

# The Economic Structure of California's Commercial Fisheries



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June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

A Report in Fulfillment of Contract P0670015, California Department of Fish and Game.

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## **ABSTRACT**

California commercial fishermen generate millions of dollars of ex-vessel revenues annually. However, the economic impacts made by California's commercial fishermen on local and state economies are elusive due to the lack of economic cost data. This project provides fisheries managers, researchers, and stakeholders with the specialized economic modeling tools needed to examine the contribution of commercial fishermen to the economy of California and its coastal regions. To initiate this process, a survey of all California commercial fishermen participating in marine capture fisheries in 2006 was done to collect vessel and fishing-related costs, vessel and participant information, market channel data, and summary opinions on fishery conditions. Survey data were then merged with California Department of Fish and Game's landing receipt and license datasets, which provided additional information required to estimate unit and item non-responses for all 2006 fishery participants. These comprehensive fleet-wide cost data were then aggregated into 20 operational configurations that together span all of the state's commercial marine fisheries. Summary data on costs and other survey results are provided in the report. One of the main reasons for the survey research, however, was to support the development of a new economic tool for assessing the contribution of California's marine fisheries to coastal communities, multi-county regions, and the overall state. Consequently, the aggregated cost data were used to develop a set of input-output coefficients for each operational configuration, and for county, region, and state-wide spatial groupings. The result of this work is the California Ocean Fish Harvester Economic (COFHE) model, a customized impact assessment model built on the IMPLAN impact assessment system. Supplementing this report are the COFHE models (in IMPLAN format) and Excel-based "look-up" tables that can be used by non-IMPLAN experts to estimate economic impacts related to California's commercial fisheries. Both sets of supplemental materials are available from the Marine Region of the California Department of Fish and Game.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The scope of a survey and impact modeling project covering all of California's commercial marine fisheries is quite large, and there are many people to thank.

We are grateful to our project manager, Terry Tillman (California Department of Fish and Game), for articulating the study's data requirements, providing resources, participating in key decisions, and offering helpful comments on an earlier draft of this report. We are also thankful for the capable research assistance provided by HSU students Carmen King and Chad St. John.

We are grateful to all those who participated in various port meetings, telephone conferences, and other forms of input in the early development stages of the survey. Among them we would like to thank Orlando Amoroso, Ed Cobarruvias (Ventura Dock Master), Carrie Culver (California Sea Grant), Peter Halmay (San Diego Watermen's Association), Mick Kronman (Santa Barbara Harbor Master), Oscar Pena (Ventura Port District), Carrie Pomeroy (CA Sea Grant), John Richards (California Sea Grant), Pam Sanderson (Ventura Harbor Marina Master), Mark Tognazzini, Craig Fusaro (Joint Oil Fisheries Liaison), Mike Wagner, Kip Whited, and Mike Zamboni.

We would like to thank those who provided a technical review of early draft versions of the survey. Among those are Larry Collins (San Francisco Crab Boat Owner Association), Chris Dewees (California Sea Grant), Terry Tillman, Dennis King, and Barbara Emley.

We are very grateful for those fishery organization leaders who formally endorsed the survey. They include Vern Goehring (California Sea Urchin Commission), Zeke Grader (Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations), and Diane Pleschner-Steele (California Wetfish Producers Association).

We would like to extend our thanks to all the California commercial fishermen who participated in the survey. We would also like to thank those who took the time to help us "ground-truth" the raw survey data. In this regard we would like to thank Tommy Acona (Fisherman's Marketing Association), David Allan, Dave Bitts, Don Brockman, Larry Collins (San Francisco Crab Boat Owner's Association), Neil Guglielmo, Nick Jurlin, Pete Leipzig (Fisherman's Marketing Association), Jeff Maassen, Mike McCorkle (Southern California Trawlers Association), Chris Miller (California Lobster and Trap Fisherman's Association), Wayne Moody, and Rich Young (Crescent City Harbor Master).

We extend our appreciation to Joyce Cantrell (King and Associates), Jim Kirkley (Virginia Institute of Marine Science), and Eric Thunberg (NOAA NMFS) for their valuable input and advice regarding the development of the COFHE model.

Cover art by Alexandra Hackett.