



Cooperative Party Charter Phone Survey Newsletter

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80% lower preliminary trip Estimates

The new 2002 PCPS estimates have been incorporated into the RecFIN database to be used by fisheries managers and the public. The PCPS generated charter trip estimates for Jan-Feb, 2002 were much lower than the traditional MRFSS random phone survey. The trips decreased from 93 thousand to 19 thousand anglers when the PCPS results were used. Catch was adjusted to account for the different number of angler trips. Total catch decreased in proportion to the trips. The decrease was about 20% of the unpublished traditional MRFSS charter estimates.

The traditional MRFSS random phone survey of households used for the private boat trip estimates is still very preliminary and may undergo some significant changes. These changes are dependant on new census estimates of the population of households in the coastal counties where dialing takes place. Coastal counties are those counties with ocean coastline as well as a few inland counties that contribute large numbers of anglers to marine fishing, such as Sacramento County.

Please contact the following individuals if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns regarding the PCPS estimates:

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East coast Charters

What size boats do they Run?

There are significant differences between the Gulf Coast and the Pacific Coast charter boat fleets. The fleet in California is unique in that it is the largest fleet on the Pacific Coast as well as having the largest boats (Figure 1).

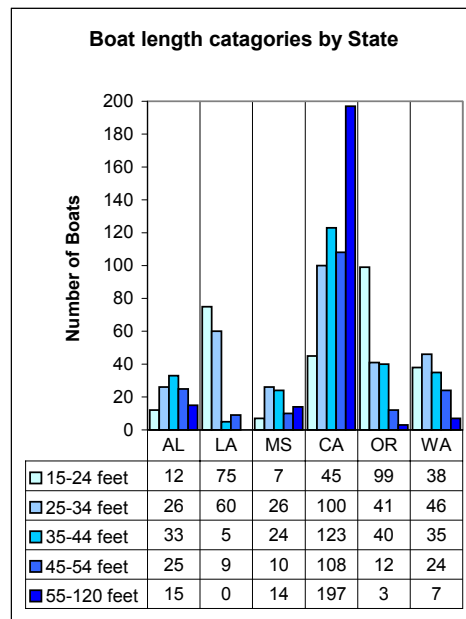


Figure 1. Characteristics of the Gulf fleet in relation to the Pacific fleet..

When compared with the northwest and the deep south, California stands out with a high proportion of vessels over 54 feet in length. Louisiana seems to be composed of nearly all small six-pacs and smaller vessels while Alabama and Mississippi appear to have a somewhat more diverse fleet of charter fishing boats. Oregon is another state that has a large number of boats under 25 feet. RecFIN will soon have data on other east coast states to share with you.



Participation Update

Participation is mainly on the Rise

Fifteen boats that had initially dropped out of the survey have agreed to participate in the PCPS in 2002. We are contacting each vessel operator who had previously declined the survey to see if they would like to participate in 2002. This is good news because it means that the estimates will become even more precise.

Vessels have come back to the Survey

We will attempt to contact and convert vessels to cooperative status annually. So far this year we have 79 vessels that we have attempted to contact. The results of this effort are shown in Figure 2.

Wave 1, 2002	No.
Converted to cooperative	35
Non operating in 2002	2
Refused again	22
Dive only, no fin-fishing	4
Freshwater	1
Duplicate	1
Commercial	1
Private	1
Unresolved	12
Total	79

Figure 2. Refused vessel operators re-contacted for participation in the PCPS.

Some vessels are non-Responsive

We are still getting a number of vessels whose operators do not respond to the survey. In Jan-Feb (wave 1) we found that 5% were unable to be contacted and about 19% refused to provide information on the first call, Figure 3. Another 7% were contacted on later calls and refused to provide information. The total percentage of vessel contacts that resulted in no information was 32% or about one third.

We get the most accurate results when all vessels participate and always respond when selected for a sample of their activity.

Wave 1, 2002	So. CA	No. CA
Took trips + economic	18	6
Took trips	7	4
No trips taken	24	8
No contact	14	4
Refusal – Initial call	29	35
Refusal – Later call	16	8
Not fishing	93	45
Ineligible	15	6
Total	216	117

Figure 3. PCPS participant response in January-February 2002.

If you are still not with us then please call **888-274-7838** to get onboard with the PCPS survey. ➡

CPFV logbooks and the PCPS

Trips can be estimated from both systems but some problems persist.

CPFV logbooks Tardy

The CDFG logbook system is a good system of accounting for nearly all CPFV trips. The main problem that the Department seems to be having at this point is getting the data into a useful database in a timely manner. It is also known that some number of trips do not get recorded on the logbooks and some number of boats do not participate. The exact compliance rate is unknown and what adjustments to make are uncertain.

The logbook data are required to be sent in frequently by vessel operators, however, a number of logs are sent in overdue. Once received, the logbook data are scanned into a computer system. Some logbooks are illegible or are filled in incorrectly or are on outdated forms. The data are checked for accuracy and corrections are made to the data. Final data are produced on an annual basis and are not available for many months after the end of the year.

Adjusting for Non-compliance

The adjustments to both the PCPS and

the CPFV logbook systems may be made by doing regular spot checks on vessels in the field throughout the coast of California. The MRFSS samplers conduct spot checks for the PCPS. MRFSS samplers recorded 572 checks in Mar-Apr (wave 2) 2002. Spot checks can also be extracted from other sources, such as the CDFG Ocean Salmon Survey.

Spot checks are compared with what is reported in the data collection systems and adjustments can be made based on differences between what was observed and what was reported. Adjustments mainly correct for unreported trips by boats included in the data systems and also correct for boats not included in either data system. Boats not included would be those for-hire boats that are not found in the permit file. In the case of the PCPS, boats that are not licensed may already be included as participants in the survey if they are active in the fishery.

CPFV logbooks vs. the PCPS

The main difference between the PCPS and the logbook systems lies in the type of collection effort. The logbooks are considered a “census” because it is requesting information on ALL of the CPFV trips. The PCPS is considered a “sample” because it collects a random sample of trips to represent all of the trips. The PCPS includes a measure of preciseness that increases with sample size. The larger the sample size the more precise the estimate will be. As long as the information provided about each trip is accurate, then the results will also be accurate. The PCPS requests information on 10% of the vessels per week. This is the same as getting information on one in 10 trips. ➡

More economic Results

Expenditures of vessels being Sampled

The purpose of the economic questions (which just ended in June) was to obtain the information needed to estimate the economic value of fish and other marine resources to the party / charter fleet. It is also used to evaluate the economic impact of present and future management

decisions on the fisheries.

In California, one trip from among the weekly trips of each sampled vessel is profiled with economic data about that trip. Since the day of the week and the vessel is chosen at random, the collected data is expected to be representative of all the vessels.

The responses to the economic survey can be summarized in many ways. One of the expenses of vessel operations is compensation to the crew. It might be expected that the crew would be paid based on the number of passengers taken on the vessel since more crew members might be required to service an increasing number of anglers.

The increase in crew cost per angler is only marginally true. Figure 4 shows that relationship is poorly related. Crew costs appear to be fairly independent of the number of paying passengers. Crew costs may be more related to passenger fees or may be set at a traditional payment level based on experience or years of service. Crews are often given tips by the passengers which would increase with the number of passengers.

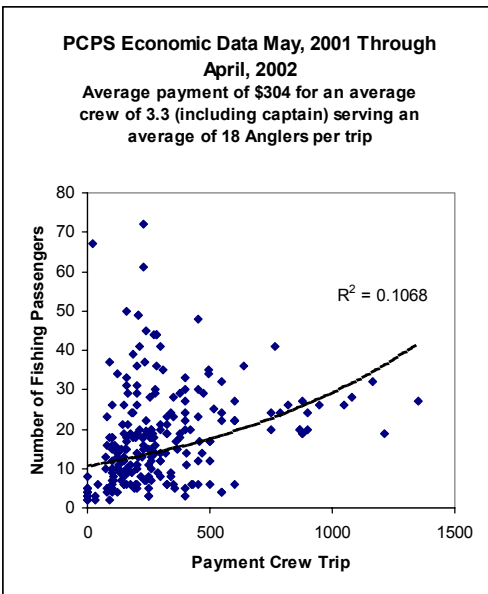


Figure 4. Cost per crew member and number of fishing passengers has little relationship.

Please contact the following individuals or see our web site if you want to know more about the PCPS economic add-on.

PCPS OBJECTIVES

- More efficient data collection methods
- More reliable fishing effort estimates and therefore better catch statistics
- Better public understanding of survey methods
- More accurate statistics for fisheries management
- Closer association between government agencies and the user-groups

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Vessel contacts in 2002

Vessel selection by county and length category for the past Year

The characteristics of all the vessels that are active and eligible may be compared with the characteristics of the vessels that were selected for the weekly survey. If the 10% selection process is random, then the character of the selected vessels should be representative of all the vessels.

Two characteristics that we might look at are geographic distribution by county and vessel size. we sort the vessel list by these two characteristics before making the random selection. The reason for the sort is to increase the chance that the distribution of these characteristics will be more uniform than a fully random selection might produce.

The analysis of the vessels listed and the 10% of vessels selected weekly

shows that the distribution of vessels by county are very evenly distributed. This means that we are not selecting more vessels from any particular area of the coast, rather we are selecting vessels proportional to the vessel distribution geographically by county of operation.

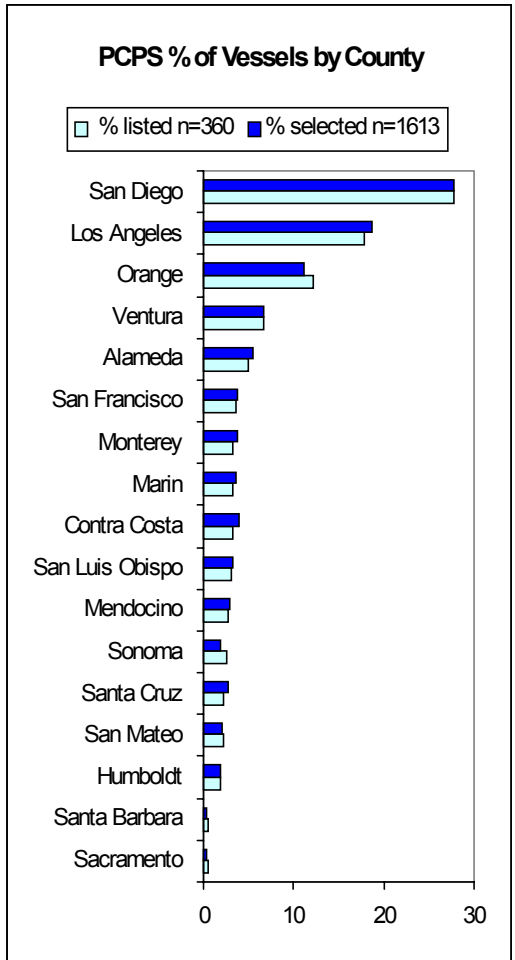


Figure 5. The percent of vessels selected weekly closely matches the vessel distribution by county.

The second analysis of vessel selection by size of vessel from the 360 active and eligible vessels on our list shows that the weekly selection is also evenly distributed by length category. This means that we are not selecting more small vessels or large vessels, rather we are selecting vessels proportional to their size categories.

The result of this analysis shows that our random selection of 1613 vessels over the past 52 weeks from our list of 360 vessels did a good job of representing the geographic and length distribution of the party charter vessels in California.

2002 bocaccio catch Estimates

The Pacific Fisheries Management Council recently set rockfish closures for various parts of California, Oregon and Washington at their June meeting in San Francisco. The closures make it extremely important that all of you continue to participate in the PCPS and MRFSS. This includes both the 10% weekly phone survey as well as allowing MRFSS samplers on your boat. This will allow monitoring of the effects of the closures. The preliminary RecFIN estimates for California from January - April, 2002 for bocaccio were calculated from the PCPS trip estimates and the MRFSS catch rate statistics (Figure 6).

8 metric tons in Jan-Feb, 2002

During the January-February rockfish closure in Southern California the PCPS/MRFSS estimated 14,000 angler trips aboard party boats with no bocaccio caught. There were also 272,000 private boat angler trips in Southern California with no bocaccio caught

In Northern California, where rockfish was open, the PCPS estimated 5,000 angler trips with a total of 7,000 bocaccio caught. The average weight of 2.4 lbs for these fish gave an estimated weight of 7.7 metric tons. In Northern California there were 44,000 angler trips by private boats that caught 1,000 bocaccio weighing 0.6 metric tons (average weight of 1.3 lbs each). Therefore, the total catch for January-February in all boat modes for California was 8 metric tons of bocaccio.

53 metric tons in March-April, 2002

During March-April in Northern Cali-

fornia, with the rockfish closure in place, the PCPS/MRFSS estimated 13,000 party boat angler trips and 59,000 private boat trips with no bocaccio caught.

The rockfish fishery reopened in Southern California in March. There were 49,000 angler trips on party boats that caught 38,000 bocaccio weighing 42 metric tons (average weight of 2.43 lbs each). Private boat anglers accounted for 160,000 trips in Southern California and caught 8,000 bocaccio weighing 11 metric tons. The California bocaccio catch for boat fishing in March and April came from Southern California and totaled 53 metric tons. ←

			Nearshore (< 3 miles)						Farshore (> 3 miles)									
			Fish per Ang	Ave Wgt	Fish Cnt	Ang Cnt	Boat Obs	Est Trips	Est mt	Fish per Ang	Ave Wgt	Fish Cnt	Ang Cnt	Boat Obs	Est Trips	Est mt		
California	Northern	Private	Jan-Feb	0.01	0.7	1	81	30	40.8	0.5			0	6	2	3.14		
			Mar-Apr			0	185	77	26					0	233	88	32.9	
		Charter	Jan-Feb	0.24	0.8	29	120	6	1.07	0.2	1.69	1.09	176	104	8	4.04	7.5	
		Mar-Apr			0	61	6	1.88				0	195	14	11.2			
	Southern	Private	Jan-Feb			0	372	153	243				0	45	18	29.8		
			Mar-Apr	0.05	1.5	30	577	252	141	11	0.04	0.43	3	75	33	18.6	0.3	
Charter		Jan-Feb			0	534	35	6.47				0	88	8	7.73			
	Mar-Apr	0.3	0.8	225	761	37	5.21	1.2	0.84	1.11	348	417	21	43.6	41			

Figure 6. Detail of the MRFSS sample statistics and estimates for bocaccio in 2002.



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