

**File Name: NWFSC Correspondence for the West Coast Commercial Catcher Vessel Cost-Earnings Survey for the Limited Entry, Fixed Gear Groundfish Fishery 012022**

**119213700**

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
2725 Montlake Blvd E.  
Seattle, WA 98112



«AddressBlock»

«GreetingLine»

We would like to invite you to participate in a cost-earnings survey of commercial fishing vessel owners being conducted by NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Fisheries Science Center. We are interested in hearing from vessel owners who held a federal West Coast (California, Oregon, and Washington) limited entry groundfish permit with a fixed gear endorsement during 20XX or 20XX+1. This survey updates similar data collected in previous years. Our goal is to support fisheries management decision-making and to generate information that is needed to help meet legal and regulatory requirements.

A copy of the survey questionnaire is enclosed so that you can see in advance the questions we will ask. Starting about one week from the mailing of this letter, we will begin attempting to contact you by telephone to arrange a time for your choice of a telephone interview or an in-person interview to complete this questionnaire. **You will be contacted by XXX XXX and are welcome to contact them with questions at XXX-XXX-XXXX.**

Because you and other vessel owners are the only ones that can provide this information, we encourage you to participate in this survey. Your participation is voluntary and you are not required to participate in this survey to maintain your limited entry groundfish permit. However, by collecting information from vessel owners like you, we can better understand average fleet characteristics as well as diversity within the fleet. With this information, fisheries managers will be better able to consider the effect of regulations.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

Allen Chen  
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**Confidentiality**

We appreciate the confidential nature of the data being collected by this survey. The NWFSC will maintain the confidentiality of the information consistent with legal authorities available to the NWFSC, including but not limited to the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. Section 552a) and the Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. Section 1905). In the event that the NWFSC receives a formal request for the information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. Section 552), the NWFSC will protect confidentiality to the extent possible under Exemption 4 of the FOIA.

## **Telephone contact script**

*I'm a contractor working for NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Fisheries Science Center and we're conducting a survey of vessel owners who held a federal West Coast limited entry groundfish permit with a fixed gear endorsement during 20XX or 20XX+1. Our goal is to support fisheries and generate information that is needed to management decision-making. Would you like to participate?*

*1. Yes [Continue]*

*2. No [Thank and terminate]*

*[If yes] Schedule interview time and location.*