



RECREATIONAL FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK

PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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MRFSS Interviewers in California are to attempt physical checks of PC vessels while visiting PC sites on assignment or during pressure checks. This information will be used to compare with boat logs and contacts by the PC vessel telephone survey and make sure our vessel lists are accurate.

Samplers should be familiar with all PC vessels docking or launching from the harbors in their sampling area. While in a harbor, attempt to check on all PC boats and try to determine what they are doing. Make your vessel check priority highest for boats listed for the weekly phone survey.

Fill out the new vessel check form and send it in with your weekly report each Monday. Do not mail your forms in late! List all activity checks, refusals and actual sampled vessels. If you are refused boarding, list the name of the person who told you.

Detailed "manual style" instructions, a blank Vessel Check Form and examples are included. Please contact your supervisor or me at PSMFC if you have any questions or concerns.

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1. PC VESSEL CHECKS

Checks of Party and charter (PC) vessels by MRFSS interviewers will be compared with the vessels selected in the Party Charter Phone Survey (PCPS) and mandatory CDFG logbook data. Checks will also be used to identify vessel's geographic location, their ability to be boarded to observe catch and to document changes in status.

1.1. Validating PCPS and Logbook Trips

PCPS and logbook data is validated by comparing operator reported trips with independent observations of vessels activity. Each observation of vessel activity is compared with vessel operator self-reported data to look for differences. Operators may mistakenly report their number of trips in the PCPS or logbooks. MRFSS interviewers perform vessel checks while sampling, while performing other duties or on special vessel check assignments. The vessel status, fishing or not, is determined. The data will be used to adjust (bias correct) the PCPS and logbook estimates of effort.

1.2. Monitoring Cooperation

This data is also used to document the relative ability of interviewers to take trips on vessels. The CDFG wishes to document the level of cooperation with catch observers (the interviewers). This will help set policy on what enforcement actions the Department shall take to assure cooperation with observers in the future.

The inability to properly represent the average catch of all vessels may produce biases in the catch rates. These biases may result from uneven catch sampling by geographic area. Biases may also result if sampled catch is not representative by trip types, such as the proportion of salmon and tuna trips among the sampled vessels.

1.3. Data Collection

1.3.1. Overview

Ten percent random selections of all the active PC vessels are drawn each week for the PCPS. Interviewers will give the highest priority to check on the drawn vessels to determine if the vessel is out of port. When the vessel is out, the sampler will determine what activity the vessel is engaged in. Interviewers may also determine the activity and cooperation status of any vessel encountered during MRFSS sampling and PC assignment scheduling.

The interviewer should be able to identify all passenger vessels at visited PC sites. The interviewer should then be able to identify which of those vessels were drawn for the current sample week and give them a high priority for vessel checks. The other vessels may also be checked, time allowing. This additional information will be compared with the logbook data (for logbook validation) and will help track vessels for future survey contacts. Vessel Check Forms are submitted to supervisors weekly.

1.3.2. Drawn Vessels

Vessel draws for all the weeks in a wave are made for the PCPS two weeks before the start of the wave. The ten percent weekly sample of all active vessels includes uncooperative vessels that do not participate but are actively fishing. It is important to check the activity of these vessels.

Draws are made available in the RecFIN system for MRFSS supervisors to get from the internet. Interviewers will be provided two lists: 1) a list of active vessels by port for the wave and 2) a list of drawn vessels by port and week. MRFSS interviewers will use the drawn vessel list to identify the higher priority boats to be validated each week with vessel checks

The drawn vessel list will include the week number, survey specific vessel ID, the vessel name, documentation numbers, angler capacity, vessel length, county of operation, MRFSS site of operation and the vessel week starting and ending dates (see Figure 1.1). NMFS recommends that MRFSS interviewers attempt to visit the ports of each drawn boat at least one day during the vessel week to check activity. The vessel week is defined as Monday through Sunday. The PCPS telephone interviews on the drawn vessels begin on the Monday after the end of the vessel week.

1.3.2.1. Example of drawn vessel list for vessel validation (partial list).

WEEK	VSL_ID	NAME	NUM1	CDFG#	ANGS	LEN	CNTY	SITE	START DAY	END DAY	RANDAY
18	6000059	BRIGHT AND MORNING	635149	41042	34	100	73	19	20010430	20010506	Sun
18	6000096	CLEMENTE	503876	15880	60	64	59	101	20010430	20010506	Sun
18	6000128	DREAM CATCHER	536928	20419	.	45	19	.	20010430	20010506	Mon
18	6000138	ELECTRA	295945	14513	125	77	73	113	20010430	20010506	Fri
18	6000140	ELLIE-M	265048	10536	30	52	111	45	20010430	20010506	Wed
18	6000165	FISHERMAN III	278969	11858	61	65	73	19	20010430	20010506	Sat
18	6000173	FREEDOM	286271	12946	48	85	37	14	20010430	20010506	Fri
18	6000189	GREAT ESCAPE	606876	32651	35	80	37	14	20010430	20010506	Mon

1.3.3. Vessels not Drawn

Vessels that have not been selected in the draw for the week are eligible for vessel checks. All vessels observed or known to be out fishing or not fishing can be checked at any time. Vessels you see on the water while on-board another vessel can be recorded on the Vessel Check Form. Other means of determining activity status include those listed in section 1.3.6.

1.3.3.1. Example of list of all active vessels in a county listed by site

VSL_ID	NAME	NUM1	ANGS	LEN	CNTY	COOP	LNDG	COMMENT
6000012	ADMIRAL	530711	85	83	79	0	Virg's Landing Inc.	Refused (8/23/01)
6000153	FIESTA	609626	41	48	79	0	Virg's Landing	Refused on 7/19/01.
6000192	HARBOR PATHFINDER	258207	49	49	79	1	Virg's Landing	
6000235	LIBERTY	277691	47	55	79	1	Patriot Sportfishing	Not on weekends
6000255	MALLARD	261320	49	60	79	0	Virg's Landing	Refused until October.
6000331	PACIFIC HORIZON	515044	49	65	79	1	Patriot Sportfishing	Call Rick or Mitch
6000345	PATRIOT	265267	42	56	79	1	Patriot Sportfishing	
6000364	PRINCESS	550686	49	58	79	1	Virg's Landing	Goes long range
6000543	Ichibon	274471	6	48	79	1	Virg's Landing	

1.3.4. Scheduling Checks

Validation checks should be coordinated with scheduled MRFSS intercept survey assignments to minimize additional travel time and mileage. Interviewers should attempt to do checks with all PC vessels when landings with multiple vessels are visited. Priority should be given to vessels that have been drawn in the PCPS for that week. Vessel checks may occur during regular MRFSS assignments to PC sites, during site effort pressure checks, on the way to or from assignments at other sites (and modes) or during special “validation assignments” that may be provided to interviewers by their supervisors.

An interviewer should attempt visits to the principal port or access site from which the vessel usually operates during the time of day when the vessel is most likely to have taken passengers

fishing. Vessel validation checks should be conducted so that visits to ports of drawn vessels are attempted at least once a week, with weekend days and weekdays both represented among all vessels, if possible. Vessel activity observed from nearby sites, such as boats exiting or entering ports at jetties, may also be recorded as a vessel check record.

The interviewer should not over-compromise the goal of conducting MRFSS intercepts or validating other boats. This means that you are not required to check all vessels every time you sample or pass by a PC site. Interviewers will have to make some checks. Interviewers should consider checks on each vessel once a week as the upper limit and one landing checked a week (on weeks with an assignment near or at a PC site) as the lower limit. This may require interviewers to decide which sites and what order they are visited each day during the vessel week. Your supervisor may limit your validation visit time or restrict the amount of time you can wait for a vessel to return from an unknown activity.

1.3.5. Docked Status

Upon visiting the vessel's access site, the interviewer should observe and record whether the vessel is "out" or "in" and record both the date and time of day of that observation. The visual check may work best with vessels that are assigned to a usual place on docks. Vessels not assigned a permanent boat slip or dock number may require searching the site to determine activity. The interviewer may try to determine if trailered six-pack boat has been launched from a designated principal port location. If a reliable source is available, ask them what passenger boats have been launched that day and if possible get them to identify the boat trailer and vehicle; document the trailer and vehicle information so that they can be easily spotted for future validation visits.

More than one trip

1.3.6. Activity Determination

If the vessel is out, the interviewer may then try to determine what activity the vessel is engaged in. Activities include passenger fishing, other (non-fishing) passenger trips and non-passenger trips such as vessel maintenance. In order to do this, the interviewer may speak to a reliable source such as a marina or landing operator or booking agent. If the source wants to know why you need this information, be courteous and explain that "***we are trying to locate and document times of day with charter or party boat activity in order to improve our fishing trip estimates.***"

Try to avoid making excessive direct contact with vessel captains, if possible. Many are already being contacted in the phone survey and your presence may influence their fishing effort reports on the telephone for that day. If contacted, you may explain that you are trying to "update our site register in order to improve our dockside sampling efforts".

Activity determination by direct physical examination at the dock is the preferred method. The Vessel Check Form does allow for other sources of activity determination such as 'asked agent' and 'written information'. However, these other sources are self-reported data and are therefore suspect and are discouraged. Telephone calls to booking agents and internet or newspaper fishing reports may be wrong or consistently incorrect due to business marketing practices or omission of unsuccessful trips. Please avoid the indirect methods of activity determination unless there is no possibility of doing in-person checks that week.

1.3.7. Denied Access to Vessel

Record vessel checks when you attempt to schedule or attempt to sample a vessel, but you are denied access. Denial may be due to the vessel being full or plain refusal to allow observers on the boat. A record is made for each attempt that results in denial for either reason. Denial of access may be determined by a scheduling phone call or by visiting the site. All vessels, not just drawn vessels, are eligible for denied access vessel checks.

If the vessel operator or agent had previously refused all future contacts; i.e. “never again allowed”, then record a vessel check record each time they would be considered for sampling on an assignment. Vessels that deny all future contact need not be contacted directly again if your supervisor says so. Your supervisor will notify you when you should actually make contact with the vessel again. In the meantime, you may record the vessel as refusing each time it would be considered for sampling without actually contacting the vessel.

Remember that a refusing vessel would be sampled in proportion to all the vessels available at the assigned site, so it would not be sampled (or denying) every time their site is drawn if cooperating vessels were also available at the site. However, if all of the vessels at the site are denying, then record a record for each vessel (all vessels at the site), since each of them would be considered for sampling in the process of eliminating uncooperative vessels.

1.3.8. Identify Vessel Updates

During vessel checks, interviewers should also comment on any new, relocated or changed passenger fishing vessels. Include comments on vessels whose information on the vessel lists are incorrect. The interviewer should carry a few Vessel Directory Record Forms to help gather information on new and changed vessels. Collection of such information will improve the accuracy of the survey.

Interviewers should also attempt the collection of contact information for ‘bad’ vessels, those vessels we have been unable to contact in the PCPS because of incorrect mailing addresses and phone numbers. This contact information is very important to the survey.

1.3.8.1. Example list of “bad vessels” that have not been contacted yet.

VSL_ID	NAME	NUM1	ANGS	LEN	CNTY	ELIG	NFON	COMMENT
6000017	AMBAR III	679522	.	68	.	1	1	Can't locate boat. No phone number.
6000050	BONA 4 TUNA	CF5414KG	.	25	.	1	1	Can't locate boat, insufficient info.
6000113	DANDY	546314	.	.	97	1	1	Not at Bodega in 2000; Can't find
6000160	FISH N FOOL III	CF8028HC	.	.	1	1	1	Can't find boat, not at landing.
6000178	G GMARA	CF0616ER	.	21	75	1	1	Found address in CPFV license data
6000186	GOOD JU JU	NV8016KK	.	24	31	1	1	Can't find boat; no phone number

1.3.9. Coding the Check

Individual records are coded for each vessel day and time. If the activity is fishing and the vessel took more than one trip per day, then you may record one record for each trip. For trips where the information is found after the vessel returns, record a time for the trip when the boat would most likely have been out (middle of the trip is suggested). For trips that span midnight, record the date and time during the day the trip ended.

For vessels no longer at the expected site, code docked status as “8 = don’t know” and make a comment with any new information (use a Vessel Directory Record Form to collect new contact name, address, phone number, landing and other useful information.). For refusals or inability to

sample, record source as “2 = asked agent” and the name of the contact person who informed you of that fact in the comments column.

For vessels with continuous refusals, i.e. “never again allowed” and you would have scheduled an intercept, code the source as “4 = Other” and write, “Again, documented” in the comment section with the reason. You may still physically check vessels you can’t board by observing from a distance. Please see the examples provided with the Vessel Check Form.

Coding for the 'SAMPLE' column on the Vessel Check Form.

1. Do you have an assignment to sample a PC boat today and your considering taking this boat?

YES

NO (SAMPLE = 2, not sampling) (stop)

2. Did you sample (interview anglers) on this boat?

YES (SAMPLE = 1, sampled) (stop)

NO

3. Why did you not sample this boat?

UNABLE to sample (SAMPLE = 8) Boat full, not going fishing or missed the boat

REFUSED sampler (SAMPLE = 9) Refused (available) Write "<Full Name> refused, saying..."

REFUSED (didn't ask, SAMPLE = 9) Write "(Again, documented) reason...."

1.3.9.1. Coding Errors – Three examples

Docked*	Source	Activity	Sample
8	1	1	8

“8118” is not a valid sequence – If the interviewer looked at the dock, how come the docked status is “unknown” and the activity is “fishing”.

Docked*	Source	Activity	Sample
2	X	8	X

“2X8X” (X=any digit) is not a valid sequence because if the vessel is not “docked” how could the activity be “docked” (not applicable). Conversely, if the vessel is “docked = 1” then the activity MUST be “8”.

Docked*	Source	Activity	Sample
1	4	4	9

Again, documented. Landing office

“1449” is not a valid sequence because if the interviewer did not contact the vessel to schedule a ride, how could s/he know the vessel was “docked”? Docked should be “8=Don’t know”.

Docked – In Slip (1= Yes, 2= No 8= Don't Know)

Source – How Determined? (1= Looked at dock, 2= Asked agent, 3= Written, 4= Other, explain)

Activity - 1= Fishing 2= Other Passenger Activity 3= Non Passenger Trip 4= Unknown 8= Docked

Sample - 1= Sampled 2= Not sampled 8= Unable to sample 9=Refused sampler

1.3.10. *Submitting Forms*

Validation checks outside of normal MRFSS sampling assignments are coded in the weekly reports like pressure checks; assignment = '0' and time spent as non-assignment (non-assn) time. Validation forms will be submitted with the weekly reports and MRFSS interview forms weekly. PSMFC and your supervisor do not tolerate late forms. There is no need to send in a blank Vessel Check Form if there were no assignments or the assignments conducted did not produce any vessel checks for the week.

Sampler Name: Sampler ID Year Week

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MRFSS Passenger Vessel Checks

Used to record vessel status. Data used to estimate potential bias.

	Vessel name	Vessel ID*	Cnty	Site	Month / Day*	Time*	Docked*	Source	Activity	Sample	Comments
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											
12											

Vessel ID - Last 3 digits of Unique Number (6000001-6000999) **Month / Day** - Date of check **Time** - Time of Check (2400) **Docked** - Was vessel in slip? (1= Yes, 2= No 8= Don't Know)
Source - How was 'docked' determined? (1= Boat seen, 2= Asked agent, 3= Written Information, 4= Other, explain) **Activity** (if not docked) - 1= Passenger Fishing 2= Other Passenger Activity
 3= Non Passenger Trip 4= Unknown Activity 8= Vessel docked (n/a) **Sample** - 1= Sampled Anglers 2= Not sampling 8= Unable to sample 9=Refused sampler * = Key Questions.

Vessel Checks - A comparison of vessel activity to responses from the charter telephone survey and an analysis of the selection of vessels for the sampling of catch is used to estimate potential bias. During weekly (Monday-Sunday) sampling and effort checks, CPFV vessel activity should be recorded when observed. Interviewers are required to have lists of vessels with locations, names and permit numbers for identification. Vessels that have been selected for the phone survey have a high priority for activity checks. All vessels with attempted or completed angler sampling are also recorded. Get complete details for sampler refusals. Get contact information and permit (DFG) number for unlisted boats.

MRFSS Passenger Vessel Checks

Continued

	Vessel name	Vessel ID*	Cnty	Site	Month / Day*	Time*	Docked*	Source	Activity	Sample	Comments
13											
14											
15											
16											
17											
18											
19											
20											
21											
22											
23											
24											

Vessel ID - Last 3 digits of Unique Number (6000001-6000999) **Month / Day** - Date of check **Time** - Time of Check (2400) **Docked** - Was vessel in slip? (1= Yes, 2= No 8= Don't Know)
Source - How was 'docked' determined? (1= Boat seen, 2= Asked agent, 3= Written Information, 4= Other, explain) **Activity** (if not docked) - 1= Passenger Fishing 2= Other Passenger Activity
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Sampler Name: Sampler ID Year Week

MRFSS Passenger Vessel Checks

Used to record vessel status. Data used to estimate potential bias.

Jose Sampleski	0	0	7	01	41
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	Vessel name	Vessel ID*	Cnty	Site	Month / Day*	Time*	Docked*	Source	Activity	Sample	Comments
1	Keel Hauler	0 0 1	027	2	10/12	1405	8	2	4	8	Vessel no longer running at this location. Bessie Smith said; 'Check for vessel in San Francisco Bay.'
2	You Betcha	0 0 6	037	18	10/13	1230	2	2	3	2	Refueling
3	Holy Cow	0 1 2	037	27	10/13	1350	2	1	1	8	Vessel full with 17 anglers and 3 crew
4	Yo Mama	0 2 4	073	45	10/14	0730	2	1	1	9	Captain Oliver refused to let me on the boat; 'You guys are putting me out of business.' Rescheduled for the 17th.
5	Bouy Buster	0 0 7	037	18	10/15	0600	2	1	1	2	Saw boat heading out while crossing bridge
6	Nemo's Revenge	0 8 6	037	18	10/15	0630	2	2	1	8	Vessel full. (20 anglers)
7	So What	0 1 7	037	18	10/15	1512	2	1	1	1	Sampled 30 anglers
8	Nemo's Revenge	0 8 6	037	18	10/15	1512	2	1	1	9	Saw boat while out on 'So What' with only 10 anglers fishing. They lied about being full. Reported to Supervisor.
9	Make My Day	1 2 3	073	45	10/17	0645	1	1	8	9	Laura Croft in the office refused to let me sample any boats at this landing saying; 'Your not welcome here anymore.'
10	Yo Mama	0 2 4	073	45	10/17	0650	2	2	1	2	Out
11	I'll Be back	0 5 4	073	49	10/17	0650	2	2	1	2	Out
12	You Never Know	1 5 3	073	50	10/17	0750	8	4	4	9	Again, documented - alternate site to above, no others available. Landing does not allow samplers on boats.

Vessel ID - Last 3 digits of Unique Number (6000001-6000999) **Month / Day** - Date of check **Time** - Time of Check (2400) **Docked** - Was vessel in slip? (1= Yes, 2= No 8= Don't Know)
Source - How was 'docked' determined? (1= Boat seen, 2= Asked agent, 3= Written Information, 4= Other, explain) **Activity** (if not docked) - 1= Passenger Fishing 2= Other Passenger Activity
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