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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 <<contracting firm>> in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. This survey targets vessel owners who (1) participate in the West Coast groundfish, salmon, crab, and shrimp fisheries and (2) do not hold a limited entry permit. This survey was designed through industry collaboration and updates a similar survey conducted during <<last survey year>>. Our goal is to support fisheries management decision-making and to generate information that is required to help meet legal and regulatory requirements.

Data will be collected through in-person or telephone interviews and mail questionnaires. During your interview, the interviewer will ask you the questions on the enclosed questionnaire. The enclosed questionnaire is provided at this time so that you know what information to have available during the interview. You do not need to return the questionnaire prior to the interview. We will contact you by telephone to schedule a time for the interview at your convenience.

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. However, by collecting information from vessel owners like you, we can better understand average fleet characteristics. 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,

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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.