

[Pacific RecFIN or NMFS Letterhead]

California letter

April 23, 2001?

RE: New CPFV economic survey methods for 2001.

Dear CPFV Owner/Skipper:

In an effort to improve the estimates of catch by CPFV's, we began conducting a new telephone survey of partyboat and charterboat fishing effort in March. We are conducting this new survey in cooperation with California Department of Fish & Game and the National Marine Fisheries Service with the primary goal of improving the estimate of party/charterboat trips and, in turn, catch estimates. As described in a letter we sent to you prior to the start of this survey, the survey involves contacting operators of a 10% random sample of CPFVs each week and asking them to profile their vessel's activities.

In May, we will begin to conduct a cost (expenditures) and earnings (receipts) survey of the CPFV's. Costs and earnings information for different vessel types and trip types will provide a better understanding of how the recreational fishing industry will be impacted by and respond to any regulations likely to be considered by managers regulating the fishery. Importantly, your participation in this survey will help identify management alternatives that minimize negative impacts to industry participants while still achieving conservation goals.

One component of the economic survey will collect trip-specific cost and earnings information by adding questions to the telephone survey of fishing effort that started in March. The purpose of collecting trip-specific information is to identify seasonal differences in the types of activities CPFVs undertake throughout the year and the returns associated with these alternatives. When you are randomly selected for the effort survey, you will also be asked to provide economic information on a single trip made during the previous week. Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and will only be released in an aggregate format. The economic survey will be conducted for one full calendar year. Given the sampling methodology, you could expect to be contacted about five times in the coming year for cost and earnings information.

The second component of the economic survey consists of a single in-person interview that will collect information on annual costs and vessel characteristics. An important element of this survey is to determine how cost structures differ between multi-vessel and single vessel operations, which is crucial in developing a financial profile of CPFVs. Vessel characteristics will be used to identify factors that affect costs as well as the types

of activities vessels undertake. Again, we want to emphasize that this information is strictly confidential.

The enclosed brochure provides additional information on this survey effort. In addition, the economic telephone survey questionnaire is also enclosed for your review. Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact CIC Research at 888/637-6378 or myself at 503/650-5400.

Sincerely,

Russell G. Porter
RecFIN Chairman
MRFSS Administrator

NOTE: What is RecFIN?

RecFIN: **R**ecreational **F**isheries **I**nformation **N**etwork - The coastwide database that incorporates recreational catch and effort sampling (MRFSS, CDFG, ODFW, & WDFW state recreational sampling) into one database used by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and the state agencies for management of the marine recreational fisheries. Catch and effort data in RecFIN is available on the web at www:recfin.org for the Pacific coast landings in California, Oregon and Washington.

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OR/WA letter

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One component of the economic survey will collect trip-specific cost and earnings information by conducting weekly telephone interviews of a 10% random sample of CPFV operators. The purpose of collecting trip-specific information is to identify seasonal differences in the types of activities CPFVs undertake throughout the year and the returns associated with these alternatives. When you are randomly selected for the effort survey, you will also be asked to provide economic information on a single trip made during the previous week. Any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and will only be released in an aggregate format. The economic survey will be conducted for one full calendar year. Given the sampling methodology, you could expect to be contacted about five times in the coming year for cost and earnings information.

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