

Announcing a 2026 Marine Resource Education Program (MREP)

Join us this October for the Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) – a free, 5-day workshop to gain the knowledge, tools, and relationships to navigate and get your voice heard at the Pacific Fishery Management Council.



**MREP West Coast
Fisheries Science & Management Workshop**
December 7-11, 2026
Sheraton La Jolla Hotel | La Jolla, CA

Designed by fishermen, for fishermen, MREP brings together seasoned and new commercial, charter, and recreational fishermen with scientists and managers in a casual, professional setting outside of the regulatory process. Learn how the data come together and shape regulations, share insights, and build connections to make you effective engaging at the PFMC. Participants leave the program empowered and better prepared to make a difference in federal fisheries management. Participants can expect to learn about:

Fisheries Science

- Data collection (dependent & independent)
- Fishermen’s science & collaborative research
- Scientific uncertainty and how it is handled
- Survey methodology
- Oceanography considerations
- Stock assessment overview
- Hands-on fisheries science lab experience

Fisheries Management

- Magnuson-Stevens Act and other laws that pertain to Council decision-making
- The *who, where, what, and when* of the PFMC
- Federal fisheries management (bodies, how they integrate)
- Robert’s Rules (the “language” used at the Council)
- A mock council exercise
- Stories of success – *the inside scoop from others who have been successful and getting their voices heard*
- How to get involved - *bringing it all together!*

The workshop is free to participants. We also pay for your travel to/from the workshop, and your meals and accommodation during travel as well as at the workshop.

Seats are limited, as our grant funding is limited. Program staff will facilitate a collaborative applicant review call with a subset of the West Coast Steering Committee to accept applicants into the 2026 workshop. We aim to invite a wide diversity of fishermen across the region.

Apply by September 23! - Apply at: <https://mrep.gmri.org/apply>.

Applications received by Aug. 1 will be given priority, though you can still apply after the 23rd. Applicants will be notified of their status by October 9.

The regional fishermen program principals are available to respond to inquiries about the workshop:

- **Poggy Lapham**, (541) 206-2882
- **Brad Pettinger**, (541) 251-1746
- **Bob Dooley**, (650) 619-4713

For more info, visit mrep.gmri.org. General questions about the program should be directed to Lauren O’Brien, MREP Senior Program Manager, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, lobrien@gmri.org.