

Coast has resulted in greatly increased data on several fisheries. The data are valuable not only for the management of these species, but also for defining other issues, such as marine mammal interactions. The data are used to develop interjurisdictional Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). FMPs have been developed for thresher shark, dungeness crab and sea urchins and other plans are in progress.

## PROGRAMS ADDRESSING SPECIFIC NEEDS

The Commission receives funding to support staff positions on these various projects:

Council Support - We receive funds from the Pacific and North Pacific Councils for the Executive Director or designee to participate in activities of the councils.

Pacific Coast Marine Recreational Fisheries Support - Funding provided by USFWS to support staff to (1) inform and involve marine recreational fishermen in habitat education and outreach work; and (2) participate in studies and correct information that will assist managers in reversing the decline in important nearshore recreational rockfish species along the Pacific Coast.

Interjurisdictional Fisheries - Funds provided by NMFS to support staff to coordinate activities relating to the development, monitoring, and revising of Interstate Fishery Management Plans.

Pacific NW River Reach Technical Support - Funding provided by EPA for staff support towards the completion of EPA's national digital hydrologic database known as River Reach File Version 3.0.

Expanding Pinniped Populations - Funding provided by NMFS for staff support to coordinate the collection of information necessary for the states to identify and address the impact of expanding populations of California sea lions and Pacific harbor seals on the salmonid and human populations of the West Coast.

Habitat Restoration Database - Funding provided by NMFS to develop databases that can be used for economic analysis and research to estimate the costs and associated economic impacts of restoring salmon habitat. The project introduces an economic component into ongoing activities undertaken by the

Commission in cooperation with numerous state and federal agencies and Indian Tribes.

Aquatic Non-Indigenous Species - Funding provided from various sources to support a Regional Coordinator for aquatic non-indigenous species in the coastal Pacific and Northwest States. The Coordinator facilitates development of regional contingency planning and prevention efforts and coordinated management in the region through meetings and symposia.

## EXTERNAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

The Commission receives funding to support and enhance staff in state agencies in these programs:

Smolt Monitoring Program - Fund staff for monitoring juvenile passage at dams and collecting data from a subsample of the total daily collection on species abundance, mark recaptures, fork length, gas bubble trauma, fish condition, project operations, flow data, and water temperature. This data is transmitted to FPC electronically on a daily basis.

Albacore Port Sampling - Funding from NMFS is used to provide the necessary manpower necessary to sample the albacore fishery to distribute and correct logbooks and to monitor the landings and compile the total poundages landed. Data is submitted to NMFS on a timely basis.

Pacific Whiting Observers - Funding provided by processing plants is used to supply observers for observation and sampling of Pacific whiting caught by vessels landing their catch shoreside for processing in order to obtain reliable estimates of bycatch.

Fish Bypass Transportation Program - Funding provided by Corps of Engineers is used to support biologists to participate directly in the juvenile fish bypass, collection and transportation program. The biologists are responsible for handling and sampling juvenile fish insofar as it affects the welfare of the fish. Activities include daily sampling for species composition, weight, descaling rates, incidence of gas bubble disease, and reading and recording of marked fish.

Cooperative Survival Study - Funding provided by BPA is used to support staff to develop smolt-to-adult survival indices for spring and-summer stream-type chinook originating above dams to evaluate smolt migration mitigation measures and actions for the recovery of listed salmon stocks.

Black Rockfish Stock Assessment Support - Funding is provided through ODFW to PSMFC to support staff to enter timely data to conduct a black rockfish assessment. In addition, a longer term effort will be made to closely examine the biological data.

Cowlitz Falls Anadromous Fish Reintroduction Program - Funding provided by BPA is used to support staff to plan and implement projects to evaluate fish collection efficiency and fish guidance efficiency relative to project operation.

Willamette Restoration Initiative (WRI) - Funding from various sources is used to support WRI efforts seeking to promote, integrate, and coordinate efforts to protect and restore the health of the Willamette watershed. These efforts incorporate the interests of private, state and federal land managers, while bringing a new focus to exploring the restoration interests and capabilities of businesses, landowners, non-profit organizations, local governments and watershed councils in the basin.

For the Sake of the Salmon (FSOS) - Funding from various sources is used to support the operations of the For the Sake of the Salmon. FSOS is a region-wide salmon recovery organization with the mission of restoring salmon to levels which ensure healthy, sustainable natural populations and support productive fisheries. FSOS consists of multiple diverse constituencies committed to salmon protection and restoration.

Fish Passage Center - Funding provided by BPA is used for management and staff, which is the main program center for information on fish passage in the mainstem Snake and Columbia Rivers. The FPC is a primary point of contact between the FCRPS operations and fishery agencies and tribes on matters concerning flow for fish passage.

## PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

45 SE 82nd Avenue, Suite 100

Gladstone, Oregon 97027-2522

Phone: (503) 650-5400

Fax: (503) 650-5426

Web: [www.psmfc.org](http://www.psmfc.org)

Email: [front\\_office@psmfc.org](mailto:front_office@psmfc.org)



## OUR GOAL

Authorized by Congress in 1947, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) is one of three interstate commissions dedicated to resolving fishery issues. Representing California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska, PSMFC does not have regulatory or management authority; rather it serves as a forum for discussion, works for coastwide consensus to state and federal authorities. PSMFC addresses issues that fall outside state or regional management council jurisdiction.

The goal is to promote and support policies and actions directed at the conservation, development and management of fishery resources of mutual concern to member states through a coordinated regional approach to research, monitoring and utilization.

## COMMISSIONERS and ADVISORS

Fifteen commissioners from the five member states work to set policy, approve PSMFC's budget and provide direction for Commission activities. Of these voting members, one-third are appointed by the state legislatures, one-third are appointed by the state's governors, and the remaining third are the state fishery directors. Each member state also maintains a PSMFC advisory committee, composed of representatives from the recreational and commercial fishing communities.

## STAFF

The PSMFC headquarters office is located in Gladstone, Oregon. Commission staff responsibilities include lob-

bying on behalf of member states and participating in public forums and other fishery-related councils, commissions, and committees. In addition, the staff handles data processing, fiscal management, meeting arrangements, and contractual services.

## **Our FUNDING and SERVICES**

The Commission's activities are funded through dues from its member states, federal grants and special contracts. PSMFC regularly serves as a primary contractor on grants, projects, and contracts for states and other organizations because of its proven ability and low overhead. Generally, the Commission exerts no programmatic or policy control over these projects but provides administrative support in the form of payroll, procurement, accounting, travel arrangements, and contract monitoring. In recent years, contract obligations have totaled \$15 million annually.

## **LEGISLATION and INFORMATION**

One of the objectives of the Commission is to increase the recognition of the importance of recreational and commercial fisheries to local economies, and to address issues that reflect the needs of the industry in federal and state legislation.

Some recent legislative issues addressed by the Commission include Magnuson Act Amendments, marine debris, reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, listings of threatened/ endangered species, marine habitat protection, foreign high seas driftnetting, marine insurance, federal fishing fees, safety at sea, and federal budgets.

## **DATA and INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Another objective of the Commission is to provide coordinated fisheries information. These services include:

- StreamNet
- Regional Mark Processing Center (RMPC)
- PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS)
- Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN)
- Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN)
- Recreational Fisheries Information Network
- Fisheries Economic Data Program (EFIN)

In early 1993, PSMFC assumed project management, regional data management, and administrative responsibility for the **StreamNet**. This project is identified in the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration. StreamNet was initiated to develop and provide "user friendly" methods for accessing the vast array of anadromous fish information in the region. The system provides users access to standardized and documented materials pertaining to all aspects of anadromous fish information. This information includes spawning counts, dam counts, hatchery releases, and juvenile fish counts. A reference/bibliography system and physical library collection have been established.

The **Regional Mark Processing Center (RMPC)** is involved in regional tag and mark coordination activities, management and reporting of the coastwide Coded-Wire Tag (CWT) data, and the exchange of CWT data with Canada in accordance with the Pacific Salmon Treaty. More than forty million young salmon and steelhead are marked and released into the Pacific Ocean each year with tiny microwire tags. Adult salmon returning to the West Coast (from California to Alaska, including Idaho and British Columbia) are sampled, and the "recovered" tags generate significant information for harvest managers and researchers.

The Regional Mark Processing Center is responsible for coordination of the policies and standards of this comprehensive long-term activity, as well as the centralized computer repository for all of the tag releases and recoveries.

The **PIT Tag Operations Center** houses the Passive Integrated Transponder TAG Information System (PITAGIS). This system provides a flexible method for selecting subsets of PIT Tag data collection in the Columbia and Snake River drainages. The primary purpose of the PIT Tag program is to generate data that can be used to evaluate the effects of federal Columbia River power system operations on salmonids.

The PIT Tag is an electronic tag with a unique code which is placed inside smolts and is read as they pass through monitoring systems located in the juvenile bypass/collection facilities of large water development projects or in specially modified traps. The tag code, date, time, and location where the data was collected is automatically entered into a data file. This data file

is transmitted electronically to a computer at PSMFC and integrated into a regional PIT Tag data base at the end of each day.

The **Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN)** provides timely and accurate data essential for effective management. The nation's first regional fisheries data network, PacFIN, provides information enabling agencies and industries to track commercial fish catches by area, and to manage and plan more effectively. The need for this data has become more critical as the intensity of U.S. fisheries has increased.

PacFIN data from fisheries off Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, and the American-flag Pacific islands are provided to a central data base. The PacFIN reporting system is a combination of fish catch data combined with ratios developed from port sampling and trawl logbooks. Projections from this information provide the best estimates of catch for each groundfish species by month, area, and gear.

The **Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN)** is a cooperative data program of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Fisheries Science Center, and PSMFC. AKFIN supports collection, entry, transfer, analysis and management of critical Alaska fishery information. During 1998, AKFIN supported programs at ADFG that: collect fish tickets, biological samples and logbooks; edit and enter the data; maintain and update the State of Alaska processor production database and fish ticket system; produce age data for fish assessments; complete dockside catch sampling and skipper interviews to monitor in-season catch of Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) crab fisheries; and analyze/report on chinook salmon bycatch in groundfish trawl fisheries of the BSAI for the NPFMC.

The **Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN)** was established in 1992 to coordinate state and federal field sampling to collect Pacific Coast marine recreational fisheries catch and effort data. PSMFC had coordinated the Pacific Coast portion of the nationwide NMFS-funded Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) since 1979. RecFIN expands on this coastwide overview of marine recreational catch and effort to incorporate all state and federal sampling programs into one integrated system

(RecFIN). In the Pacific MRFSS an average of 40,000 anglers are interviewed each year at fishing sites upon completion of their trip. Data on species caught, lengths and weights, various demographics and trip activity data and economic data are collected from each angler. About six separate state data collection projects with sampling levels up to 20% of the angler trips target on specific fisheries or fishing modes in specific areas. This state data is integrated with MRFSS data by RecFIN to provide coastwide marine recreational catch and effort data for use by state and federal fishery agencies and to provide data to the public.

The **Economic Analysis of West Coast Fisheries** is a cooperative data collection effort conducted by PSMFC as part of a cooperative agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service and with the help of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Pacific Fishery Management Council. This program was designed to address the data needs of fish managers and industry for economic data on the West Coast and in Alaska. Economic data is important in that it allows analysts to:

- monitor and measure the economic performance of West Coast and Alaska fisheries;
- analyze the economic effects of management decisions on these fisheries and fishing communities; and
- to perform the economic analysis required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and Executive Orders such as E.O. 12866.

The project provides reliable and timely data to assist with these analyses. The Economics Data Program obtains this data through its survey program, through its marine fuel price data collection program, and by collecting and providing existing economic datasets on its website.

## **FACILITATION and COORDINATION**

Another objective of the Commission is to facilitate interjurisdictional fishery agreements and coordinate information. For example, PSMFC coordinated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the states of Washington, Oregon and California regarding season management.

The Commission/state/federal partnership on the West