

ECONOMICS DATA PROGRAM



PACIFIC STATES MARINE

FISHERIES COMMISSION

in cooperation with the

NATIONAL MARINE

FISHERIES SERVICE

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>

This pamphlet was designed to explain some of the economics data program's undertakings to give you a better idea of what the project is about.

What is the Economics Data Program?

The economics data program is a cooperative data collection effort to address the needs of fisheries managers and industry for economic data and information on the West Coast and in Alaska.

Who is conducting this project?

This project 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 help of the North Pacific and the Pacific Fishery Management Councils (NPFMC and PFMC).

What are the goals of this project?

- To provide reliable and timely data to assist with the monitoring and measuring of the economic performance of the harvesting and processing components of West Coast and Alaska fisheries.
- To provide reliable and timely data to assist with analyzing the economic effects of present and future management decisions on these fisheries and fishing communities.

Surveys

As part of the economics data program's goal to provide reliable and timely data about the economic performance of West Coast and Alaska fisheries, annual industry costs, earnings and employment surveys are being administered.

Data collected in these surveys 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.

Each year the principal focus of this data collection program will be on a different set of fisheries or on a different set of participants in these fisheries. Over time, catcher vessels, at-sea processors, shoreside processors and charter vessels 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.

For more information, please see
*Questions and Answers about the
West Coast Costs, Earnings & Employment
Survey*

Economics Data Program Website

One of the economics data program's ongoing projects is to identify existing and potential sources of economic information related to West Coast and Alaska fisheries. The program has established a web page to act as a central repository for information related to this project including a project overview, a section dedicated to survey efforts, resources and publications, links to related sites, a forum for fisheries economics discussions, contact information and other useful resources.

Visit the economics program website at:
<http://www.psmfc.org/efin>

Once finalized, copies of the surveys, frequently asked questions and non-confidential summary results will be available in the *Surveys* section.

Presently, the *Resources and Publications* section of the website provides bibliographic information about several resources. In the future, this section will house a searchable database of economic and related literature of interest to fisheries economists and those interested with the impacts of management decisions.

Currently, several data sets have been collected and are available for downloading in the *Data* section of the website. These data sets include:

- **Labor Statistics.** Industry-level labor and wage statistics are collected from the California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska Departments of Labor to assist analysts with assessing the impact of management decisions on fishing communities.
- **Cost of Living Indexes.** The economics program collects regionally-specific Consumer Price Indexes, fisheries-specific Producer Price Indexes, and the more general GDP Implicit Price Deflator to assist analysis in measuring changes in the cost of living and inflation.
- **Marine Fuel Prices.** Each month, the economics program collects the before-tax cash price for 600 gallons of #2 marine diesel for commercial vessels at various ports in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California.

Other Data Efforts

A part of our current efforts, a classification scheme for West Coast fishing industry vessels and processors is currently being developed. Using such items as home port, current and historical participation by species, various vessel features, permit ownership, and/or geographical range of landings, commercial fishing vessels and processors are being stratified to facilitate decision making and analysis.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, suggestions or would like more information about any of our programs, we encourage you to contact us!

Program and survey questions/comments:
Dave Colpo
7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Bldg. 4
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 526-4251 Voice
(206) 526-4074 Fax
dave_colpo@psmfc.org

Website and data questions/comments:
Sara Douglass
7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Bldg. 4
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 526-4335 Voice
(206) 526-4074 Fax
sara_douglass@psmfc.org

For information about NMFS's role in this project, contact:
Steve Freese
7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 526-6113 Phone
(206) 526-6554 Fax
steve.freese@noaa.gov

Economics program website:
<http://www.psmfc.org/efin>