

1998 Estimated Total Trip Expenditures

Anglers were asked to tally trip costs for gear, bait, boat and parking fees and daily license fees for their trips. The average expenditure was about \$29 per angler trip for all angler trips coastwide. The total of these estimated costs to all anglers for 7.3 million marine fishing trips in 1998 would total about \$212 million for California, Oregon and Washington. This total does not include any travel, food, drink or annual expenditures.

2000 Economic Survey

The 2000 economic expenditure survey of recreational angling was still being conducted when this brochure was produced. Preliminary results are available on the RecFIN web site at <http://www.recfin.org>.

Working in cooperation with your state Fishery Agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service



Recreational Fisheries Information Network

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2001 Pacific Economic Survey

The Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS)

Economic portion conducted periodically

WHAT IS THIS SURVEY?

- ◆ A few questions at the fishing site about angler behavior
- ◆ Will be used to adjust an economic model of recreational anglers

WHY COLLECT THIS?

- ◆ To determine the economic value of sportfishing
- ◆ To understand the effects of regulations on anglers

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

- ◆ Surveys like this are needed to gather marine recreational fishery economic information for fishery managers
- ◆ Your participation ensures that your experience is reflected in the survey.

INTRODUCTION

The 2001 Pacific Coast economic survey is part of the nationwide Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) that has been conducted annually since 1979. Both the MRFSS and the economic survey are funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service and coordinated by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in cooperation with the states of California, Oregon and Washington.

About this Survey

In 1998, we conducted an economic survey in which anglers were asked to participate in a telephone interview in addition to the interview conducted in the field (see the box below for some highlights of the 1998 survey). This year there is no telephone survey. Instead, we are interested only in asking you a few questions at the fishing site that will allow us to update some of the key information collected in

the 1998 economic survey. We will ask you five economic questions in addition to our usual MRFSS questions about your trip and catch. If you took time off without pay in order to go fishing, we will also need to ask you a few other questions that will allow us to estimate the amount of income you gave up to in order to fish.

Why Do You Ask That?

Some of the questions we ask may seem to be completely unrelated to the value of sport fishing. However, all of the questions are very carefully thought out and provide important data for our analyses. Information regarding boat ownership and personal income are needed, since these two characteristics help us predict the numbers and types of fishing trips made by anglers. Questions regarding whether you made an overnight trip away from home to fish, whether you took time off from work to fish, and the distance you traveled to the fishing site (which we estimate from your zipcode) allow us to get a picture of the cost of your fishing trip.

Why Participate?

It is important that state and federal fishery managers and policy makers get an accurate picture of the economic value of recreational fishing to anglers and to the businesses and communities that depend on angler expenditures. It is also important that fishery managers understand the economic effects of regulations - such as bag limits, size limits and restrictions on fishing areas and seasons. By using our models to compare and contrast the results of the 1998 and 2001 surveys, we will be able to better evaluate the economic effects of changes in management regulations that affect marine anglers like yourself. This survey provides an opportunity for you to play a role in improving our understanding of the sport fishery.

I was already interviewed on a previous fishing trip and now you want to interview me again. Why?

The information used in this survey is based on a random sample of individual fishing trips. We cannot sample every angler on every trip so we must use a statistical sample. If we interview you more than once during the year, it is probably because you take a lot of fishing trips. Even though your answers to some questions may be the same for each trip, it is important that we have a record of all trips randomly chosen to be in our sample. We need your interview each time to properly represent your participation in the fishery. Please be patient with our sampler and provide the needed information, so that your type of fishing activity is properly represented in our sample.

Two Types of Economic Surveys

The MRFSS is conducting two types of economic surveys with different goals on a periodic basis. Each of the surveys collects some of the same information, but the majority of the data differ. The "valuation" survey estimates the value of the sport fishery and the "expenditure" survey estimates total expenditures. The value of the sport fishery is based on angler behavior given alternative activities and stated preferences. Total expenditures is based on how and where money is spent in an economy. Each survey provides valuable information about the value and impact of this recreational fishery to managers.

Some Highlights of the 1998 Survey

- 1) 81% of the 37,570 anglers interviewed in California, Oregon and Washington provided trip information, including fishing expenditures.
- 2) Average year of birth for anglers was 1953.
- 3) Average rank of saltwater fishing ability on a scale of 1 to 5 was 3.2.
- 4) Average years of saltwater fishing experience was 20 years.
- 5) Average annual personal income before taxes was \$57,000.
- 6) Average annual household income before taxes was \$58,000.
- 7) Average hourly wage was \$20.
- 8) Average hours worked per week was 45.
- 9) Average annual expenditure on fishing gear was \$545.
- 10) Average annual expenditure on fishing licenses was \$82.
- 11) Average annual expenditure on maintenance and repair of boats used for saltwater fishing was \$640.
- 12) 20% of anglers stayed away from home overnight when they went fishing.
- 13) 64% of anglers whose fishing involved an overnight stay away from home indicated that the primary purpose of their trip was fishing
- 14) Average expenditure per trip for gear, bait, boat fuel, boat fees, parking fees and daily license was \$29.
- 15) For those anglers who gave up income to make a fishing trip, average income foregone for such trips was \$162.