

## Questions and Answers about the

# West Coast Costs, Earnings and Employment Survey



**PACIFIC STATES MARINE**

**FISHERIES COMMISSION**

*in cooperation with the*

**NATIONAL MARINE**

**FISHERIES SERVICE**

-----

**ECONOMICS DATA PROGRAM**

7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Bldg. 4

Seattle, WA 98115

(206) 526-4251 Voice

(888) 421-4251 Toll Free

(206) 526-4074 Fax

<http://www.psmfc.org/efin>

*During the summer of 1999, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, will be conducting a Costs, Earnings and Employment Survey, an economic survey of West Coast commercial fisheries participants. This pamphlet has been designed to answer your questions about the survey.*

---

### **What is the purpose of the survey?**

Data collected in this survey will provide information to:

- evaluate of the economic benefits from West Coast commercial fisheries;
- assess the economic health of the fisheries; and
- estimate the economic impact of present and future management decisions on the fishery and fishing communities.

### **Who is conducting the survey?**

This survey is being conducted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) as part of a cooperative agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and with the participation of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) staff.

### **Who is being surveyed?**

Over time, processors and harvesters, including charter boats, involved in West Coast commercial fisheries will be surveyed. The groundfish (trawl) harvesting and processing sectors will be surveyed in 1999 and the West Coast line fleet will be surveyed in late 1999 or early 2000.

### **What types of information will be collected?**

The types of information collected include:

- A cost section including questions about operating and capital costs;
- A earnings section consisting of questions about revenues by species, product and grade;
- An employment section including questions about numbers of employees, types of employees and their compensation; and
- An ownership and vessel/plant description section to help us identify your type of operation and adjust for variations in fleet composition.

### **How will the information be collected?**

For the next several years, the information will be collected using surveys.

### **Is this a one-time survey?**

No. The goal is for each industry group to be surveyed over time on an ongoing basis. It is estimated that each fleet will be surveyed every 3-5 years.

If you participate in West Coast fisheries with more than one gear type, you may be asked to respond to surveys on a more frequent basis. Supplemental surveys may be used to collect information for specific issues before the Council on an as-needed basis.

In the future, other data collection procedures, including possible modifications to the existing economic logbook for vessels, may be used to minimize the time and resources used to collect this information.

### **Are other economic surveys being conducted?**

- NMFS Alaska Fishery Science Center, with the assistance of the PSMFC, will be conducting a similar survey of the pollock industry in 1999.
- NMFS NW Region and PSMFC will be jointly surveying Whiting processors in 1999.

### **What does the survey process ask of me and my company?**

Companies will be requested to provide information which should already be available from their business records. The surveys have been formatted to minimize the expected time required to complete the survey.

### **Why should my company participate? Is the survey voluntary?**

While the survey is voluntary, it is important that you assist in this effort. Your participation in this survey effort will enable NMFS and the PFMC to consider economic criteria as well as biological data in their analyses.

Currently, the lack of economic data hinders analysts' ability to estimate the economic impact of present and future management decisions. These data will allow the PFMC and NMFS to better understand the industry and to design policies to achieve economic goals in addition to biological objectives.

*For more information on surveys and other projects, visit the economics program website at:*

**<http://www.psmfc.org/efin>**

### **Will this information be used to determine allocation issues?**

This information will be available to PFMC and NMFS to evaluate all types of management issues, including allocative decisions.

### **Will the information collected be confidential?**

Yes. The confidential data will be accessible only to NMFS, PFMC and state analysts and their contractors and will not be released to the public. Federal and PSMFC confidentiality rules will apply.

Only the summary results of the survey, aggregated to a level that will not compromise individual confidentiality, will be reported.

### **Who can I contact if I have questions?**

We encourage you to contact Dave Colpo, the Fisheries Economics Program Manager at PSMFC, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns:

Dave Colpo  
7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Bldg. 4  
Seattle, WA 98115  
(206) 526-4251 Voice  
(206) 526-4074 Fax  
dave\_colpo@psmfc.org