

Social and Economic Survey of Hired Captains and Crew in West Coast Commercial Fisheries

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)



What is the purpose of the survey?

This survey is an effort by the NOAA Fisheries Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers to assess the current social and economic conditions of commercial fishing crews (including hired captains) in the West Coast States for which little is known. Although this will be the first time the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers are conducting this survey for West Coast states, it has been conducted twice for Northeast states and once for Southeast states. Subsequent surveys will allow for comparisons to determine how and why commercial crew working conditions may have changed over time. Data to be collected include demographic information on crew, wage calculations systems, well-being, fishing practices, job satisfaction, job opportunities, and attitudes toward fisheries management.

Why does your participation matter?

We simply do not know much about the experiences of commercial fishing crew members and yet they are a critical part of the commercial fishing industry. The majority of economic and social information collected has tended to focus on vessel owners. The results of this survey will not only help fisheries managers understand what is going on in crew members' lives but also the impacts of management decisions on commercial crew. Your participation is extremely valuable in helping improve and shape fishery management decisions.

What type of information is being collected?

Social and economic information will be collected from commercial crew. Examples of information collected on the survey include: demographic information, job opportunities, job satisfaction, wage system calculations, and well-being.

Who are we asking to participate?

Survey participants include commercial crew in the West Coast states. Since there is no database of registered crew, participants will be intercepted on the docks at major ports.

Who is conducting this survey?

NOAA Fisheries Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers are conducting this survey. We conduct applied economic and sociocultural research on the management of commercial and recreational fisheries. It is our commitment to perform independent, relevant, and accessible research aimed at providing useful input to the decision-making process in fisheries management.

When is this survey being conducted?

The survey will be conducted once in the next three years and will take approximately three-four months to complete for all West Coast states.

How long will this survey take?

The survey will take **approximately 15-20 minutes** to complete. However, times may vary.

How do I benefit from participating?

Information you share will be anonymous and combined with data from other respondents. It will be used, in aggregate form, in an **assessment to evaluate the current social and economic conditions of commercial fishing crews**.

How will I be sure my data is anonymous?

Data collected will be kept anonymous and will not be released for public use except in aggregate statistical form without identification as to its source. Participation or lack of participation in the survey will remain anonymous. All economic data will be aggregated into statistical form for all reports.

If you have any questions, contact:

Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Karma Norman

karma.norman@noaa.gov
(206) 419-1069

Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Aaron Mamula

aaron.mamula@noaa.gov
(831) 420-3956

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Expiration Date: XX/XX/202X

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Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Karma Norman, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, (206) 419-1069, karma.norman@noaa.gov or Aaron Mamula, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, (831) 420-3956, aaron.mamula@noaa.gov.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

*In this survey, please tell us about your fishing in the last year.
The information you provide will remain private and you will not be identified with
your answers.*

INTERVIEW INFORMATION

- 1 Interviewer's Name: _____
- 2.1 Date: _____
- 2.2 Start Time: _____
- 2.3 End Time: _____
3. Location of Interview: _____

INFORMATION ABOUT FISHING ACTIVITIES

4. Are you currently working as a hired captain or hired crew member, full time or part time, on one or more commercial fishing vessels?

1. Yes
2. No (discontinue interview)

5. What fisheries do you target? Of these, which do you consider your primary fishery in terms of income?

West Coast Fisheries	Check ALL That Apply	Primary Fishery (Check ONE Only)
Federal, Groundfish		
Mothership Pacific Hake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shorebased Pacific Hake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Hake trawl (midwater and bottom)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sablefish, primary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other non-trawl groundfish, limited entry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other non-trawl groundfish, open access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Groundfish, unsure which sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal, Coastal Pelagics		
Squid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mackerel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sardines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Coastal Pelagics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal, Highly Migratory Species		
Tuna, albacore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuna, other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swordfish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salmon, Federal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dungeness Crab	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lobster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prawns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pink Shrimp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California halibut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nearshore groundfish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Salmon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alaskan Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational Charter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. On your primary vessel, with what type of contract were you employed?

- a. Independent contractor (receive 1099 MISC for taxes)
- b. Full-time employee (receive W-2 for taxes)
- c. Other: _____

7. Do you have any other formal qualifications, including licenses, certificates or training, related to your commercial fishing activities?

- a. Yes (Specify): _____
- b. No

8. Where is your primary place of residence?

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

9. What port did you primarily work out of in the last year?

Port _____ State _____ Country _____

10. Are any members of your family (for example, parents, children, siblings, uncles/aunts, cousins, in-laws) involved in commercial fishing or other fishing-related activities (for example, book-keeping, provisioning vessels, marketing)?

- a. YES
- b. NO

11. How long have you been involved in commercial fishing? If less than a year, how many months?

_____ YEARS

_____ MONTHS

12. How many generations of your family have fished commercially including yourself?

_____ Generations

Within your primary fishery, consider the vessel you worked on the most in the last year. Please answer the following questions based on your fishing activities on that primary vessel.

13. What was the main port of landing for that vessel in the last year?

Port _____ State _____ Country _____

14. How many days (24 hour periods) does a typical trip last before returning to port?

_____ Days

15. What was the average size of the crew in the last year (including the captain)?

_____ Members

16. How many hours per day (24 hour period) did you usually work while on a fishing trip?

_____Hours

17. Was the vessel you worked on most in the last year owner-operated? (Please circle one response).

- a. YES
- b. NO
- c. DON'T KNOW

In the following questions please tell us how revenues and expenses are distributed amongst crew.

18. For your current vessel, how were you paid?

- a. A share system: revenues and expenses were shared between the boat and crew (CONTINUE)
- b. Other (e.g., per trip, hourly), please specify: (SKIP TO Q14)

19. For share systems, what were the typical percentages distributed to the boat (the vessel owner) and crew?

_____ % Boat (owner) share

_____ % Crew share

_____ Don't Know

20. For share systems, which trip expenses were usually deducted? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- a. Fuel/Oil
- b. Ice
- c. Fishing quota or days-at-sea
- d. Food
- e. General fishing supplies (hooks, bags, totes, gloves, etc.)
- f. Bait
- g. Other _____

In the following questions, please tell us about your fishing activities and employment on your primary vessel.

21. What was your position on the vessel in the last year? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY).

- a. Captain
- b. Deck hand
- c. Engine mechanic
- d. Cook
- e. Other (please specify): _____

22. Which of the following was the first crew position you ever had when you began fishing?

- a. Captain
- b. Deck hand
- c. Engine Mechanic
- d. Cook
- e. Other (please specify): _____

23. How were you hired for the vessel you currently work on? (CHECK ONE RESPONSE)

- a. Word of mouth
- b. Referred by a friend
- c. Related to owner
- d. Related to non-owner crew member (may include hired captain)
- e. Previous work with the same vessel
- f. Advertisement
- g. Other _____

24. How difficult was it for you to find employment on your vessel? (CHECK ONE RESPONSE)

- a. Very easy
- b. Easy
- c. Neither easy nor difficult
- d. Difficult
- e. Very difficult

25. As of today, how many years have you worked on your primary vessel?

_____ Years
_____ Months

26. How many different vessel owners did you work for in the last year?

_____ Vessel owners

27. About how many miles do you travel from where you live to where your primary vessel docked for the past year? (Please circle only one response).

_____ Miles

In the following questions, please tell us how you feel about the regulations and management process in your primary fishery.

28. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the rules and regulations in your primary fishery. (CHECK ONE RESPONSE PER ITEM)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. The rules and regulations change so quickly it is hard to keep up.	1	2	3	4	5
b. The fines that are associated with breaking the rules and regulations of my primary fishery are fair.	1	2	3	4	5
c. I feel that the regulations in my primary fishery are too restrictive.	1	2	3	4	5

29. Have you ever participated in any aspect of federal fisheries management (such as attending meetings, writing letters, or serving on a committee)?

- a. YES (CONTINUE)
- b. NO (SKIP TO Q24)

In the following questions, we are interested in commercial fishing as a lifestyle and how satisfied you are.

30. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about fishing as a career. (CHECK ONE ITEM PER RESPONSE)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. Fishing is just a job to me.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Leaving the fishing industry is something that I have considered.	1	2	3	4	5

31. Would you advise a young person to enter fishing?

- a. YES
- b. NO WHY?

32. Would you still be a commercial fisherman if you had your life to live over?

- a. YES
- b. NO WHY?

33. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following items relating to the job of fishing? (CHECK ONE ITEM PER RESPONSE)

	Extrem ely dissatisf ied	Somewh at dissatisfi ed	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Somew hat satisfied	Extrem ely satisfie d
a .	1	2	3	4	5
b .	1	2	3	4	5
c .	1	2	3	4	5
d .	1	2	3	4	5
e .	1	2	3	4	5
f .	1	2	3	4	5
g .	1	2	3	4	5
h .	1	2	3	4	5
i .	1	2	3	4	5

34. In general, how satisfied are you with: (CHECK ONE ITEM PER RESPONSE)

	Extremely dissatisfie d	Somewhat dissatisfie d	Neither satisfied or dissatisfie d	Somewhat satisfied	Extremely satisfied
a. Your life	1	2	3	4	5
b. Your physical health	1	2	3	4	5
c. The overall health of the marine environment	1	2	3	4	5

In the following questions, please tell us about any health insurance you may have.

35. Did you have health insurance in the last year?

- a. YES (CONTINUE)
- b. NO (SKIP TO Q31)

36. Where did the insurance come from?

- a. From my employer (the vessel owner)
- b. From another employer I have
- c. Spouse's/Partner's place of employment
- d. Own Private Insurance
- e. Federal or State Insurance Program
- f. Other

37. ~~In the following questions, ethnicity? Select all that apply and graphically add to the data below.~~
What are your ethnicities, ethnicity? Select all that apply and graphically add to the data below.
crew.

- American Indian or Alaska Native – Enter, for example, Navajo Nation,

Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat
Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, Aztec, Maya, etc.

- Asian – Provide details below.

“ Chinese Asian Indian Filipino

“ Vietnamese Korean Japanese

Enter, for example, Pakistani, Hmong, Afghan, etc.

- “ Black or African American – Provide details below.

“ African American Jamaican Haitian

“ Nigerian Ethiopian Somali

Enter, for example, Trinidadian and Tobagonian, Ghanaian, Congolese, etc.

- “ Hispanic or Latino – Provide details below.

“ Mexican Puerto Rican Salvadoran

“ Cuban Dominican Guatemalan

Enter, for example, Colombian, Honduran, Spaniard, etc.

- Middle Eastern or North African – Provide details below.

“ Lebanese Iranian Egyptian

“ Syrian Iraqi Israeli

Enter, for example, Moroccan, Yemeni, Kurdish, etc.

- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – Provide details below.

“ Native Hawaiian Samoan Chamorro

“ Tongan Fijian Marshallese

Enter, for example, Chuukese, Palauan, Tahitian, etc.

- White – Provide details below.

“ English German Irish

“ Italian Polish Scottish

Enter, for example, French, Swedish, Norwegian, etc.

38. What is your age? _____

39. Gender: (Select all that apply)

- a. Female
- b. Male
- c. Transgender, non-binary, or another gender
- d. Prefer not to answer

40. What is the primary language you speak at home? _____

41. Where were you born?

- a. U.S.: State _____
- b. Outside U.S.: Country _____

42. What is your marital status?

- c. Married
- d. Widowed
- e. Divorced
- f. Separated
- g. Never Married
- h. Living with an unmarried partner

43. How many people lived in your primary household in the last year?

_____ Adults and children under 18

44. Which category best describes the highest level of education that you have completed? (Please circle one response).

- i. Did not complete high school; indicate highest grade completed: _____
- j. High school diploma/equivalency
- k. Associate's/ two year degree
- l. Bachelor's/ four year degree
- m. Graduate degree

45. What percentage does fishing contribute to your annual household income?

_____% (If 100% SKIP to Q44)

46. If you have other sources of household income besides fishing, please list the top three most important sources of income other than fishing for your household.

	Source
Most important	
2 nd most important	
3 rd most important	

47. If your primary fishery has been impacted by a fishery closure implemented in the last two years, how did you respond? Please check only one box

If you were impacted, please indicate what fishery closure. _____

- Was not impacted
- Switched to another fishery
- Fished more in another fishery
- Switched to a job or business other than commercial fishing
- Worked more in a job or business other than commercial fishing
- Both fished more in another fishery and worked more in a job or business other than commercial fishing
- Did not work in either fishery or non-fishery employment during the closure
- Other (describe) _____

48. Given the choice between fishing and an alternative job for which you are qualified, would you prefer fishing or the alternative job if the expected pay for both was the same (check one)?

- Fishing
- Alternative work

49. If you answered "Fishing" in question 42, how much more would the other job have to pay for you to prefer it to fishing? (Please circle one response).

- 1- 10% more
- 11 - 25% more
- 26 - 50% more
- 51 - 100% more
- Greater than 100% more
- I would never choose another job

50. What was your annual fishing income in the last year?

1. Less than \$10,000
2. \$10,000 - \$19,999
3. \$20,000 - \$29,999
4. \$30,000 - \$39,999
5. \$40,000 - \$49,999
6. \$50,000 - \$59,999
7. \$60,000 - \$69,999
8. \$70,000 - \$79,999
9. \$80,000 - \$89,999
10. \$90,000 - \$99,999
11. \$100,000 - \$119,999
12. \$120,000 or more

Your contribution to this effort is greatly appreciated. Thank you