



the Mail Buoy

A publication of the Association for Professional Observers
P.O. Box 30167, Seattle, WA 98103 (206) 547-4228
E-mail: apo_obs@hotmail.com Website: <http://www.apo-observers.org>



June COUNCIL/AP Update

Well, another Council meeting has come and gone. After being on the AP for over a year now I feel that I can finally follow and participate in issues with some intelligence and knowledge. For this issue of the Mail Bouy I'd like to update you on recent topics that directly affect, or have potential to affect, observers. The Council's agenda has been very full, for a complete rundown I suggest you check out the Council Newsletters posted on its website: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/Newsletters/newsltr.htm>.

Observer Program

This topic was not discussed at the June Council meeting but was intially taken up at the April meeting. The following is taken directly from the Council's April 2003 Newsletter (why reinvent the wheel):

The Council reviewed a draft schedule and analytical outline to restructure the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program based on the recommendations of the Council and the Observer Advisory Committee. The proposed action would be to restructure the Observer Program design and funding mechanism to address the data quality and disproportionate cost issues resulting from the current program structure. Within the analytical outline, the Council reviewed a list of decision points that will be refined and developed into formal alternatives and options for analysis. The primary alternative would propose a new funding mechanism and program structure for all Gulf of Alaska groundfish vessels and processors under which observer coverage would be financed using a combination of user fees and Federal funding. This would include a suboption to extend the new

Con't on page 2

APO Activities

WANTED: APO OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Association for Professional Observers is soliciting recommendations for Officer candidates until October 30, 2003. The current APO Board of Director's (BOD) will compile the nominations and provide ballots to the voting members by November 10, 2003. Votes will be accepted via regular and electronic mail; more details will be provided with the actual ballots. The ballots must be received by January 10, 2004 and will be counted at the Annual Board meeting in January. Only Observer members have voting privileges (i.e. **you must be a current member to vote so pay those member dues**).

The officers of APO include a President, a Vice-President(s), Secretary and a Treasurer. Any two (2) or more offices may be held by the same person except the offices of President and Secretary. The officers of APO are elected annually by the Observer Members, and each shall serve at the pleasure of the Observer Members. Each officer shall hold office until his successor shall have been duly elected. The "official" duties of the officers are within our bylaws (<http://www.apo-observers.org/bylaws.pdf>) and should

Con't on page 4

In this issue

Council Update	1
APO Activities	1
Observer News	5
National Observer Program Update	6
Alaska Fisherman's Union Info	7
Job Opportunities	7
Misc. Notes and Tidbits	8

COUNCIL/AP Update *continued from page 1*
requirements in the BSAI. The Council directed staff to begin developing a preliminary analysis for review in October 2003. Initial review is currently scheduled program to cover all groundfish vessels that currently have less than 100% coverage for February 2004, with final action in April. Staff contact is Nicole Kimball.

What does all this mean? In my opinion it means that for the first time since the Research Plan was squashed there is an opportunity to make some sweeping and positive changes to the Observer Program. There are many people who think I am overly optimistic, if not naïve, but without enthusiasm and a true belief in our potential nothing will ever get done. NOAA fisheries and Council staff put together a great discussion paper "Observer Program Restructuring (March 2003)" that has given us a base to work from. It was this document that was reviewed in April. A copy of the report can be obtained by contacting the Council office at 907-271-2809 or email Maria.Shawback@noaa.gov

Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU)

If your experiences have been anything like mine, you've gotten quite an earful from Captain's about this one. The concerns I've heard on the boats range from "We'll be put out of business if we have to keep everything", "It's ridiculous to keep these tiny fish" and always a favorite "We got fined for it because of the last observer". Well these concerns have not gone unrecognized by NOAA Fisheries or the Council and amendments to the original program have been batted around since its inception. The original goal of IR/IU was to phase in the 100% retention of flatfish in the Bering Sea. Realizing that this was an unreasonable goal, it has been abandoned with other programs being developed to take its place. Although all boats will continue to retain 100% pollock and cod, a phased in Groundfish Retention Standard [GRS – defined as the percentage of total groundfish catch retained] for non-AFA CPs in the Bering Sea is being developed for implementation in January 2005. Without getting into all the details one of the monitoring measures passed by the Council at this last meeting was

'All regulated vessels are required to use NOAA Fisheries-certified scales to determine total catch and either maintain 200 percent observer coverage for verification that all fish are being weighed, or use an alternative scale-use verification plan approved by NOAA Fisheries. PSC [prohibited

species catch – you know the big 5] would not be included in the calculations for GRS compliance.' So what does this mean? Well, looks like some more flow scales and potentially 2 observers on non-AFA trawl catcher processors. However, 2005 is a long way off and who knows what changes may occur by then. Also, other measures are being analyzed such as the formation of coops for bycatch and sector bycatch allocations. When all is said and done, the program may look entirely different. There is a long and involved history regarding this issue; if you would like to know more I suggest reading the Council newsletters on the website.

Vessel Incentive Program (VIP)

Here is another one that has dominated many wheelhouse and galley conversations. This is one of the reasons we count crab and salmon, why presorting is a concern and why Captains watch our bycatch numbers so closely. Violation of the VIP program results in enforcement fines. I have also heard concerns that keeping prohibits on board for an observer to sample weakens their viability and so is contrary to the goal of returning prohibited species unharmed. Excerpt from the June newsletter:

'The Council has initiated an amendment to repeal the vessel incentive program (VIP), given concerns about the effectiveness of the program and potential for additional administrative burden due to increased legal standards.'

I, for one, am comfortable seeing this program repealed as it has been the cause of many uncomfortable moments for observers with little to no positive return for the fishery resource.

Gulf of Alaska Rationalization

Oh where to begin on this one.... Straight from the Council's June meeting:

Purpose and need statement for Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Rationalization

The Council is proposing a new management regime that rationalizes groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska west of 140 degrees longitude and rockfish bycatch east of 140 degrees longitude. A rationalization program includes policies and management measures that may increase the economic efficiency of GOA groundfish fisheries by providing economic incentives to reduce excessive capital investment. These management measures would apply to those species, or groups of species identified by the Council as benefiting from additional

economic incentives that may be provided by rationalization. This rationalization program would not modify the hook-and-line sablefish fishery currently prosecuted under the IFQ Program, except for management of associated groundfish bycatch.

The purpose of the proposed action is to create a management program that improves conservation, reduces bycatch, and provides greater economic stability for harvesters, processors, and communities. A rationalization program could allow harvesters and processors to manage their operations in a more economically efficient manner. Rationalization of GOA fisheries should eliminate the derby-style race for fish by allocating privileges and providing economic incentives to consolidate operations and improve operational efficiencies of remaining operators. Because rationalization programs can have significant impacts on fishing dependent communities, this program should address community impacts and seek to provide economic stability or create economic opportunity in fishery dependent communities.

Rationalizing GOA fisheries may improve stock conservation by creating incentives to eliminate wasteful fishing practices, improve management practices, and provide mechanisms to control and reduce bycatch and gear conflicts. Rationalization programs may also reduce the incentive to fish during unsafe conditions. Management of GOA groundfish has grown increasingly complicated due to impositions of measures to protect Steller sea lions, increased participation by fishermen displaced from other fisheries such as Alaska salmon fisheries and the requirements to reduce bycatch and address Essential Fish Habitat requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). These changes in the fisheries are frustrating management of the resource, raising attendant conservation concerns. These events are also having significant, and at times, severe adverse social and economic impacts on harvesters, processors, crew, and communities dependent on GOA fisheries. Some of the attendant problems include:

1. reduced economic viability of the harvesters, processors, and GOA communities
2. high bycatch,
3. decreased safety,
4. reduced product value and utilization,
5. jeopardy to community stability and their historic reliance on groundfish fishing and processing,
6. limited ability of the fishery harvesters and processors to respond to changes in the ecosystem

7. limited ability to adapt to MSA requirements to minimize bycatch and protect habitat,
8. limited ability to adapt to changes to other applicable law (i.e., Endangered Species Act).

All of these factors have made achieving the goals of the National Standards in the MSA difficult and encourage reevaluation of the status quo management of the GOA groundfish fisheries. The management tools in the current GOA groundfish FMP do not provide managers with the ability to improve the economic efficiency of the fishery and effectively solve the excess harvesting capacity and resource allocation problems in the GOA groundfish fisheries. The Council has determined that some form of rationalization program is warranted.

Essentially what this will do is give a quota allocation based on fishing history to the harvesters. The quota may or may not be linked to processors and or cooperatives. In a nutshell it will be similar to other quota programs like Halibut/Sablefish, AFA and the yet to be approved Crab program, hopefully incorporating lessons learned. Again, this issue is still in it's infancy and will see many changes before final action. My explanation is overly simplistic and I don't want to belittle it. The council is trying to make good decisions that take into account many stakeholders, incorporate Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standards, protect fishermen, processors and communities while not squeezing anyone out of the mix; oh and let's not forget the resource. It is a delicate balancing act that will have a profound effect on many people, including observers. We too are stakeholders. If there is no fishing, if fishing effort is greatly reduced, then we, too, may be out of a job.

If you would like more information or have any input that you would like me to pass along at the Council, please feel free to call or email me. I am especially looking for observer input on Observer Program Reauthorization. 907-350-7650 or tracey@ammagic.com

Take care and be safe, Tracey

Managing Our Nation's Marine Fisheries - Past, Present, and Future

Mark your calendar and save the date to attend the first-ever fisheries

management conference co-sponsored by the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). The conference is open to the public and will be held on November 13-15, 2003, in Washington, D.C. The conference aims to educate the public and the media on the fishery management process and current management research initiatives, and to help bridge the gap between perception and reality regarding management of our nation's fisheries. The conference also will provide a forum for information exchange and examination of a wide range of perspectives on future management and marine research directions. Registration will be free of charge, although there will be a registration fee for the evening reception and banquet. For more info: <http://www.managingfisheries.org/>.



APO Officer Nominations, *con't from page 1*
be read and understood before agreeing to run for office. Below is the non-legalese version of the duties and expectations for each officer.

President. The President is the principal executive officer of APO and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of APO. The President shall attempt to preside at all meetings of the members. Currently, the meetings are held in Seattle, WA and are scheduled during the major NMFS briefing and debriefing seasons. It is the goal of the APO to increase the meeting frequency (including meetings during the three week trainings) and observer member participation. If the person elected is not local to the Seattle area or is deployed, the President should coordinate with other BOD members, officers or members to ensure these meetings continue at regular intervals. The President is responsible to attend and participate in all meetings of the Board of Directors. These meetings may be held in person or via telephone conference. The President has authority to sign any official APO communications; and in general shall perform all duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time. The President shall oversee any contract work performed by members. The time commitment could range from 0 to 10 hours per week depending on time of year.

Vice-President(s). In the absence of the President, the Vice-President (s) shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Vice-President shall attempt to attend the observer member meetings and participate in all BOD meetings (either in person or by phone). The Vice-President shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors. The time commitment could range from 0 to 8 hours per week depending on time of year.

Secretary. The Secretary shall: (a) keep the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings in one or more books provided for that purpose; (b) see that all notices are fully given in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws or as required by law; (c) be custodian of the corporate records; (d) maintain the member database (in MS Access); and (e) in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors. The time commitment could range from 0 to 5 hours per week depending on time of year.

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall: (a) have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of APO; (b) receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to APO from any source whatsoever; (c) deposit all such monies in the name of APO; (d) maintain accounting information; and (e) in general perform all of the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for checking the APO mailbox in Seattle. The time commitment could range from 0 to 2 hours per week.

All officers shall share responsibility for responding to all APO communications (written, email, phone) with members, agency staff and the public.

Send your recommendations for officers by October 30, 2003 to: APO, PO Box 30167, Seattle, WA 98103 or via email: APO@apo-observers.org or apo_obs@hotmail.com. Please have the observers you nominate provide us with a brief summary of their experience, availability and why they want to represent observers. We will post a summary (& photos if you submit them) on our website as well. If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact us either.

Observer Coverage Workshop Summary by Kim Dietrich

A workshop dedicated to issues surrounding observer coverage was held July 29-31, 2003, at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. The workshop was organized into 4 sessions: brief overviews, program-specific concerns, coverage-level motivated research and a roundtable discussion of the issues. Representatives from each NMFS region or science center reviewed their respective observer programs which included a brief statement of objectives, coverage goals and actual coverage, how vessels are selected and in some case how levels were originally determined, and challenges to achieving coverage goals.

What is coverage? Coverage is the monitoring of a proportion of fishing effort which can further be defined by fishing trips, days fished, vessels, sets/hauls, actual biomass.

Coverage varies depending on the program objective. Multiple objectives in a program can have conflicting coverage requirements. Rare event types of monitoring tend to need higher sampling levels than non-rare events to achieve similar precision in estimates. Since most programs had subtle differences in their definitions of coverage, it was suggested that coverage be expressed as a sample size not a percent although the unit of sample size wasn't agreed upon.

Stratification of coverage was another topic. Is it best to break up sample units by time, space, both and at what level? Should coverage be proportional to effort or optimal and what's the difference?

Barriers to achieving coverage? Vessels are small (both a safety and space issue); vessel personnel refuse to take an observer on principle or due to gender ; highly variable budget; high costs; logistics.

Final Recommendations (draft):

- Adoption of the process diagram (Graham Parkes) as a desirable concept for the development and change of observer programs. Diagram included planning, design and finally implementation.
- Each existing OP to initiate the development of "well defined" goals and objectives with associated performance standards.
- Develop a document providing guidance for the development of OP's including practical guidelines on phases of development.
- Emphasize outreach to industry and other constituents and encourage participation in sampling design, implementation and goal development.
- Workshop to explore bias (of all types).

- Develop a directory of potential internal and external resources to assist in analytical aspects of program development
- Develop better access to observer data (e.g., possibly through the internet)
- Recognize that monitoring includes technologies other than humans

Graham Parkes of MRAG Americas is responsible for compiling the official workshop minutes which should be available soon.



OBSERVER NEWS

The ObserverNet.org bulletin board is going strong. Observernet Forums is an online observer message board. You post something, and people browse and reply.

- We have both Public discussion areas as well as Private Observer-only forums
- You can keep in contact with other observers no matter where you are
- Reach people that you may not have e-mail addresses for (anyone with access to the forums can read your posts and send you mail)
- Stay up to date with the latest information
- Contract negotiations
- Job Listings
- NMFS and Observer Program News that affects you
- We even host your photos! Post vacation photos, travel stories and other things that have nothing to do with observing!

IFISH II: The Second International Fishing Industry Safety & Health Conference

Suzanne Romain spoke at IFISH II, September 22–24, 2003, in Sitka Alaska. IFISH II was sponsored by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA). Suzanne will also try to get feedback from industry on the types of safety training they recommend for observers boarding their vessels. For details, contact Suzanne at: sromain@hotmail.com or see the update in the next Mail Buoy.

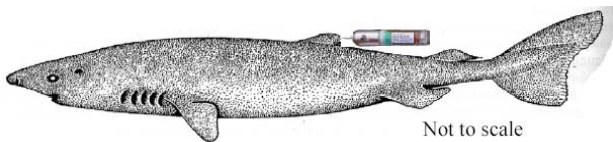
National Observer Program UPDATE

OBSERVER DATA IS WAY COOL!

Have you ever wondered what happens with the data you collect? The APO has updated our links page containing all sorts of publications utilizing observer data. We're very excited about this section and hope that you'll help us update as well since you're the front lines of research occurring in your respective areas.

Send us [updates](#) if you know of others.

http://www.apo-observers.org/Observerweb/Sites/Links_navbar_side/inksfolder/links_obs_data.htm



\$200 REWARD For Electronic Tags on Pacific Sleeper Sharks

NOAA Fisheries' Auke Bay Laboratory is tagging Pacific sleeper sharks in Lynn Canal/Chatham Strait, Southeast Alaska. The $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long electronic tags are attached externally near the dorsal fin of each shark. The electronic tags record depth and temperature. Data from these tags will provide information about Pacific sleeper shark behavior in the sea as well as the marine environmental conditions they experience. Pacific Sleeper sharks are occasionally encountered in commercial blackcod and halibut longline fisheries. NOAA Fisheries would like to alert Southeast Alaskan commercial longliners to the presence of electronic archival tags on Pacific sleeper sharks in the Lynn Canal/Chatham Strait region. If you recover an electronic tag, please record the recovery location, retain the tag, and contact: Dean Courtney, National Marine Fisheries Service, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Hwy Juneau, AK 99801, Call: 907-789-6006 Or :907-789-6060, Fax: 907-789-6608, E-mail: dean.courtney@noaa.gov.



HUMRo Survey Continues...

The NMFS National Observer Program has contracted with HumRRO (Human Resources Research Organization) to conduct a nationwide, **CONFIDENTIAL** survey with the purpose of improving the support provided to observers. Support includes:

- improving/standardizing debriefing processes
- enhancing observer training
- fostering better communication between observers, regional observer programs, and the NMFS National Observer Program
- better response to incidents that observers report

Other outcomes might be (depending on the input observers provide):

- reducing redundancy encountered by observers (having to record data in multiple places)
- increasing the likelihood of analysis and action being taken based on data reported by observers

This is the first such survey to target observers nationwide. URL:

<http://www.humro.org/fisheries/index.html>

Fisheries Observer Logo T-Shirts Available



Ray Troll (of "Spawn Til You Die" fame) and Karen Lybrand have teamed up on a new "Fisheries Observer" logo, designed especially for NMFS observers. A limited number of t-shirts are

being distributed by NMFS to long-term observers in appreciation of all the hard work and dedication that observers demonstrate in performing their job. Additional t-shirts with the "Fisheries Observer" logo are also available for sale at the web site <http://www.promoplace.com/6266/stores/NOAA>.



ALASKA FISHERMAN'S UNION INFO

Suzanne Romain put together a short survey to facilitate observer needs for the next round of contract negotiations. The survey link is on APO's website (www.apo-observers.org) It shouldn't take more than 10-15 minutes to complete and will be posted until October 30. A summary of results will be published in the next Mail Buoy.

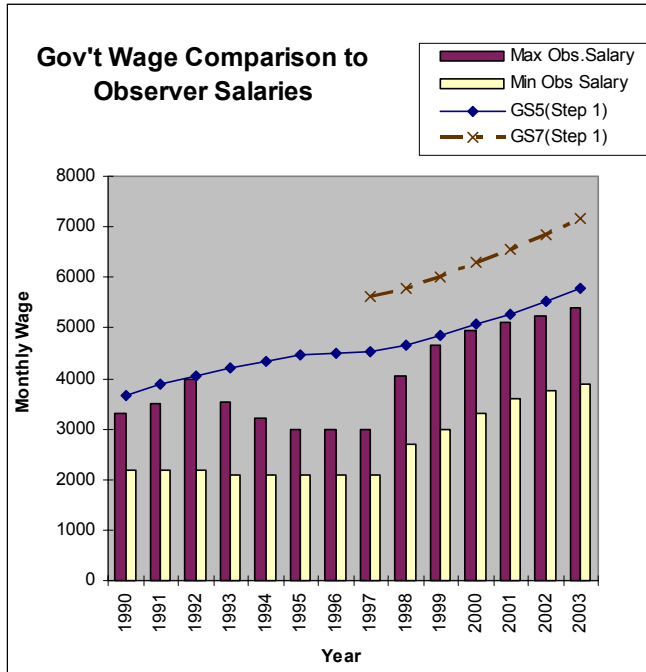


Figure above are observer field pay based on Federal rates for Seattle, 12 hours/day * 7 days/week. Does not account for any bonus pay.

For any union or contract related problems or questions, please contact Duke Bryan or Harold Holten at:

Alaska Fisheries Division-UIW

721 Sesame St., #1C

Anchorage, AK 99503

Ph: 907-561-4988

Toll free: 1-877-471-3425

Duke Bryan in Tacoma: 253-272-5551 or 253-272-7774

Email: dukeworks2@aol.com

The latest versions of AOI, NWO and SWI union contracts can be found at the following URL:

http://www.apo-observers.org/union_page.html

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The APO is currently posting jobs on the Observer Forums site:

<http://www.observernet.org> . If you would like to volunteer to post for us, please contact apo@apo-observers.org. Time slots of one month or more would be extremely helpful. If you don't have posting privileges but would like to submit a job, we can post it for you by sending the announcement to jobs@apo-observers.org.

Fishery Biologist, ZP-0482-02, Vacancy number: EFC-3082101.ELC, Woods Hole, MA, Closes: 11/04/2003. The incumbent will assist in conducting a broad array of studies on the ecology of marine fish with specie focus on the food web of the Northwest Atlantic continental shelf ecosystem. Identifies marine fish and invertebrates found along the NW Atlantic continental shelf of the U.S. Also identifies stomach contents of fish in this ecosystem. Conducts quality control assessments, audits and edits of various current and historic data sets. Assists with the analysis of food habits data. Prepares technical reports, presentations and peer reviewed publications on fish diets and related trophic ecology based on the analyses. Assists supervisor in editing, developing, writing and proofreading proposals, reports and manuscripts. FMI:

https://www.jobs.doc.gov/cool/doc/APP_VAC_LIST?F_A_G_ID=11.

Fishery Biologist, ZP-0482-02, Vacancy number: WSWR030465.CII.BS, Long Beach, CA, Closes 10/21/03. This position is located in the NMFS Southwest Regional (SWR) Office, in the Sustainable Fisheries Division. Major duties include: manages assigned Southwest Region responsibilities pertaining to actions of the Pacific Fishery Management Council under the Magnuson-Stevens Act; serves as regional expert on the Pacific Council=s groundfish and coastal pelagics management plans; serves as regional technical representative to the Highly Migratory Species Plan Management Team and Advisory Subpanel relating to implementation of the HMS Fishery Management Plan and associated amendments and measures; assists in completion of documentation for regulatory actions; coordinates Sustainable Fisheries Division objectives and actions with objectives and actions of the State of California; coordinates Region=s responses to assigned requests for policy reviews and inputs; and completes actions for implementation of non-MSFMCA actions. FMI:

https://www.jobs.doc.gov/cool/doc/APP_VAC_LIST?F_A_G_ID=11.

Marine Biologist (Debriefing, Observer Program), GS-0401-07, Vacancy number: WAKC030546.C07.JN, Seattle,

WA, Closes: 12/1/03. The employee will help ensure that the quality of data collected and recorded by Alaska groundfish observers meets Program expectations. The responsibilities include evaluating observer work performance in writing and recommending further training, advising observers at sea using custom software applications, editing observer data, and advising observers on program and sampling policies. The employee will assist observers with reports concerning their cruises such as potential violations to fishery regulations. The employee will also offer potential solutions to observers about challenging sampling situations. The employee may also assist with observer training, including conducting observer briefings and teaching new trainee presentations. The chosen applicant will handle a variety of tasks in support of the Observer Program operation, including interacting with members of the fishing industry to address data collection concerns, conducting observer sample station inspections, providing input on program policies, assuring compliance with fishery management plans, and working to enhance the processes that impact the quality of data obtained by observers and used by a suite of clients. The employee will work and communicate with all Program staff to help ensure data integrity and consistency. The employee may be assigned to Alaskan field stations to assist staff there in advising and aiding observers, and may be required to go to sea as an observer or with other NFS staff on research or commercial oriented cruises. FMI:

https://www.jobs.doc.gov/cool/doc/APP_VAC_LIST?F_A_G_ID=11.

Coded-Wire Tagging & Mass Marking Program

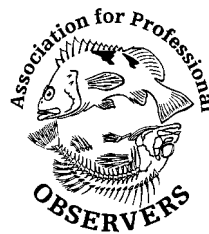
Manager, Olympia, WA, Closes: 10/24/03. This position manages the Coded-Wire Tagging (CWT) and Mass Marking programs for the agency. The CWT Application Unit, with a staff of eight biologists, applies coded-wire tags to 20,000,000 juvenile fish each year, as well as oversees the mass marking of approximately 60,000,000 juvenile fish at WDFW hatcheries throughout the state. The Coded-Wire Tag Recovery Lab extracts and decodes coded-wire tags from over 100,000 adult salmon each year and is responsible for coordinating, distributing and maintaining the agency's inventory of electronic sampling equipment consisting of over 300 electronic wands and detectors. FMI:

<http://hr.dop.wa.gov/statejobs/bulletins/0exempt.htm>.

Additional jobs posted by the American Fisheries Society (<http://www.fisheries.org/jobs.shtml>), American Society for Limnology and Oceanography (<http://www.aslo.org/employment/jobs.html>), and Texas A&M (http://wildweb.tamu.edu/jobs/job_view.cfm).

MISC. NOTES & TIDBITS

NEW MEMBERSHIP: if you want to become a member of the APO, please write, e-mail or call Kim Dietrich. An annual donation of \$15 is required. Donations are used to publish and distribute the *Mail Buoy* and to pay for costs of testifying at Council meetings out of state. Also, if you are not an observer but would like to receive your own copy of the *Mail Buoy*, there is an annual charge of \$10. The *Mail Buoy* is also available electronically either directly from the APO or via our website.



APO T-SHIRTS are available. Size options: L or XL. Color options: Black & a few turquoise, but others can be ordered. The price is \$15 (sales tax included).

WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

North Pacific FMC: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>
Pacific FMC: <http://www.pcouncil.org/>

National Observer Program (NOP) Website:
<http://www.st.nmfs.gov/nop/index.html>

North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program:
<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/observers/default.htm>

[ObserverNet: http://www.observernet.org/](http://www.observernet.org/)

[Alaska Marine Safety Education Association: http://www.amsea.org/](http://www.amsea.org/)



BOOKS

Publications utilizing or highlighting observer data:

Cox, David C. 2003. Plan to manage risks and minimize liabilities associated with the deployment of contracted fisheries observers. Final Report by QuanTech, Inc. on NOAA Contract No. 50-DGNF-1-90089. Available from the NOP.

Hansford, D.C. and V.R. Cornish (Eds.). 2003. Fisheries Observers Insurance, Liability and Labor Workshop. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-59. 102 p. Available from the NOP.

West Coast Observer Program Report featured in AFMA Newsletter. <http://www.afma.gov.au/> Select Publications > Newsletters > 2003 Vol. 1(2)

Seabird Bycatch in the Falkland Islands featured in AFMA Newsletter. <http://www.afma.gov.au/> Select Publications > Newsletters > 2003 Vol. 1(2)

Other interesting fisheries publications:

Davis, M.W & C.H. Ryer. 2003. Understanding Fish Bycatch Discard And Escapee Mortality, AFSC Quarterly Report. 9p.
<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Quarterly/jfm03/featurejfm03.pdf>

Horizontal Longline Fishing - Methods and Techniques: A Manual for Fishermen by S. Beverly, L. Chapman and W. Sokimi. The main purpose of the manual is to introduce the horizontal longline fishing method to Pacific Island fishermen, as well as to assist those currently involved to improve their fishing success, particularly in commercial or semi-commercial situations. The manual is intended to act as a guide to the principles and techniques of good horizontal tuna longline fishing, for use by fishermen who want to start, refine or broaden their skills. Environmental and conservation issues and concerns have been included to raise awareness and to present ways to minimise impacts on unwanted species or the environment as a result of horizontal tuna longline fishing activities.

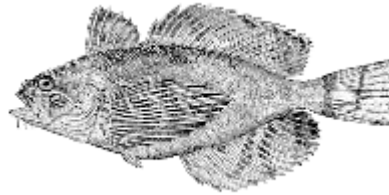
A further aim of the manual is to serve as a resource in formal training activities carried out by the SPC fisheries programme as well as national fisheries development agencies and extension officers.

Available online:
<http://www.spc.int/coastfish/Sections/Development/FDSPublications/FDSManuals/HLL/index.htm>

Watling, Dick. 2003. Interactions between seabirds and Pacific Islands' fisheries, particularly the tuna fisheries. Final Report to the Secretariate of the Pacific Community from Environment Consultants Fiji Ltd. HOF3/Information Paper 10, 37 pp.
<http://www.spc.int/coastfish/Reports/HOF3/E-IP10-HOF3.pdf>

The Fisheries Co-management Experience: Accomplishments, Challenges and Prospects. 2003. Edited by: Douglas Clyde Wilson, Poul Degnbol and Jesper-Raakaer Nielsen. The book is available

on the Kluwer website:
<http://www.wkap.nl/prod/b/1-4020-1427-9>



THINGS TO DO (Seattle):

UW School of Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences (SAFS) Quantitative Seminar every Friday, 12:30-1:20pm, Rm. 203, Fishery Sciences Building, 1122 Boat St.

See:

<http://staff.washington.edu/lflynn/quantsem/qssched.html> for more information.

UW SAFS Department Seminars, every Thursday, 4:00-5:00 pm, Rm. 102, Fisheries Science Bldg.

<http://www.fish.washington.edu/seminars/>
10/16, Anne Hollowed, AFSC, NOAA Fisheries, Ecosystem Effects of Fishing

Fisheries-Oceanography Coordinated Investigations (FOCI) Lunchtime Seminar Series. Thursdays, Noon, Bldg 4, Rm. 2039. For topics see

www.pmel.noaa.gov/foci/seminar.html

Northwest Fisheries Science Center's Weekly Monster Jam Seminar, Thursdays, 11 a.m.,

<http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/events/monster.cfm>

10/16 Dr. Andy A. Rosenberg, College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, U of New Hampshire.

Managing to the Margins: Shifting Baselines and Other 'Catchy' Phrases

Conferences & Workshops

California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (**CalCOFI**) **Conference**, Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California 5-7 November 2003, FMI:

<http://www.calcofi.org/conference/conference.html>

Managing Our Nation's Marine Fisheries – Past, Present, and Future

November 13-15, 2003, Washington, D.C. For more info: <http://www.managingfisheries.org/>.

Pacific Seabird Group 31st Annual meeting, January 21-25, 2003, La Paz, Baja California Sur, México. FMI: <http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org/>.

13th Western Groundfish Conference, February 9-13, 2004, Victoria, BC, Canada. FMI: <http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/groundfish/wgc2004/welcome.htm>.

4th World Fisheries Congress, May 2-6, 2004, Vancouver, BC, Canada. FMI: <http://www.worldfisheries2004.org/home.htm>.

3rd International Albatross and Petrel Conference, August 23-27, 2004, Montevideo, Uruguay. FMI: <http://www.iapc2004.com/>.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS/E-MAIL

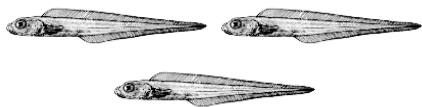
APO General apo_obs@hotmail.com

Suzanne Romain (Pres) sromain@hotmail.com
 Kelly Van Wormer (VP) akfishsticks@hotmail.com
 Gillian Stoker (VP) apo_obs@hotmail.com
 Jared Bryant (Secretary) on_the_bum_again@yahoo.com
 Kim Dietrich (Treas.) 206-547-4228
apo@apo-observers.org

Liz Mitchell (APO Board) emitch@efn.org
 Tracey Mayhew (contracted) orra@apo-observers.org
 (907) 562-5122

OTC 907-257-2770

NPFMC (Council) 907-271-2809

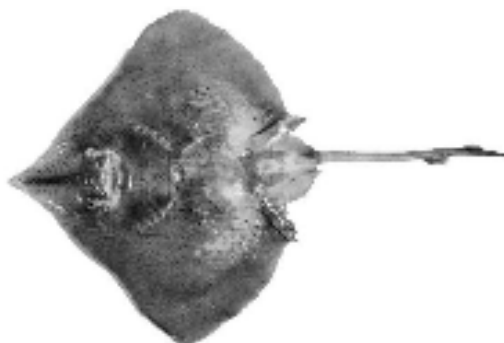


UPCOMING MEETINGS

Nov. 3-7 **Pacific Fishery Management Council**: San Diego, CA, <http://www.pcouncil.org/>

Nov 20-22. **Fish Expo Northwest Workboat**, Seattle WA, <http://www.fishexposeattle.com/>

Dec. 8 North Pacific Fishery Management Council: Anchorage, AK, <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/>



BRIEFING & TRAINING SCHEDULE

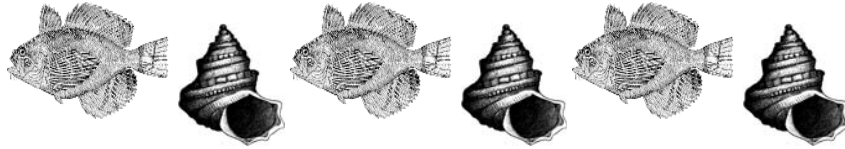
Visit <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/observers/schedules.htm> for more up to date information on groundfish training & briefing.

DATE	TYPE	Location
Oct 13-16	L2	Anchorage
Oct 17	1 day	Anchorage
Oct 22	2 day	Seattle
Oct 23	1 day	Seattle
Oct 29	1 day	Anchorage
Nov 3	1 day	Seattle
Nov 10-13	4 day	Anchorage
Nov 10-13	L2	Anchorage
Nov 13	2 day	Anchorage
Nov 14	1 day	Anchorage
Nov 20	1 day	Seattle
Nov 21	1 day	Anchorage

**INTERESTED IN WRITING/PUBLISHING
THE MAIL BUOY or doing other APO tasks?**

Volunteers needed—contact Suzanne, Kim, Jared or Kelly. We're always looking for extra help with letter writing/editing, insurance research,

grant writing, database & website updates. The **SUBMISSION DEADLINE** for the next issue is **November 1, 2003**.



The APO continues to be interested in your ideas - if you have an idea for an article or story, would like to respond to a previous article, or think the APO has overlooked some issues, drop us a letter or call any time. Contributions from all sectors are welcome. **Thanks to Jonathan Wong, Tracey Mayhew, Gillian Stoker & Suzanne Romain** for your articles/comments, your prompt answers to questions, requests for information in electric format, and/or your editing contribution. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. (KD)