

Pacific Council Recreational Status

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PSMFC and its member states commenced conducting the MRFSS in 1979 and continued to do so until 2003. In these years, salmon trips were excluded from the MRFSS Intercept sampling as the states have done biweekly soft estimates of salmon catch for a number of decades. During the MRFSS sampling period 2-month wave estimates for catch and effort were made. During the 1980's through the mid 1990's, the recreational catch was not used much in Council management decisions.

In 2003 in Washington and Oregon, MRFSS sampling was discontinued to move forward with expanded state sampling making monthly catch and effort estimates. To respond to Council Management needs for recreational fisheries. The MRFSS was replaced with the Oregon Recreational Boat Survey (ORBS), and in Washington with the Ocean Sampling Program (OSP). In 2004, California followed suit and replaced the MRFSS with the new California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS). The three state sampling programs use a mix of daily exit counts or tallies of all boats at launch ramps and the electronic license frames that are in place in all three states along with increased intercept sampling rates compared with the MRFSS.

Pacific Council Management for Groundfish and salmon necessitate monthly in-season monitoring of catch against Harvest Goals and Guidelines set in the management plans. Catch Projections forward to the end of the year are also utilized to provide for timely action prior to exceeding any Harvest Goals. Discarded fish are also incorporated into the total removals by applying mortality rates based on depth of catch. Challenges include identification of discarded fish not seen by the sampler as well as appropriate mean weights to convert total harvest to Metric Tons.

Costs for sampling recreational fisheries have increased four-fold over the MRFSS costs, and some shore and man-made modes are currently not sampled in Oregon and Washington because of a lack of funds. Sampling concentrates on ocean boat modes (PR and PC) in all three states for support of Council management.