

Supplement PC2001 – 2001 PC Boat Data (latte)

Purpose

The purpose of this task is assist in the conduct of surveys of angler fishing effort on party and charter boats (PC boats, commercial passenger fishing vessels – CPFV's or simply "passenger vessels") which is based on either a vessel directory sampling frame stratified by boat type or on a complete census of all boats (Oregon and Washington). The vessel directory survey has been proposed, tested and found to be a much more efficient method for estimation of fishing effort from passenger vessels that would allow for separate estimation of passenger boat trips by anglers who pay a fee to fish. This estimate of passenger boat effort would replace the estimate from the random digit dialing (RDD) telephone survey.

Background

What's wrong with the current method?

Data collected since 1979 by the Intercept Survey component of the MRFSS has shown that many anglers who pay a fee to fish on passenger boats reside outside the coastal zone covered by the Telephone Survey component. Consequently, the adjustment ratios estimated from Intercept Survey data and used to correct for the under coverage of the Telephone Survey's coastal zone sampling frame are usually much larger and much less precise for party and charter boat fishing effort than for shore or private/rental boat fishing effort. Therefore, RDD Telephone Survey estimates of coastal resident fishing effort are usually much less precise for the passenger boat mode than for the other fishing modes.

To increase the precision of for-hire vessel fishing effort estimates, the MRFSS has traditionally increased effective sample sizes by pooling three years of passenger boat Telephone Survey effort data and Intercept Survey adjustment ratio data prior to running estimates. Without pooling, unstable estimates of coastal resident effort and unstable estimates of under coverage correction ratios would cause extremely imprecise annual estimates of total fishing effort from party and/or charter boats. However, estimates based on data which has been pooled across years are of little use in tracking differences between party and charter boat fishing or year-to-year effort trends in the passenger vessel fishery.

Implementation of a telephone survey which uses a relatively complete vessel directory as a sampling frame should lead to more precise estimates of passenger vessel fishing effort. As long as the vessel directory used for sampling is fairly complete, coverage of the fishery should be greatly enhanced and sampling of passenger vessel fishing trips should be much more efficient. Therefore, vessel telephone survey estimates of fishing effort should be much

more precise and intercept survey correction ratio estimates should be both much smaller and more precise.

General Methods and Procedures

Procedures are being developed for the conduct of new PC boat surveys or MRFSS data supply in each of the states. Each state will have substantially different survey and estimation methods.

The main concern at this point is the creation and maintenance of a list of passenger vessels who may go on a trip at anytime during the year. The main PC boats involved in the fishery are currently known and are documented. There are however, several passenger boats in our lists (that are registered, documented or licensed) that we have not seen at the landings. It may be that these boats are private or that they operate with paid passengers from launch ramps or from limited access marinas.

PC Boat Items – Intercept Form

In order to learn more about the PC boats we do see, we have added a small set of questions to the intercept form. These questions are for the first PC angler only and expand on the “PC boat name” prompt we had in on the form in 2000. Since the name of the boat is not necessarily unique we are collecting a vessel number as well. The vessel number will allow us to merge data on intercept rates with our developing list of PC boats. Since the vessel may be documented in several ways with differing number systems we need to know which “type” of PC boat number we are recording.

								First PC Boat Angler	PC Boat
	B1. Boat Number 8=NA (Skip)								
	B2. Type (1=Coast Guard, 2=State VID, 3=State Fish Permit, 4=State Comm.Lic.)								
	B3. Boat Record #:								
	BOAT NAME:								

Weekly PC Boat Records Form (new)

Since there is limited space on the intercept form, information about the vessel trip and its operator will be recorded on a separate form. The new “Weekly PC Boat” form will be used to collect data about the intercepted boat trip duration and who to contact about this boat. One record is necessary for each PC boat intercepted. The sampler should be familiar with the passenger boats operating in their geographic district and check out operating PC vessels they don’t recognize to see if we have them listed. We also might check these records to validate other sources of data.

2001 - MRFSS Weekly Interviewing PC Boat Records

	<input type="text"/>	Sampler Name: _____											
1	Boat Number	Month Day	Departure	Return	Landing Name:	BOAT#	TRIP	LISTED	MODE	1			
	Boat Name	First Angler # -		Captain Name:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2	Boat Number	Month Day	Departure	Return	Landing Name:	BOAT#	TRIP	LISTED	MODE	2			
	Boat Name	First Angler # -		Captain Name:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3	Boat Number	Month Day	Departure	Return	Landing Name:	BOAT#	TRIP	LISTED	MODE	3			
	Boat Name	First Angler # -		Captain Name:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Party Boat or Charter Boat? – (Intercept Form Item 9)

In the past (in some geographic areas) MRFSS interviewers have not strictly coded the mode (Item 9) correctly with regard to party or charter boats. Since the MRFSS combines these data into the major mode “PC” in estimation, it did not seem important. However, now we need to properly distinguish the differences between the two passenger modes.

Party Boats

A passenger vessel which books clients individually in order to fill the boat with anglers for a fishing trip. The dictionary definition supports the idea of “party” individuality: *A group of people who have gathered to participate in an activity. Party is also widely used as a general substitute for person, as in ‘Would all parties who left packages at the desk please reclaim their property.’ This usage has been established for many centuries¹* Since passengers pay individually “per head” they are called (on the east coast) “headboats”. Groups may arrange to pay as a group but additional anglers or other groups are able to pay to board for the trip. Often these boats will cancel the trip due to insufficient bookings (lack of anglers).

Charter Boats

A passenger vessel which will allow itself to be “hired” by a group of anglers for exclusive use. The dictionary definition: *The hiring or leasing of an aircraft, a vessel, or other vehicle, especially for the exclusive, temporary use of a group of travelers.¹* The purpose of chartering a vessel is to gain privacy, increased deck space and/or control in the operation of the vessel’s fishing activity and fishing locations.

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions - 2001 PC Boat Data Add-On

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