COMPLETED 1973
HAILING PORT SEATTLE, WA		HULL MATERIAL STEEL		MECHANICAL PROPULSION YES	
GROSS TONNAGE 38 GRT	NET TONNAGE 39 NRT	LENGTH 49.7	BREADTH 18.0	DEPTH 7.2	
PLACE BUILT FORT BRAGG, CA					
OWNERS JOHN A SLOSTAD		OPERATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS COASTWISE FISHERY REGISTRY			
MANAGING OWNER JOHN A SLOSTAD 13872 TRUMPETER LANE MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273					
RESTRICTIONS NONE					
ENTITLEMENTS NONE					
REMARKS NONE					
ISSUE DATE APRIL 15, 2004		 DIRECTOR, NATIONAL VESSEL DOCUMENTATION CENTER			
THIS CERTIFICATE EXPIRES MAY 31, 2005					

VDS
2025391





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Sustainable Fisheries Division F/NWR2
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

January 21, 2005

Mr. Norman Kujala and Ms. Judith Kujala
225 SE Galena
Warrenton, OR 97146

RE: Pacific Coast Groundfish Limited Entry Permit GF0155

Dear Mr. Kujala and Ms. Kujala:

I received your letter and transfer form dated December 28, 2004 requesting that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) register the F/V Cape Windy (Official Number 546053) to Pacific Coast Groundfish Limited Entry Permit GF0155. Your letter requests an exception from the current regulations on vessel size endorsements. Also, you enclosed your 2005 permit and the current USCG Certificates of Documentation for both the F/V Cape Windy and F/V Cygnet II (Official Number 247438).

The F/V Cygnet II GF0155 is currently registered to GF0155 and this permit has a size endorsement of 50 feet. The permit size endorsement was based on a 1993 marine survey of the qualifying vessel, F/V Cygnet. The length overall (LOA) for the vessel was given as 50 feet. The permit size endorsement established for GF0155 complies with the regulations given at 50 CFR 660.334 (c)(1): "General. Each limited entry permit will be endorsed with the LOA for the size of the vessel that initially qualified for the permit..."

The F/V Cape Windy has an LOA of 58 feet. 50 CFR 660.334 (c)(2)(ii) provides that: "A limited entry permit endorsed for trawl gear may be registered for use with a vessel between 5 feet shorter and five feet longer than the size endorsed on the existing permit without requiring a combination of permits...." Because the F/V Cape Windy is more than five feet longer than the permit size endorsement, I disapprove your transfer request.

In your letter, you requested that NMFS provide an exception to the vessel size regulations. The regulations do not provide for exceptions that would allow the Agency to register a vessel larger than five feet over the permit size endorsement. Further, you requested that we consider the transfer request based on the keel length of the vessel. Please note that the regulations do not recognize keel length. Length overall is specified as the standard for determining conformance with vessel size requirements.



I am returning your current permit. If you have any further questions, please contact me at 206-526-6115.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Ford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Ford" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin Ford
Fisheries Permit Office

Enclosure

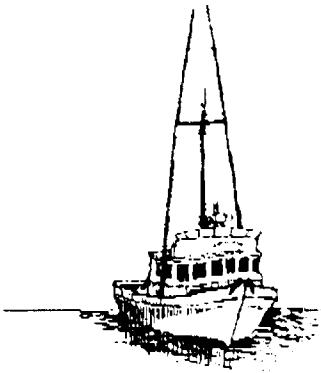
4 P.M. Public Comment 2
March 2005

Port of Port Orford

Post Office Box 490
Port Orford, Oregon 97465

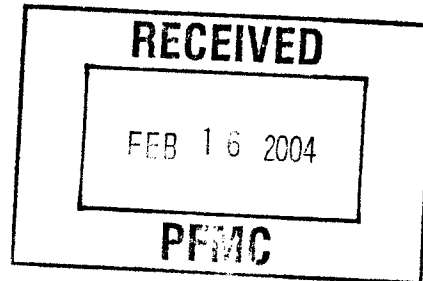
Telephone (541) 332-7121
FAX (541) 332-7121

e-mail: portoffice@harborside.com



February 15, 2005

Don Hansen, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland OR 97220-1384



Dear Don:

Port Orford Fishermen, the Port and the community of Port Orford have long derived economic benefit from groundfish landings from around our area. All are now suffering hardship because of declining stocks and harvest restrictions.

The Port is concerned that the Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota Committee that was formed more than 18 months ago, meets regularly, and has moved this important issue forward has done nothing to address the needs of the fixed gear fishermen nor kept the Port Orford fishing community informed of the issues.

We understand that a community representative was added to the committee but do not feel that one person can represent every west coast fishing community.

We believe any groundfish planning should include all gears and harvesters and provide information to communities and a process for communities to participate in the decision-making that will affect their futures.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Anderson".

Gary Anderson
Port Manager

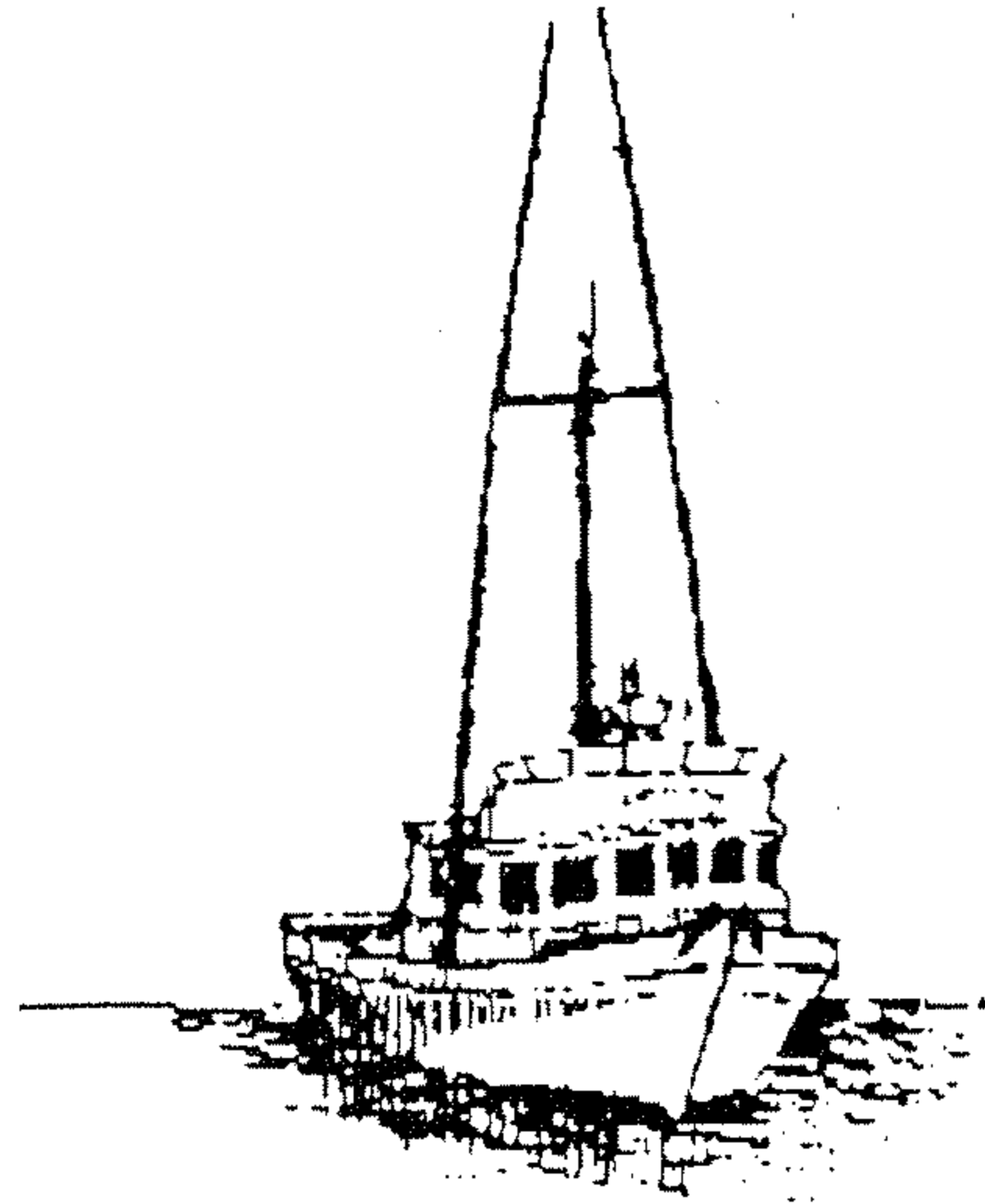
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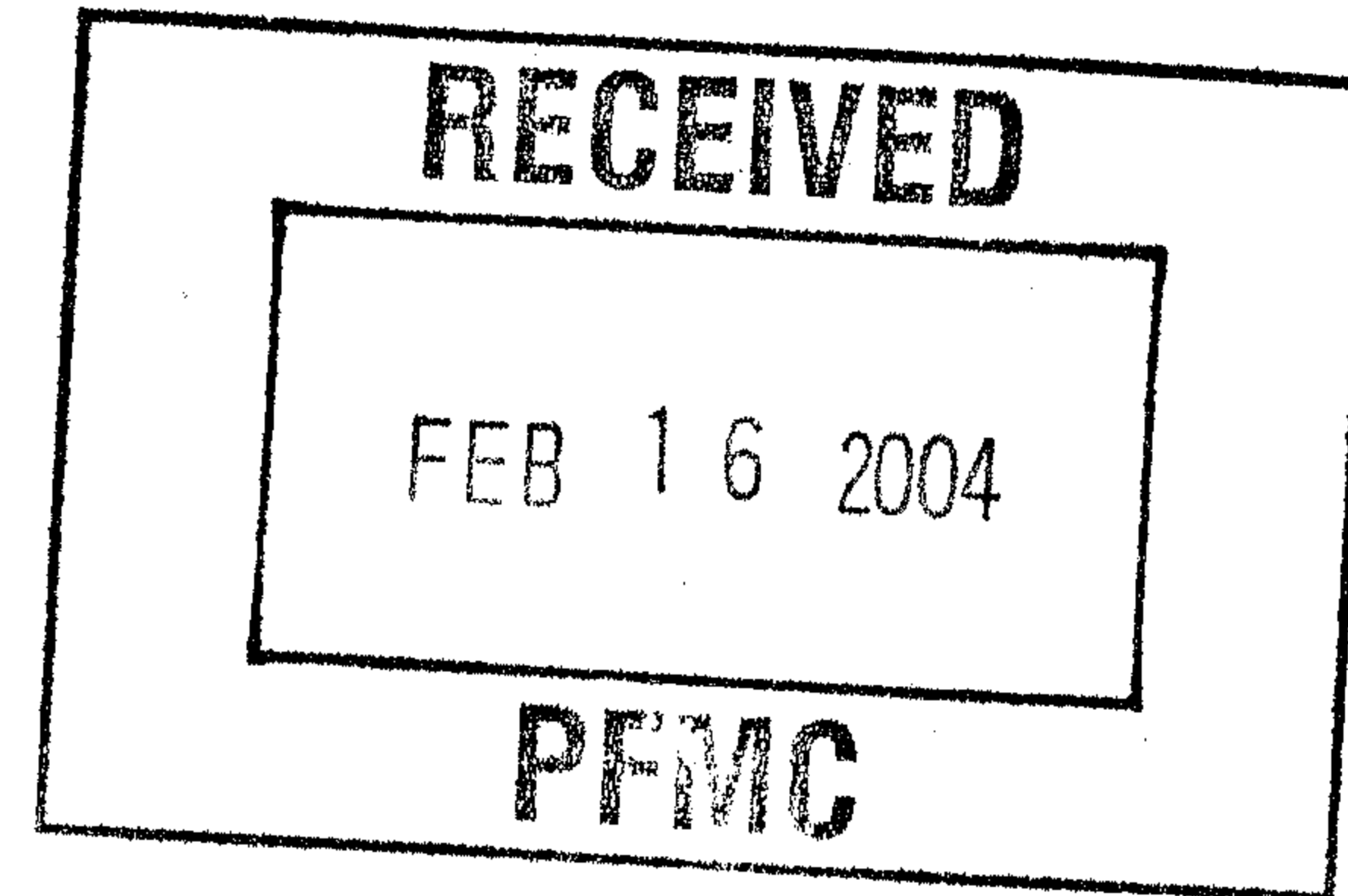
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Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland OR 97220-1384



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Respectfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Anderson".

Gary Anderson
Port Manager

VMS Alternatives for expansion into the OA fisheries

	Longline Gear			Pot Gear				Exempted Trawl Gear					Line Gear			
	Ground-fish	Pacific Halibut	HMS	Ground-fish	Dungeness Crab	Spot Prawn	Non-groundfish CA Nearshore species 1/	Ridgeback prawn	Sea Cucumber	CA Halibut	Pink Shrimp	Ground-fish	CA Halibut	HMS	Salt Tr	
Alternative 1 Status Quo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Alternative 2	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Alternative 3	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Alternative 4	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	-	-	-	-	-	
Alternative 5a	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	-	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	-	
Alternative 5b (Enf. Consultants)	All	T&R,P	-	All	-	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	-	All	T&R,P	-	T&F	
Alternative 6 (GAP-majority)	All	All	T&R,P	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	All	All	All	-	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&F	
VMS committee recommendation	All	All	T&R,P	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	T&R,P	All	All	All	-	All	T&R,P	T&R,P	SoT T&F Not T&R other Yellow	
Alternative 7 (GAP-minority)	All >12' LOA	All >12' LOA	T&R,P >12' LOA	All >12' LOA	T&R,P >12' LOA	T&R,P >12' LOA	T&R,P >12' LOA	All >12' LOA	All >12' LOA	All >12' LOA	-	All >12' LOA	T&R,P >12' LOA	T&R,P >12' LOA	T&R,P >12' LOA	

1/ Non-groundfish nearshore species includes California Sheephead which is not a federally managed groundfish species.

All = All participants in this fishery fishing will be required to have and VMS for the year - VMS requirement is triggered when the vessel is used to "fish" in federal waters.

T&R,P = Fishery participants fishing pursuant to the harvest guidelines, quotas, or other management measures governing the open access fisheries. This includes vessels that take and retain, or possess federally managed groundfish in federal waters. Once the VMS requirement is triggered the vessel will be required to have and VMS for the remainder of the year.

>12' LOA = Greater than 12' in length over all

A VISION FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

NOAA RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STRATEGIC PLAN

FY2005-FY2010





Vision Statement

The American people enjoy the riches and benefits of healthy and diverse marine ecosystems.



Mission Statement

Stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy ecosystems.

As America's trustee for marine recreational fisheries resources, NOAA applies science-based fisheries management to provide healthy ocean ecosystems for the benefit and enjoyment of all Americans. Among the Agency's many mandates is the responsibility to ensure the public may enjoy a diverse array of recreational fishing experiences. This document outlines the Agency's direction for recreational fisheries within the parameters of NOAA's larger vision and mission.



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR FISHERIES



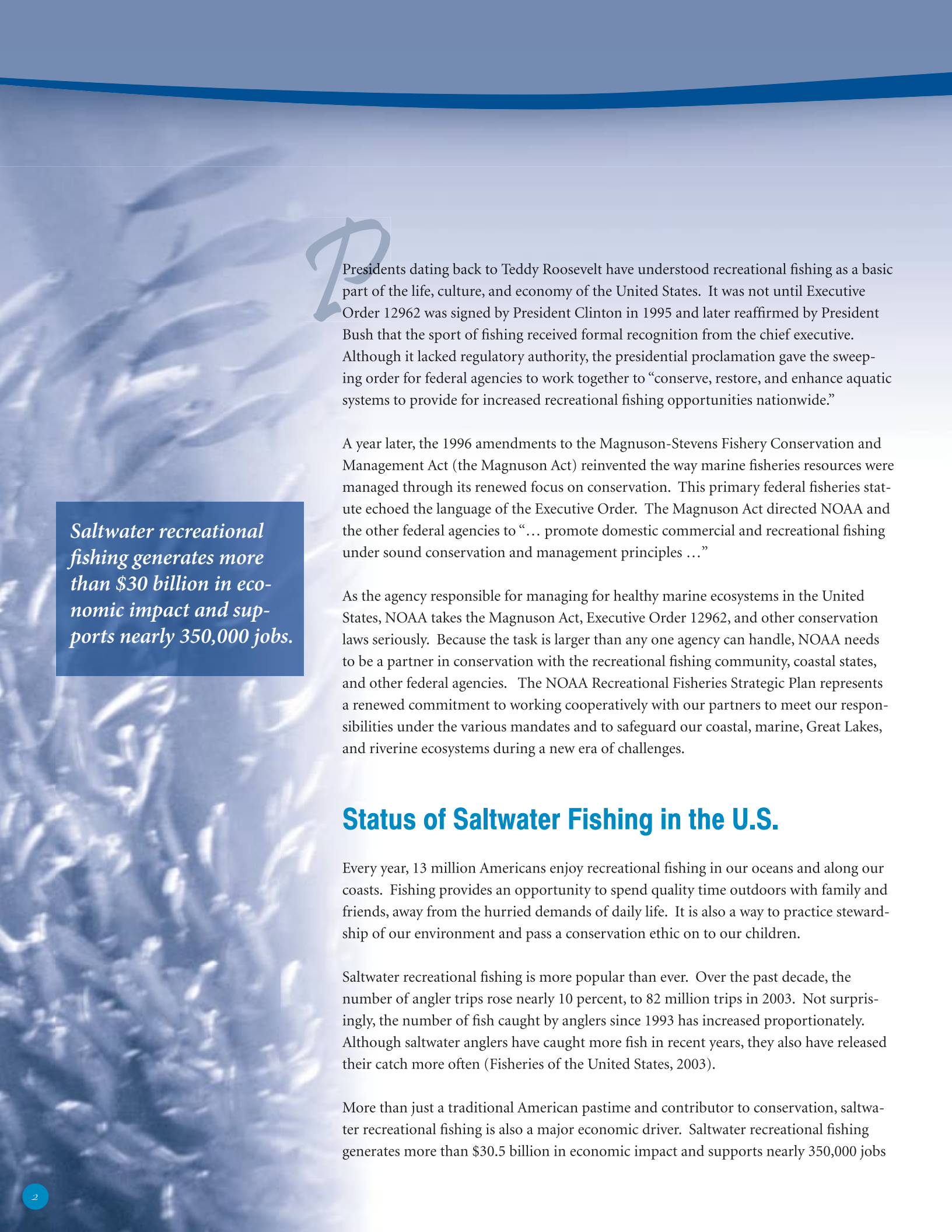
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is the proud steward of our Nation's living marine resources—conserving, protecting, and managing these resources for more than 30 years. With the release of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's 2004 report, *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century*, and the unprecedented level of attention being paid to our ocean resources, NOAA is facing a new era of resource management challenges. In response, NOAA is continuing to improve its use of ecosystem approaches to fisheries management aimed at rebuilding and sustaining fishery and protected species stocks.

I'm pleased with the progress we've made so far in addressing overfishing and rebuilding stocks to healthy levels. The healthier and more abundant the fish populations, the better the recreational fishing experience for the American angler. This, in turn, translates into healthier economies for coastal communities. We need look no farther than Atlantic striped bass and redfish to see the economic and social benefits of healthy fisheries.

One of my top priorities is to revitalize our recreational fisheries program. During the past year, our staff met with anglers from across the country to develop a plan for the program and a shared vision for its success. The result is the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. This plan demonstrates a renewed commitment to serving America's 13 million anglers by ensuring healthy, sustainable fisheries for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Hogarth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William T. Hogarth, PhD
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce



Saltwater recreational fishing generates more than \$30 billion in economic impact and supports nearly 350,000 jobs.

Presidents dating back to Teddy Roosevelt have understood recreational fishing as a basic part of the life, culture, and economy of the United States. It was not until Executive Order 12962 was signed by President Clinton in 1995 and later reaffirmed by President Bush that the sport of fishing received formal recognition from the chief executive. Although it lacked regulatory authority, the presidential proclamation gave the sweeping order for federal agencies to work together to “conserve, restore, and enhance aquatic systems to provide for increased recreational fishing opportunities nationwide.”

A year later, the 1996 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (the Magnuson Act) reinvented the way marine fisheries resources were managed through its renewed focus on conservation. This primary federal fisheries statute echoed the language of the Executive Order. The Magnuson Act directed NOAA and the other federal agencies to “... promote domestic commercial and recreational fishing under sound conservation and management principles ...”

As the agency responsible for managing for healthy marine ecosystems in the United States, NOAA takes the Magnuson Act, Executive Order 12962, and other conservation laws seriously. Because the task is larger than any one agency can handle, NOAA needs to be a partner in conservation with the recreational fishing community, coastal states, and other federal agencies. The NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan represents a renewed commitment to working cooperatively with our partners to meet our responsibilities under the various mandates and to safeguard our coastal, marine, Great Lakes, and riverine ecosystems during a new era of challenges.

Status of Saltwater Fishing in the U.S.

Every year, 13 million Americans enjoy recreational fishing in our oceans and along our coasts. Fishing provides an opportunity to spend quality time outdoors with family and friends, away from the hurried demands of daily life. It is also a way to practice stewardship of our environment and pass a conservation ethic on to our children.

Saltwater recreational fishing is more popular than ever. Over the past decade, the number of angler trips rose nearly 10 percent, to 82 million trips in 2003. Not surprisingly, the number of fish caught by anglers since 1993 has increased proportionately. Although saltwater anglers have caught more fish in recent years, they also have released their catch more often (Fisheries of the United States, 2003).

More than just a traditional American pastime and contributor to conservation, saltwater recreational fishing is also a major economic driver. Saltwater recreational fishing generates more than \$30.5 billion in economic impact and supports nearly 350,000 jobs

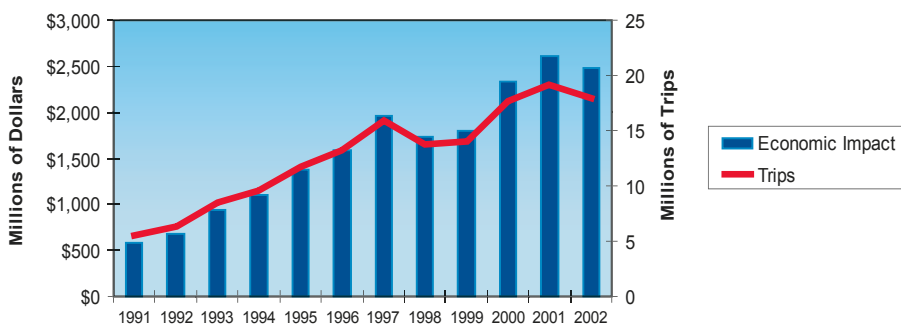
nationwide (The Economic Importance of Marine Angler Expenditures in the United States, 2004).

As more people move to the coasts, recreation and other human activities will place increased pressures on the resource and thus place greater demands on NOAA as the steward for our Nation's coastal, marine, Great Lakes, and riverine ecosystems. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's 2004 report, *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century*, stresses the need for a big-picture view by adapting our management strategies to avoid losing the wealth provided by our marine fisheries.

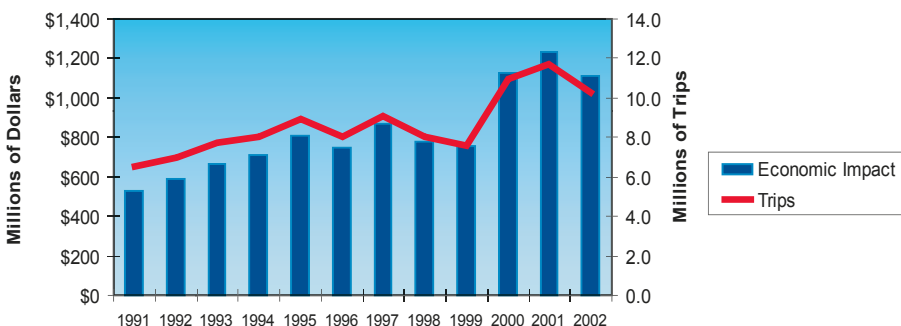
Renewed Commitment to Recreational Fisheries

As our understanding of the oceans and coasts has grown, NOAA's responsibilities have grown more complex. The Agency is moving from single-species management toward an ecosystem approach to management. As this transition takes place, partnerships will become increasingly important in addressing the diverse range of issues.

Atlantic Striped Bass



Redfish



Local economies benefit from healthy recreational fisheries. The dramatic recoveries of redfish and striped bass populations were made possible by the partnership efforts of anglers, states, and NMFS.



The Plan outlines our shared vision for the future of recreational fisheries and signifies our commitment to work together to make it a reality.

Marine recreational anglers represent one of NOAA's largest organized constituencies. With their demonstrated conservation ethic, America's 13 million anglers will be among NOAA's most important allies. The Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan aims to reengage anglers and create a common vision for the future of marine recreational fisheries.

Developed at the request of NOAA leadership, this plan incorporates input from experts throughout NOAA and members of the recreational community. A cross-agency working group composed of individuals appointed by program and office directors developed a plan outline that was fleshed out during the past year.

During the spring and early summer of 2004, nine regional workshops were held with anglers from across the country. These public workshops provided anglers the opportunity to comment on the initial plan outline. For those unable to attend, comments were also accepted via e-mail through the NMFS website.

The plan outline was simultaneously reviewed within NOAA by regional scientists and managers and by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC),

an advisory body to the Secretary of Commerce, composed of independent fisheries experts.

During the fall of 2004, the interagency working group reviewed and incorporated an array of comments from NOAA and the public. This Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan emerged from all the input and outlines a shared vision for a revitalized recreational fisheries program within NMFS.

Implementation

The strategic vision relies on an integrated two-step approach linking tailored regional efforts with national coordination. Each of NOAA's eight regions will develop detailed, step-by-step work plans that identify specific actions needed to implement these goals and objectives. Success will be determined by NOAA's ability to cut across agency lines and strengthen partnerships with communities, states, and other Federal agencies.

The plan development process benefited greatly from the involvement of our partners. Recognizing that any future successes will come through working cooperatively toward a common goal, NOAA will con-

Our Commitment

It is the vision of NMFS that through healthy and diverse marine ecosystems the American people will enjoy a diverse array of recreational fishing experiences. To achieve this vision, NMFS is committed to working with our partners to

- Improve the science and management of recreational species and their habitats.
- Keep anglers informed about and involved in the management process.
- Promote marine stewardship.

tinue to strengthen these relationships. Angler participation will be a centerpiece of implementation.

National Implementation Team

The ad hoc interagency team that developed the strategic plan will be formalized into a National Recreational Fisheries Implementation Team. This cross-agency team will work at the headquarters level to implement the plan by representing NOAA's recreational fishing interests within NOAA programs. The national team will be responsible for tying the regional efforts together by reviewing plans, identifying gaps and linkages between regional efforts, and ensuring regular reporting of progress and accomplishments.

Regional Implementation Teams

Regional implementation teams will be created for each of NOAA's eight regions. Led by the regional recreational fisheries coordinator, these teams will be responsible for designing activities that match the vision described in the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. These work plans will include detailed objectives, metrics, timetables, and budgets.

Throughout NOAA, considerable resources already are dedicated to activities that benefit recreational fisheries. An important function of the implementation teams will be to identify these activities and tie them back to the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. Having identified the gaps, the teams can then develop new initiatives.

Through these regional recreational fisheries implementation teams, NOAA employees will work side by side with

the Agency's management and conservation partners to turn the plan into action. Stakeholder members on these regional teams will include representatives from angling organizations, industry, Fishery Management Councils, interstate marine fisheries commissions, state fish and game agencies, and university partners. NOAA is committed to working closely with all partners to coordinate and enhance our recreational fisheries activities.

Enhanced Coordination

NOAA's vision for recreational fisheries is one part of the Agency's broader mission goal to "protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management." The goals and objectives outlined in the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan are designed to support this broad Agency goal. The specific activities undertaken as part of this plan will help achieve the performance measures outlined in the NMFS Strategic Plan.



Nine regional meetings were held with anglers from across the country in order to ensure that the Plan accurately incorporated the ideas of the recreational fishing community. Here, anglers in Hawaii offer their thoughts on the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan.



MANAGEMENT GOAL

IMPROVE MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING THROUGH BETTER MANAGEMENT

Objective #1

Evaluate the status of recreational fisheries management and identify opportunities for improvement.

NMFS has a responsibility to provide recreational fishing opportunities by ensuring sustainable fisheries resources, understandable regulations, and reasonable public access. To provide this service, NMFS constantly assesses current agency management practices and collaborative state management programs to identify opportunities for improvement. Part of that process should include measures for tracking our progress to assure the agency and our stakeholders that we are moving in the right direction.

Strategy 1.1 Evaluate existing recreational fisheries data collection methods by working with regional science centers and NOAA's Office of Science and Technology.

Strategy 1.2 Regularly chart progress on the status of the most popular recreational fish species nationally and by region.

Strategy 1.3 Work with other federal, state, tribal, and academic partners to identify management techniques cur-

rently applied to terrestrial recreational activities that might be appropriate for marine anglers.

Strategy 1.4 By analyzing existing socioeconomic data, identify areas in which additional data are required in order to make fair allocation decisions.

Objective #2

Effectively apply the suite of fishery management tools.

Recreational anglers abide by a proven set of management tools, including bag limits, size limits, gear restrictions, and time and area closures. The manager's choice of the appropriate tool is only the first step toward successful management. Managers must then effectively implement that measure, evaluate the results, and make corrections as necessary. Critical to each of these steps are having good fisheries and socioeconomic data on all sectors, including the recreational fishing community, and ensuring that these data are fairly incorporated into the decision-making process.

Strategy 2.1 Assist willing states in establishing a computerized system for tracking/licensing/registering marine anglers.

Strategy 2.2 Ensure that timely socioeconomic information is used in making management decisions about recreational fisheries.

Strategy 2.3 Where available and appropriate, provide historical data on both recreational and commercial fisheries for inclusion at all levels of the management process.

Strategy 2.4 Continue moving toward ecosystem approaches to management.

Strategy 2.5 Where appropriate, promote the use of innovative tools (such as artificial reefs, aquaculture, ocean parks, and marine protected areas) into marine ecosystem conservation and restoration efforts.

Strategy 2.6 When appropriate, consider the comments of the broad range of marine recreational users in management decisions.

and accessible decision-making process. The following strategies will help involve anglers by giving them a voice in decision-making, providing discussion forums, and asking for their input early in the process.

Strategy 3.1 Provide for fair recreational angling representation by facilitating participation in the management process.

Strategy 3.2 Inform marine anglers and their organizations of opportunities to participate in the management and regulatory process, and provide a way to exchange dialogue on all relevant recreational fisheries issues by enhancing the NMFS angler website.

Strategy 3.3 Schedule meetings to better fit times when saltwater anglers are available to attend.

Strategy 3.4 Promote early consultation and participation by anglers on key issues—such as artificial reefs, marine protected areas, and tournament observer programs—through the NMFS website.

Objective #3 **Make the fisheries management process more open and accessible to the public.**

Fisheries management relies on balanced representation from all sectors, including recreational anglers. To many, the fishery management process can seem confusing, time-consuming, and intimidating. This is especially true when it comes to involving people who pursue fishing as a weekend hobby and not as a full-time job. To encourage the participation of recreational anglers, NMFS is committed to an open

Objective #4 **Reduce bycatch and discard mortality in all fisheries.**

Anglers are among the leaders in conserving our marine fisheries. Anglers release 60 percent of the fish they catch (Fisheries of the United States, 2003). However, significant unintended mortality can still occur, even when anglers practice conservation measures such as catch-and-release.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Marine recreational anglers have been catching more fish in recent years, but they also are releasing their catch more often according to a 2004 NMFS report, Fisheries of the United States.

National Standard 9 of the Magnuson Act requires NMFS to minimize the mortality of bycatch. To achieve this mandate, the Agency works closely with fishing communities and other governmental partners to promote measures that minimize both bycatch and bycatch mortality.

Strategy 4.1 Investigate and promote gear alternatives and procedures to reduce marine angler discard mortality.

Strategy 4.2 Support voluntary catch-and-release programs and the proper handling of fish through partnerships with marine recreational fishing organizations.

Strategy 4.3 Support those ocean ecosystem conservation initiatives that improve recreational fishing opportunities.

Objective #5 **Improve compliance with fisheries regulations.**

NMFS's success in providing healthy marine ecosystems comes not so much from managing fish as from managing people. To recreational anglers, this management often takes the form of restrictions on their fishing. As dedicated environmental stewards, anglers understand the importance of conservation measures that protect the long-term status of fish populations. To foster their continued stewardship, NMFS must help anglers understand regulations. The following strategies will enhance angler understanding and compliance with regulations.

Strategy 5.1 Work with the recreational fishing community to develop regulations that are simple to understand and provide a clear incentive for enhanced compliance.

Strategy 5.2 Establish priorities that will place more emphasis on recreational fisheries that have a significant impact on depleted stocks.

Strategy 5.3 Foster community compliance by ensuring that law enforcement officers are trained in the rationale behind regulations.

Strategy 5.4 Enhance cooperation between local, state, interstate, and federal agencies to improve enforcement efforts.

Objective #6

Improve intra-agency marine recreational fisheries cooperation.

NMFS is committed to building strong internal communications in order to achieve our common goals. By tapping into the varied expertise of NOAA professionals, we are better able to identify problem areas early and develop cooperative solutions. Improving our internal coordination and cooperation will result in better service to the recreational fishing community.

Strategy 6.1 Establish a formal NOAA Recreational Fisheries Team to implement this strategic plan. This interdisciplinary team should include representatives appointed from each of the NMFS program offices, regional offices, science centers, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the Marine Protected Area Center, and the National Sea Grant College Program. The Recreational Fisheries Services Branch within the Office of Constituent Services will lead this team.

Strategy 6.2 Coordinate with the NOAA Ecosystem Goal team to improve representation of recreational fishing issues in NOAA's budget and program planning processes.

Strategy 6.3 Consult regularly with the NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee's Marine Recreational Fisheries Working Group.

Saltwater anglers spent an estimated \$1.5 billion on fishing tackle in 2000.



SCIENCE GOAL

IMPROVE RECREATIONAL FISHING THROUGH THE USE OF COOPERATIVE, TIMELY, CREDIBLE, AND ACCURATE SCIENCE

Objective #1

Support data collection and research that matches management needs.

Credible science and accurate data are central to wise decision-making. To ensure that science and management priorities are in agreement, NMFS will work cooperatively with internal and external partners in planning relevant science initiatives, sharing data, and communicating findings.

Strategy 1.1 Collect more accurate recreational landings data through sample size increases and survey improvements.

Strategy 1.2 Facilitate angler participation in cooperative research and the science development process.

Strategy 1.3 Determine the most useful data for supporting the management process by consulting twice annually with councils, interstate commissions, state agencies, and stakeholders.

Strategy 1.4 Respond to management needs for better discard data by increasing the amount of recreational at-sea sampling.

Strategy 1.5 Provide ongoing evaluation of data collection activities to

ensure that the highest-quality data products possible are being provided to resource managers.

Strategy 1.6 Provide timely stock assessments for recreational species and support the NMFS Stock Assessment Improvement Plan (SAIP), especially in assessing recreational species.

Objective #2

Use advanced technologies in fisheries science and data management.

NMFS is committed to incorporating ever-evolving technological advances into our science programs to supply managers with the best, most accurate data and information. At the forefront of this commitment is the enhancement of a national Fisheries Information System (FIS) designed to link existing federal and state fisheries information systems; expand regional marine recreational fisheries data collection systems such as GULFIN, RECFIN, ACCSP, and WESPACFIN; and provide for more effective information sharing. Further, we believe that our science is also improved by working cooperatively with anglers to include their on-the-water knowledge. This inclusive and proactive approach to science ensures that we will continue to

provide the most accurate and reliable fisheries data.

Strategy 2.1 Build regional fisheries information expert teams to share ideas, successes, and experiences in the management of fisheries information.

Strategy 2.2 Promote and implement data collection methodologies that use the latest technology (electronic reporting, verifiable self-reported data, GPS technology, etc.) for improved geospatial data collection.

Strategy 2.3 Coordinate joint research projects with federal, state, and community partners to provide high-priority recreational information to managers.

Objective #3 **Ensure that data are comparable.**

Fisheries and angler data are collected in various ways by various Federal agencies, states, and stakeholders. The resulting variability in the data has led at times to credibility concerns and confusion about the characteristics of the marine recreational fishery. To raise confidence and ultimately provide more accurate data for fishery policy and management decisions, NMFS will serve as the clearinghouse for all marine fishery data and ensure that such information is easily available to fishery managers and the public.

Strategy 3.1 Establish mechanisms for ensuring consistent methodologies and

data structure (e.g., units of measurement and coding systems) by integrating all state and federal cooperative data-collection programs.

Strategy 3.2 Implement data consistency (formats, types, and labels) across all appropriate data collection programs.

Strategy 3.3 Facilitate angler participation in data reviews and quality assurance through annual constituent data review meetings.

Strategy 3.4 Establish a general reporting protocol for releasing data reports to the public.

Objective #4 **Maintain and expand the collection of economic and sociocultural data for use in developing policy-relevant models.**

Economic and sociocultural data are used to accurately illustrate the impact of management policies. When paired with catch and biomass data, these data form the core components of most regulatory and allocation decisions. NMFS will continue to assist the decision-making process by providing managers with informative analyses of these data. In collaboration with Fishery Management Councils, interstate commissions, and other partners, NMFS will also continue to seek new ways to enhance data collection efforts and provide new analyses that meet management needs.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Striped bass, salmon, and shad are among the prized fisheries to benefit from the nearly \$200,000 in grants awarded to nine coastal states through a community-based fisheries habitat restoration program sponsored by the American Sport-fishing Association's FishAmerica Foundation and the NOAA's Habitat Restoration Center.

Strategy 4.1 Collect and publish data on angler expenditures and economic impact every five years.

Strategy 4.2 Incorporate the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) recreational fishery in future expenditure surveys.

Strategy 4.3 Improve valuation models of marine resources to include consumptive and nonconsumptive users.

Strategy 4.4 More accurately assess the impact of management decisions by collecting a suite of cost and earn-

ings data from industries involved in recreational fisheries, such as charter boats, head boats, tackle manufacturers, retailers, and boat builders.

Strategy 4.5 Develop easy-to-use economic models and data web queries to facilitate inclusion of economic information in the policy process.

Objective #5 **Better understand the relationship between recreational fishing and habitat.**

Both healthy fish populations and exceptional fishing opportunities rely on quality habitat. A better understanding of the relationship between fish and their habitat is central to NMFS's continued movement toward an ecosystem approach to management. While protecting and restoring natural systems will remain a top priority, the Agency is taking a leadership role in exploring new ways to enhance fish populations and habitat.

Strategy 5.1 Research the dynamic relationship between fish and their habitat to improve ecosystem-based management decisions.

Strategy 5.2 Improve understanding of the impact of all water-based recreational activities on habitat and develop strategies to minimize these impacts through improved management and stewardship.

Strategy 5.3 Identify priority habitat concerns associated with recreational fishing on popular and overfished species.

Strategy 5.4 Research the effectiveness of artificial reef programs, such as “rigs-to-reefs.”

Strategy 5.5 Study the effectiveness of fisheries enhancement efforts (e.g., hatcheries and aquaculture) and their impact on ecosystem health.

Scientists from Stanford and Duke University, along with the Monterey Bay Aquarium and National Marine Fisheries Service, have placed over 700 electronic tags in bluefin tuna off the coast of the Carolinas. The data from implantable archival tags has been critical for establishing the basic biology of Atlantic bluefin and the patterns of movement to feeding and breeding grounds.



Photo courtesy of Tag-A-Giant

The International Game Fish Association and NOAA work together to train experienced anglers, captains and crews to become official IGFA-certified observers aboard offshore tournament boats.



OUTREACH GOAL

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES, HEIGHTEN AWARENESS OF MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING ISSUES, AND ADVANCE MARINE CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES.

Objective #1

Increase the awareness of NMFS's conservation partnership with individual anglers by promoting environmental stewardship practices and informing anglers of NOAA's role in supporting healthy and viable marine recreational fisheries.

Both the Magnuson Act and Executive Order 12962 call on NOAA to take a lead role in promoting recreational fishing under sound conservation and management principles. Underlying these formal mandates is an understanding that the recreational fishing community and NMFS share common goals and should be natural allies in efforts to conserve, restore, and manage our coastal and ocean resources. Through new and existing outreach activities, NMFS will support management and science goals by engaging anglers, promoting sustainable fishing opportunities, and building stronger conservation partnerships with the recreational fishing community.

Strategy 1.1 Build tomorrow's environmental stewards by promoting the participation of youth in ethical angling programs.

Strategy 1.2 Provide easy-to-understand information on the status of

stocks for fisheries of interest to anglers, via printed brochures and online, starting with regional publications (print and web) on top species in 2005.

Strategy 1.3 Promote public education and outreach through hands-on angler involvement in living marine resource and fisheries habitat conservation and restoration projects.

Strategy 1.4 Develop new multilingual educational materials on recreational fisheries stewardship.

Strategy 1.5 Inform recreational anglers about related laws and regulations, including the Essential Fish Habitat Program, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Endangered Species Act.

Strategy 1.6 Host a regular recreational fishing conference as a forum for discussing timely science- and policy-related issues. The event should be planned in cooperation with industry and angler groups.

Strategy 1.7 Enhance working relationships with outdoor media, Fishery Management Councils, and interstate marine fisheries commissions to improve communication about recreational fisheries issues.

Strategy 1.8 Create educational materials for anglers on NOAA's role in using economic and other scientific information to improve recreational fisheries.

Objective #2

Ensure that the recreational fishing community and our partner agencies are informed in a timely manner of issues that may impact anglers.

Effective communication between stakeholders is key to building stronger partnerships. Many decisions of federal and state agencies, commissions, tribes, and members of the fishing community affect and are affected by NMFS's actions. Management of our coastal and ocean resources will benefit from more frequent communication that is open and timely.

Strategy 2.1 Regularly attend recreational fishing group meetings to enhance working relationships and increase exchanges of information.

Strategy 2.2 Ensure that NOAA Recreational Fisheries reports, management actions, presentations, and websites are understandable and designed for easy access by anglers and the general public.

Strategy 2.3 Establish partnership programs with angling organizations, federal and state agencies, and other interested groups to enhance the implementation of the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan.

Strategy 2.4 Develop outreach strategies to foster communication with the angling community.

Objective #3

Improve interagency function and collaboration with tribal, state, and federal partners for issues related to recreational fisheries.

NMFS will benefit from communications that have a clear and unified message. The Office of Constituent Services is positioned to work throughout the Agency to better coordinate NOAA's internal activities, form strong partnerships, and amplify key messages.

Strategy 3.1 Provide a focused in-reach initiative to NMFS and other appropriate components of NOAA to ensure that staff are aware of the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan and, where appropriate, are fully engaged in its implementation.

Strategy 3.2 Participate in recreational fisheries-related programs set up under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Strategy 3.3 Develop regular communications plans for information exchange with state, tribal, and federal natural resource managers.

Strategy 3.4 Appoint a NMFS representative to various interagency recreational fishing groups, boards, and committees.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Objective #4

Expand the use of technology to streamline the consultation and education process, improve the efficiency of information exchange, and increase the timely distribution of recreational fisheries information.

Advances in technology allow more streamlined, immediate, and efficient communications with recreational fishing organizations and other interested constituents across the Nation. NOAA will improve its service to anglers by taking full advantage of these technologies to enhance our web and e-mail products.

Strategy 4.1 Create a one-stop NOAA website for the recreational fishing community.

Strategy 4.2 Develop a real-time website-based reporting system for the Atlantic recreational fishery billfish reporting system.

Strategy 4.3 Develop a recreational fisheries constituent database for information exchange.

Strategy 4.4 Provide the recreational fishing community with timely news and information via e-mail/list serve.



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From the rivers to the ocean, from charter boats or from the shore, recreational fishing is enjoyed in a variety of ways. Anglers themselves are also a diverse bunch. Men and women, young and old, fishing is one of America's most popular pastimes. It is NOAA's responsibility to ensure that the public will continue to enjoy a diversity of recreational fishing experiences and benefit from the riches of a healthy marine ecosystem.



Photo courtesy of Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association

Photo courtesy of Coastal Conservation Association

Photo courtesy of International Game Fish Association

Glossary of Fishery Management Terms

Bycatch

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act defines bycatch as “fish which are harvested in a fishery, but which are not sold or kept for personal use, and includes economic discards and regulatory discards ... [but not] fish released alive under a recreational catch and release fishery management program.”

Catch

The total number or poundage of fish captured from an area over some period of time. This includes fish that are caught and released or discarded instead of being landed. Note: “catch,” “harvest,” and “landings” are different terms with different definitions.

Ecosystem Approach

Management that is adaptive, is specified geographically, takes into account ecosystem knowledge and uncertainties, considers multiple external influences, and strives to balance diverse social objectives.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

All waters from the seaward boundary of coastal states out to 200 nautical miles. This area may also be referred to as “federal waters.”

Executive Order 12962

President Clinton signed this Executive Order on recreational fisheries on June 9, 1995. The order calls for “Federal agencies... in cooperation with States and Tribes, [to] improve the quantity, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities.”

Fisheries Information System (FIS)

FIS provides a context for the design, development, and implementation of data collection and data management for fishery-dependent statistics nationwide to improve the timeliness and accuracy of data. FIS is a portal that identifies the existing federal and state fisheries information systems or databases (data collections) and provides integrated business solutions for effective information-sharing. FIS supports fisheries management decisions by developing a virtual application environment and providing integrated business solutions and data sources in a web browser interface.

Fishery Management Council (FMC)

A group of individuals selected to develop management and regulatory measures in conformance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for fish and invertebrates in a specific geographic area that is under federal jurisdiction.

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

A federal plan developed by a Fishery Management Council to manage and regulate a single species or group of species.

Harvest

The total number or weight of fish caught and kept from an area over a period of time.

Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, HMSs are defined as tunas, oceanic sharks, and billfishes and include such popular species as dolphin and wahoo. HMSs are man-

aged differently from most fish because their extensive migrations necessitate coordinated management across many jurisdictions.

Interstate Commissions

Regional organizations of states designed to facilitate the management and data collection efforts for marine fish across state lines. There are three commissions: Atlantic States, Gulf States, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commissions.

Landings

The number or weight of fish caught, kept, and brought to shore. Fish caught as bait are also included in this definition.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act)

The federal law that created the regional councils and is the federal government's basis for fisheries management in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Marine Fisheries

The stock of fisheries that spends at least part of its life cycle in an ocean or coastal area. This includes both anadromous and catadromous species, such as salmon and striped bass, over which NOAA has jurisdiction. This plan covers fisheries in coastal, marine, Great Lakes, and riverine ecosystems.

Marine Protected Area (MPA)

According to Executive Order 12158, an MPA is defined as "any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by federal, state, territorial, tribal or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protec-

tion to part or all of the natural or cultural resources therein."

Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)

An annual survey by NMFS to estimate the number, catch, and effort of recreational anglers.

Outreach

Two-way communication between NOAA and our partners designed to promote mutual understanding and involvement by influencing public attitudes and actions. All outreach functions are undertaken in support of the science and management goals.

Overfishing

Harvesting at a rate equal to or greater than that which will meet the management goal.

Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN)

Fisheries information networks (FINs) are regional cooperative state-federal programs that design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen.

Stock Assessment Improvement Plan (SAIP)

NOAA's effort to provide data collection facilities and staff to collect, process, and analyze stock assessment data and to effectively communicate those results to managers and the public.

NOAA extends its thanks to all those who offered comments on the Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. The plan is a reflection of those thoughts and would not have been possible without them.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is dedicated to the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the restoration of healthy ecosystems.

As a steward, NMFS conserves, protects, and manages living marine resources in a way that ensures their continuation as functioning components of marine ecosystems, affords economic opportunities, and enhances the quality of life for the American public.

Visit us on the web at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>. Click on the "Constituent Services" link to find more information about recreational fisheries.

Please contact us with questions or comments.

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Page 16: Nicole Bartlett

Page 17 (top right): Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association

Page 17 (bottom right): Coastal Conservation Association



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

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NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2005

NOAA ROLLS OUT RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STRATEGIC PLAN ON WEST COAST

With input from recreational fishing constituents, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has developed a plan defining a common vision for the future of recreational fisheries and a strategy to achieve that vision. NOAA and recreational fishing leaders are presenting the plan this week at the Fred Hall Fishing Tackle, Boat & Travel Show in Long Beach, CA. A similar event was held for the Atlantic and Gulf coast at the Miami Boat Show on February 18th.

"The Recreational Fishing Strategic Plan sets goals on which both government and recreational fishermen agree and lays out a game plan for making that happen," said Bill Hogarth, director of NOAA Fisheries Service. The plan is part of NOAA's continuing efforts to protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management.

Marine recreational fishing supports nearly 350,000 jobs and generates \$30.5 billion in economic impact to the nation annually.

Hogarth describes the plan as a contract between the agency and America's 13 million saltwater anglers. The plan identifies a common goal – building healthy fisheries and creating opportunities for the public to enjoy these natural resources through recreational fishing. It is part of NOAA's commitment to revitalize the recreational fisheries program by strengthening relationships and building partnerships within local and regional communities.

Over the past year, nine public workshops were held with anglers from across the country to solicit input. These public meetings provided anglers the opportunity to work alongside the cross-agency NOAA team to craft the plan. The plan outlines strategies aimed at improving science and management of recreational species and their habitats, keeping anglers informed about and involved in the management process and promoting marine stewardship.

"The recreational fishing community has been involved throughout the planning process and we like what's been done so far," said Rob Kramer, president of the International Game Fish Association. "However, in reality this is just the beginning. To continue the process, this plan will require a sustained effort and will need to involve everyone – coastal states and communities, scientists, managers and the fishing public."

- more -

NOAA's next step is to implement a pilot program that brings everyone together to develop a detailed working plan based on the strategy.

The NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to providing and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management, and enforcement. The NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

The Commerce Department's NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

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On the Web:

NOAA: www.noaa.gov

NOAA Fisheries Service: www.nmfs.noaa.gov

Recreational Fishing Strategic Plan: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/recfish

Recreational Fisheries Service Branch: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/rf_home.html



Expanding Coverage of the Vessel Monitoring System for Monitoring Time-Area Closures in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

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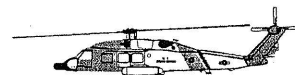
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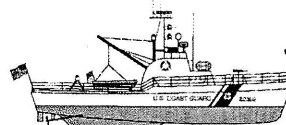
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I. Background



Fisheries Monitoring – Monitoring compliance with the West Coast groundfish regulations is the job of the NMFS Office for Law Enforcement (OLE), the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and officers from the states of Washington, Oregon, and California.

Traditional techniques used to monitor the fishery include monitoring from air and surface craft, through on-board observer programs, and by analyzing catch records and vessel logbooks.



Pacific Coast Groundfish Management – Time and area closures have long been used to restrict groundfish fishing to keep harvests within allocations and to prohibit the catch of certain species. Until September 2002, area closures tended to occur in nearshore areas with the affected areas being defined by relatively simple latitude and longitude coordinates.

In September 2002, NMFS took emergency action to implement the first depth-based management measures in which closed areas were defined by fathom curves (the darkblotched rockfish closure area). In 2003, the use of depth-based management measures was expanded to the entire coast and applied throughout the year. Depth-based management allows fishing to continue in areas and with gear that can harvest healthy stocks with little incidental catch of overfished species such as bocaccio, yelloweye, canary and darkblotched rockfish.

The large-scale depth-related closed areas, referred to as Rockfish Conservation Areas or RCAs, extend from the U.S. - Canada border to the U.S.-Mexico border and affect commercial and recreational fishing over much of the continental shelf and slope. The RCAs are based on bottom depth ranges where overfished species are commonly found. Different RCAs are established for different gear types, as not all gear types encounter each overfished species at the same rate or in similar areas. For example, groundfish bottom trawling is banned in some RCAs (known as trawl RCAs); use of non-trawl gear -- such as limited entry and open access longline, pot or trap is banned in other RCAs (known as non-trawl RCAs). Within the RCAs, fishing likely to result in the catch of substantial amounts of overfished species is banned, while other fishing is allowed. In addition, transit of the RCAs by fishing vessels headed for open areas seaward of the RCAs is allowed.

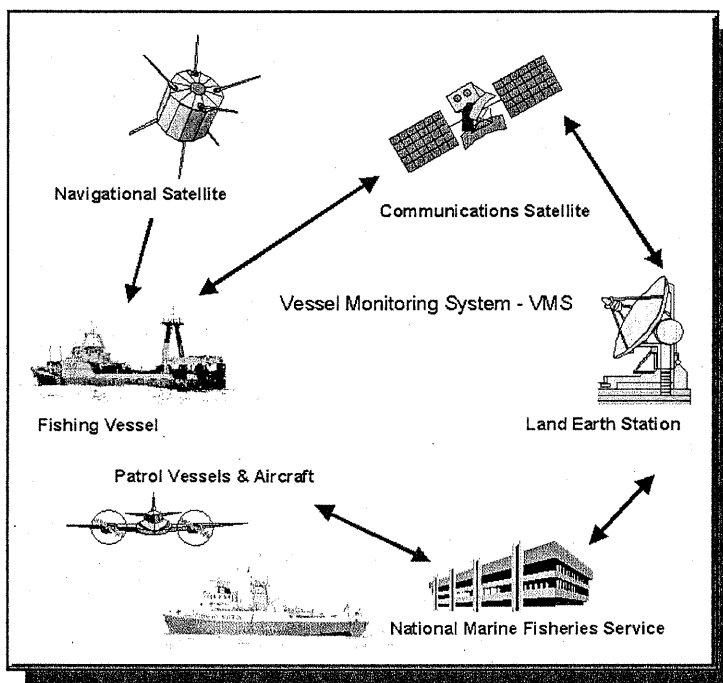
II. Management Objectives

Maintaining the Integrity of RCAs -- The RCAs are substantially different from previously closed areas because they extend far offshore and some vessels are allowed to operate within their boundaries. Ensuring the integrity of conservation areas using traditional enforcement methods, such as aerial surveillance and patrol boats and ships, is especially difficult because the areas are very large and the boundaries are defined by coordinates approximating ocean depth. Furthermore, it is more difficult and costly to enforce restrictions effectively when some gear types and target fishing are allowed in all or a portion of the RCA while other fishing activities are prohibited. Scarce state and federal resources also limit the use of traditional enforcement methods.

The Council chose to recommend to NMFS that the fishery be managed with more liberal harvest limits under a depth-based management regime rather than have a fishery with significantly lower harvest limits. To ensure the integrity of the RCAs, the Council recommended establishing a Vessel Monitoring System or VMS program for monitoring compliance.

III. VMS

What is VMS? – VMS is a tool that allows vessel activity to be monitored in relation to geographically defined management areas. VMS transceiver units are installed aboard vessels to automatically determine the vessel's location using Global Positioning System satellites and to transmit that position to a communications service provider. The communications service provider relays the position information to NMFS OLE. At the NMFS OLE processing center, the information is validated and analyzed.



Under the current program, each vessel's position is determined once per hour. However, the position reports can be more or less frequent depending on the need of the fishery. In most cases, the vessel owner is not aware of exactly when the unit is transmitting the position and is unable to alter the signal or the time of transmission. VMS transceivers are designed to be tamper resistant.

Why VMS? - Maintaining the integrity of the conservation areas is largely dependent upon the level of compliance that's achieved. The degree of compliance with the depth management measures depends on the ability of state and federal enforcement officers to identify violations and enforce the requirements. Enforcing RCA requirements with traditional enforcement is costly and a difficult challenge. This is because effective enforcement with traditional methods requires frequent patrolling of the shoreward and seaward boundaries of the RCAs. The single biggest factor that allows some operators to avoid compliance with the RCAs is that much of the fishing activity takes place out of view of the management agency or anyone other than the vessel crew. VMS provides relatively reliable and accurate information on the location of vessels, with a reasonable degree of accuracy. The ability to know the precise location of vessels provides for speedy identification of suspicious or illegal fishing activity in relation to the RCA boundaries. Rather than spending significant resources on routine surveillance, enforcement resources can be directed to vessels operating in an unusual manner in the RCAs.

VMS does not replace or eliminate traditional enforcement measures such as aerial surveillance, boarding at-sea via patrol boats, landing inspections and documentary investigation. Traditional enforcement measures may need to be activated in response to information received via the VMS. VMS positions can be efficient in identifying possible illegal fishing activity and can provide a basis for further investigation by one or more of the

traditional enforcement measures. VMS positions in themselves can also be used as the basis for an enforcement action. One of the major benefits of VMS is its deterrent effect. It has been demonstrated that if fishing vessel operators know that they are being monitored and that a credible enforcement action will result from illegal activity, then the likelihood of that illegal activity occurring is significantly diminished

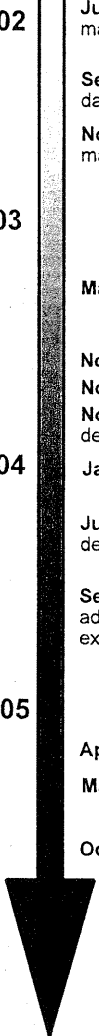
Type approved models and communication service providers – NMFS requires that VMS systems meet standards that have been defined and endorsed by NMFS OLE. VMS transceiver units approved by NMFS are referred to as type-approved models. The four VMS transceiver units and service providers currently type-approved for use in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries are listed in the following table.

VMS Transceiver units currently type approved for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

<i>Type-approved VMS Transceiver Units</i>	<i>Approved Communications service providers</i>
<p>INMARSAT-C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Thrane & Thrane Capsat (TT-3022D-NMFS)</i> Integrated GPS/inmarsat-C. Unit is the size of a car radio and placed in wheelhouse with antenna mounted atop wheelhouse. Factory preconfigured - automatic position reports start after transceiver is installed and power activated. Uses 10-32 VDC power supply. Reduced transmissions when vessel stationary. <i>Thrane & Thrane Mini-C (TT-3026-NMFS)</i> Integrated GPS/inmarsat-C placed atop the vessel. Factory preconfigured - automatic position reports start after transceiver is installed and power activated. Uses 10-32 VDC power supply. Reduced transmissions when vessel stationary. 	<p>TELENOR SATELLITE SERVICES -- A store-and-forward data messaging service that allows users to send and receive information virtually anywhere in the world. Inmarsat-C supports a wide variety of applications including Internet e-mail, position and weather reporting, a free daily news service, and remote equipment monitoring and control. Can be used to send safety messages as part of the U.S. Coast Guard's Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue system and the NOAA Shipboard Environmental Acquisition System programs.</p> <p>XANTIC - Can be used to send and receive E-mail, to and from land, transceiver automatically sends vessel position reports and is fully compliant with the International Coast Guard Search and Rescue Centers.</p>
<p>INMARSAT D+</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Satamatics SAT101 (SAT-101 NMFS/PCG)</i> Integrated GPS receiver/inmarsat D+ with antenna. Transceiver measures 4.4"x 6.8"x1.5" and can be installed inside or externally if sheltered from seas. Automatic position reports start after transceiver is installed and power activated. Uses 9.6 - 30 VDC power supply. Reduced transmissions when vessel stationary. 	<p>SATAMATICS/INMARSAT-D+-- Satamatics provides global tracking and monitoring solutions. Satamatics is able to provide end to end bundled services using its own satellite gateways and its own D+ transceiver line that it designed and manufactures.</p>
<p>ORBCOMM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Stellar ST2500G-NMFS</i> Integrated GPS/ORBCOM satellite communicator placed in wheelhouse with antenna mounted atop wheelhouse. Transceiver measures 4"x 8"x2" preconfigured - automatic position reports start after transceiver is installed and power activated. Uses 12 - 32 VDC power supply. Reduced transmissions when vessel stationary. 	<p>ESL SAT-EX SATELLITE SERVICES/ORBCOMM -- A store-and-forward data messaging service allowing users to send and receive information virtually anywhere in the world. Supports a wide variety of applications including Plain Text Internet e-mail, position and weather reporting, and remote equipment monitoring and control. Can be used to send critical safety messages as part of the U.S. Coast Guard's Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System.</p>

Confidentiality of Position Data – Information collected under a VMS program is considered confidential and is subject to the confidentiality protection of Section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Confidential data are only disclosed to Federal employees and Council employees who are responsible for management plan development and resource monitoring; and State employees when there is an agreement with the Secretary that prevents public disclosure. Confidential data can only be disclosed to the public when required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, or by court order.

VMS Timeline

- 
- 2002**
- June 2002** - Enforcement Consultants recommend VMS if depth-based management is used
 - September 2002** - depth-based management used to create darkblotched rockfish conservation area
 - November 2002** - Council recommends broad use of depth-based management for 2003. NMFS asked to prepare rulemaking for VMS
- 2003**
- May 2003** - proposed rule for pilot program published
 - November 2003** - Final rule for pilot program published
 - November 2003** - list of type-approved VMS units published
 - November 2003** - Council considers expansion of VMS program, but delays decision until pilot program was fully implemented
- 2004**
- January 2004** - VMS regulations for pilot program effective
 - June 2004** - NMFS reports of successful implementation of VMS and declaration system
 - September 2004** - Council reviews alternatives for expanded program, adopted for analysis, and recommends 10/1/05 implementation date for expanded program
- 2005**
- April 2005** - Council adopts preferred alternatives
 - May - September 2005** - NMFS published proposed and final rule
 - October 2005** - NMFS implements expanded VMS program

IV. The Pilot program

Current VMS requirements --

During the initial phase of this program, the Council recommended that vessels registered to limited entry permits fishing in the EEZ off the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts be required to have and use a NMFS OLE type approved VMS transceiver units. In order to implement an effective VMS program, the Council also recommended requiring the operator of any vessel registered to a limited entry permit and any commercial or tribal vessel using trawl gear (including: exempted gear used to take pink shrimp, spot and ridgeback prawns, California halibut and sea cucumber) to declare their intent to fish within a conservation area specific to their gear type, in a manner that is consistent with the conservation area requirements. To date, over 300 VMS transceiver units have been installed on vessels in the limited entry groundfish fleet.

Neither state nor federal funding have been available for purchasing, installing, or maintaining VMS transceiver units, nor has funding been available for data transmission. Because of the critical need to monitor the integrity of conservation areas that protect overfished stocks while allowing for the harvest of healthy stocks, NMFS proceeded with the VMS requirements for the limited entry fisheries with fishery

participants bearing the cost of purchasing, installing, and maintaining VMS transceiver units, VMS data transmissions, and reporting costs associated with declaration requirements. However, if state or federal funding becomes available, fishery participants may be reimbursed for all or a portion of their VMS expenses.

Benefits of VMS - Benefits result if the integrity of the RCAs are maintained. Total catch estimates of overfished species are based on lower bycatch rates from areas outside the RCAs. If RCA incursions occur, the estimated total mortality could be underestimated and the risk of exceeding the OYs for overfished species increase. Fishers will be the ultimate beneficiaries when regulations that are developed for conservation and management of overfished stocks are properly implemented and enforced. Maintaining the integrity of closed areas that are designed to protect overfished stocks will aid in the recovery of the stocks and help to guaranteed the future of the industry. In addition, while overfished stocks are being rebuilt, fishers benefit because VMS allows for greater flexibility in the use of management rules with geographical area restrictions including: seasonal access, closed areas, depth restrictions, or when participation is limited by duration or number of trips.

Overfished species bycatch estimates may be refined if VMS position and effort data can be joined with OA longline bycatch data. VMS is also likely to deter the misreporting of catch for areas other than where fish were caught and thereby help to maintain the integrity of data used for management decisions.

With VMS, the law-abiding skipper can be satisfied that there will be less likelihood of the enforcement officers inspecting vessels that comply with the closed area regulations and a greater probability that inspection will focus on vessels that are suspected of violating the regulations. At times the commercial fishing industry is subjected to criticism from members of the public and from other stakeholder groups regarding its responsibility to the environment in terms of complying with closure regulations intended to protect vulnerable species. While there may be some irresponsible operators it is generally believed that the majority of commercial operators abide by closed area restrictions. VMS offers the commercial industry a mechanism to enhanced public perception by demonstrating its compliance with such regulations and hence honor its responsibility to the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources.

VMS Declaration Reports - Declaration reports are currently required from vessels registered to limited entry permits with trawl endorsements; any vessel using trawl gear, including exempted gear used to take pink shrimp, spot and ridgeback prawns, California halibut and sea cucumber; and any tribal vessel using trawl gear, before the vessel is used to fish in any trawl RCA or the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs) in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the conservation area. In addition, declaration reports are required from vessels registered to limited entry permits with longline and pot endorsements, before the vessel can be used to fish in any Non-trawl RCA or the CCA, in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of those conservation area. Each declaration report is valid until cancelled or revised by the vessel operation. After a declaration report has been sent, the vessel cannot engage in any activity with gear that is inconsistent with the conservation area requirements unless another declaration report is sent to cancel or change the previous declaration. Declaration reports are submitted to NMFS by using a call-in system. Vessel operators making declaration reports receive a confirmation notice or number that verifies that the reporting requirements were satisfied

V. What's next for VMS?

September 2004 - The Council reviewed alternatives for VMS expansion into the open access fishery and adopted alternatives for analysis. The Council recommended an October 1, 2005 implementation date for the expanded VMS program. To allow time for the affected public to review the alternatives, the Council has delayed action on expanding the VMS program until its April 2005 Council meeting in Tacoma, Washington. VMS requirements are being considered for both directed open access groundfish vessels and vessels in other target fisheries that incidentally take and retain or possess groundfish in federal waters (seaward of 3 nm). VMS requirements for vessels that fish only in state waters along the mainland coast are not being considered at this time.

Getting involved

You may consider attending a Council or advisory meetings, both are open to the public. Members of the commercial and recreational fishery, the environmental community, and the public are encouraged to testify at Council meetings and hearings. This involves speaking in a formal public forum. At Council meetings, the Council members and staff generally sit in a "U" formation and everyone else sits in chairs at one end of the room. You will have to walk up to a microphone to make your comments. Because of time constraints, public comment is limited to five minutes for individuals and ten minutes for representatives of groups. Advisory body meetings are generally more informal than full Council meetings, and may be a more comfortable opportunity to express your opinions and ideas. VMS expansion is scheduled to be discussed by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and the Council at the April 2005 meeting in Tacoma, Washington.

Because Council meetings are not convenient for everyone, you may choose to send written comments. The Council reads and considers all letters and emails that arrive before the briefing book deadline, two weeks before a Council meeting. Generally, letters are addressed to the Council Chair, Donald Hansen. Make sure your letter is legible, either by typing or writing very clearly. When writing, be sure to identify the FMP, amendment, proposed rule, or other measure you are commenting on. Then, state your position or opinion. Explain who you are and why the reader should pay attention to what you are saying. Be clear as to how the proposed action will affect you. Letters should be mailed to the Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220 -1384. Further information of getting involved in the Council Process is available on the Council's web page [www.pcouncil.org/operations/involved.html].

If the Council recommends expanding the VMS program at the April Council meeting, NMFS will draft a proposed rule. This rule will be made available to the public for comment through publication in the Federal Register. Instructions on the duration of the comment period and how to submit comments will be stated in the proposed rule.

WHY DOES THE PACIFIC COAST GROUNDFISH FISHERY NEED A VESSEL MONITORING PROGRAM?

A vessel monitoring program is an enforcement tool that can be used to monitor compliance with areas closed to fishing. On the Pacific Coast, a vessel monitoring program is being implemented to monitor compliance with groundfish conservation areas. The groundfish conservation areas include Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs), Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs), and the Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA). RCAs are large-scale, depth-based areas along the Pacific coast where commercial and recreational fishing for groundfish is prohibited or restricted. RCAs were created so that fishing for healthy groundfish stocks could continue in areas and with gears where there is lower incidental catch of overfished groundfish species. CCAs are areas in southern California where fishing has been restricted to protect cowcod, an overfished species. The YRCA is an area to be avoided, or voluntary closure, for commercial fishermen. The YRCA is located off the northern Washington Coast and is designed to protect yelloweye rockfish, an overfished species. Over time, the groundfish conservation areas will likely change. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will keep the fishing fleet informed as these changes are made.

PARTS OF THE VESSEL MONITORING PROGRAM

The Pacific Coast vessel monitoring program consists of declaration reports and a vessel monitoring system. The *declaration reports* are reports given by fishermen before a fishing trip to identify the vessel operator's intent to fish within an RCA, which gear type will be used for fishing, and which fishery they are participating in. Declaration reports are only necessary for fisheries that are allowed within a closed area and before a vessel intends to fish. The *vessel monitoring system* (VMS) consists of equipment that tracks a vessel's geographic position through a satellite communication system. A VMS transceiver unit is installed aboard the vessel that communicates via a satellite to a processing center. For the Pacific Coast program, a basic VMS system with 1-way communication will be used to track vessel activity in relation to closed areas within 200 nautical miles along the Pacific coast.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

VMS transceiver unit installation or operation, declaration reports, or enforcement questions:

Northwest Region Office of Law
Enforcement (NMFS OLE)
206-526-6133

www.nmfs.nwr.gov/ole/Northwest/index.htm

Interactive Voice Response system for declaration reports, installation/activation reports:

1-888-585-5518

Regulatory questions:

Groundfish Branch
NMFS, Northwest Region
206-526-6140

NMFS Northwest Region

Pacific Coast groundfish website:

www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfish/gdfsh01.htm

This guide is published in compliance with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act and is intended to provide a plain-language summary of how small businesses can comply with the regulations finalized on November 4, 2003 (68 FR 62374) for a vessel monitoring program in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery.

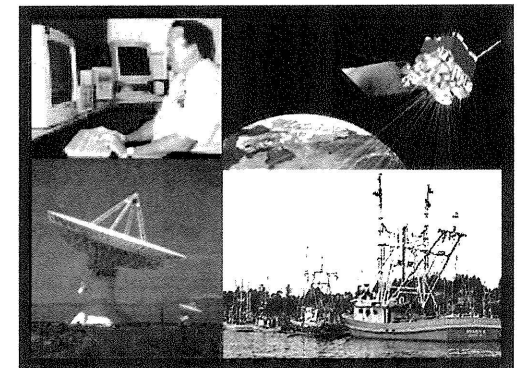


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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

COMPLIANCE GUIDE FOR THE PACIFIC COAST GROUNDFISH FISHERY VESSEL MONITORING PROGRAM



The regulations summarized in this guide will be implemented on January 1, 2004 to enhance monitoring of areas closed to fishing.

The following sections include answers to commonly asked questions about the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery vessel monitoring program.

Declaration reports

Q: Who must send declaration reports?

A: *Limited entry vessels with trawl endorsements, and open access or tribal vessels using trawl gear* are required to send a declaration report before the vessel is used to fish in any trawl RCA or the CCAs in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the conservation areas. *Limited entry vessels with longline and pot endorsements*, must send a declaration report before the vessel can be used to fish in any non-trawl RCA or the CCAs.

Q: When are declaration reports required?

A: Declaration reports must be submitted before the vessel leaves port on the trip in which it's used to fish in an RCA or a CCA.

Q: How long are declaration reports valid?

A: A declaration report will be valid for that gear on that vessel until a new declaration report is received by NMFS or until a declaration report to cancel fishing in a conservation area is received by NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE).

Q: When do I cancel or revise a declaration report?

A: A declaration report needs to be cancelled when a new gear type that is no longer consistent with the RCA requirements will be used by the vessel. A declaration report needs to be revised before leaving port on a trip in which the a new gear type is going to be used to fish in an RCA or the CCA in a manner that is consistent with the requirements.

Q: How do I submit a declaration report?

A: Declaration reports will be submitted by using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) phone-in system. The phone-in system, can be accessed by dialing 1-888-585-5518, toll-free. The caller is asked a series of questions and uses the touch-tone key pad on the phone to respond. The phone-in system allows vessel operators to submit their report 24 hours a day.

Q: With a phone-in system, what proof will I have that I sent a declaration report?

A: The phone-in system will provide a confirmation number that can be used to verify a report was sent.

Q: What does NMFS require in a declaration report?

A: NMFS has prepared an example worksheet to help callers organize report information. A copy of this

worksheet can be printed from the NMFS Northwest Region web page listed on the back of this brochure.

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)

Q: Who is required to have VMS?

A: As of January 1, 2004, VMS requirements affect commercial fishing vessels registered for use with a Pacific Coast groundfish limited entry permit that fishes in state or Federal marine waters off the states of Washington, Oregon, or California.

Q: Which VMS transceiver units and communications service providers can I use?

A: NMFS OLE tests and approves VMS transceiver units and approves communications service providers. A list of type-approved mobile VMS transceiver units and communications service providers will be published in the *Federal Register*. A copy of the type-approval notices will be posted on the NMFS Northwest web page listed on the back of this brochure. Once this first list is published in the *Federal Register*, NMFS will notify limited entry permit owners by mail of the type-approved VMS units.

Q: What are the vessel owner's responsibilities?

A: The vessel owner's responsibilities are to install (according to the manufacturer's instructions) and use a type-approved VMS transceiver unit 24 hours per day; establish a service agreement with a type-approved communication service provider; send an activation report; and if position reports are interrupted, follow NMFS instructions to repair or replace the VMS unit before the next fishing trip.

Q: What if VMS transmissions are interrupted?

A: When you become aware that transmissions of automatic position reports from your VMS have been interrupted, or when notified by NMFS OLE that position reports are not being received, contact NMFS OLE and follow the instructions provided to you.

Q: Who pays for the costs associated with VMS?

A: The vessel owner or operator is responsible for purchasing the VMS equipment and paying all charges from the communication service provider to ensure continuous operation of the VMS transceiver units.

Q: Can a VMS transceiver unit be registered to more than one vessel at the same time?

A: No, a VMS unit may only be registered and used on one vessel.

Q: Can I have a back-up VMS transceiver unit certified and ready to go if the first unit fails to operate correctly.

A: Yes, but the unit must be certified ahead of time and designated as a back-up unit.

Activation Reports

An activation report is used by NMFS to verify that a type-approved unit was installed correctly aboard a vessel and has been activated. It is also used to match VMS transceiver unit signals with a specific vessel.

Q: Where do I get an activation report and how do I submit it?

A: The installation/activation reports can be obtained from the NMFS Northwest Region web page listed on the back of this brochure. Due to the need for the owner's signature, NMFS will use facsimile submission for the installation report. NMFS OLE will accept mailed submissions if the vessel owner prefers this method.

Exemptions

Q: Can I get an exemption from the VMS requirement?

A: You can get an exemption by sending an exemption report when your vessel will be continuously out of the water for more than 7 consecutive days, or if the vessel is operating in waters further than 200 nautical miles off Washington, Oregon, or California for more than 7 consecutive days.

Q: How do I send or cancel an exemption report?

A: You will use the same phone-in system used for making declaration reports.

Transiting provisions

Q: What are the regulatory provisions regarding transiting RCAs and who is affected by them?

A: Any vessel registered to a limited entry permit with a trawl endorsement may only be in a trawl RCA for the purposes of continuous transit and all groundfish trawl gear must be stowed either 1) below deck; 2) if the gear cannot readily be moved, in a secured and covered manner, detached from all towing lines, so that it is rendered unusable for fishing; or 3) remaining on deck uncovered with the trawl doors hung from their stanchions and the net disconnected from the doors. A limited number of mid-water trawl fisheries identified in groundfish regulations, such as the primary whiting fishery, will be allowed to operate in the trawl RCA. NMFS is also considering a recommendation from the Pacific Fishery Management Council to prohibit drifting within the non-trawl RCA by limited entry vessels with longline and pot gear.