



AKFIN News

2011
Issue 1

Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN)
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
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What's New

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1. AKFIN has implemented an Oracle Business Intelligence reporting tool called *Answers*. *AKFIN Answers* is a pure web based environment that allows authorized users access to prepared reports and to perform ad-hoc queries and analyses of data from AKFIN's analytical database. By accessing *AKFIN Answers*, users can create interactive charts, pivot tables, reports, and dashboards, as well as save, share, modify, format, or integrate data into their own dashboards. (See page 2)
2. AKFIN's comprehensive datasets are standardized Oracle tables that are a consolidation of a wide range of fisheries data drawn from state and federal agencies. These robust datasets include value-added variables that enhance the usefulness of the tables by assisting users in sorting and filtering records, as well as in further defining records and associated entities. (See page 2)
3. AKFIN's vessel database is a consolidation of vessel related data acquired from state and federal source agencies. This dataset includes value-added fields which represent the best available data on vessel attributes and other auxiliary information. (See page 2)
4. AKFIN's Gross Earnings Workgroup, in conjunction with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, has developed new and improved first wholesale product price indices for Alaska groundfish. (See page 3)
5. AKFIN has various projects that are currently under development, including: (1) a community profiling subject area in *AKFIN Answers* which summarizes relevant census, commercial, recreational and subsistence statistics by year and by Alaskan community, (2) proxy ex-vessel values for at-sea fisheries that are primarily prosecuted by catcher processors and that have little to no shoreside deliveries, and (3) comprehensive Alaska fleet profiles. (See page 3)

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AKFIN Answers Reporting Tool

AKFIN Answers is an online reporting tool that provides authorized stock assessors, social scientists, and economists with direct access to AKFIN's analytical database and metadata resources. This tool allows users to access prepared reports and to formulate ad-hoc queries that can be saved and shared with other analysts. To this end, we have deployed several subject areas that directly query the Comprehensive Datasets for catch, production, and observer data, as well as specially designed implementations of survey, census, recreational, and subsistence sources. In addition to ad-hoc queries, analysts can access prepared reports via the AKFIN or user-specific dashboard pages, such as the new Longline Survey dashboard that was implemented for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) stock assessors. This new dashboard not only provides online access to raw survey data, but also views with pre-calculated indices and relative population estimates. To see if you are eligible for an *AKFIN Answers* account, please contact Bob Ryznar, AKFIN's Program Manager.

Comprehensive Datasets

AKFIN's Comprehensive Datasets were developed for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) analysts in order to provide users with an analytical database containing readily available agency data sources. These sources have built-in, value-added variables, such as pricing and value designations, code translations and groupings, as well as additional information on entities and licensing. These datasets include Fish Tickets, Catch Accounting System sources, Commercial Operators Annual Reports (COAR), vessel production reports, and the newly added Comprehensive North Pacific Observer Program Datasets, or NORPAC, sourced from the FMA observer data tables. All of these resources are available to authorized users for ad-hoc query through *AKFIN Answers*.

In order to be optimally relevant, these Comprehensive Datasets are updated regularly. At each refresh, the data is subjected to both validation and metric gathering processes. The validation process verifies that the amount of data received from the source agencies coincides with the data appended to the comprehensive datasets, while the metrics procedure reveals measured changes in the data through time.

Vessel Database

AKFIN maintains a comprehensive vessel database that includes: (1) a record of all commercial fishing vessels in Alaska, current and historic, (2) all relevant vessel data and auxiliary information collected by the state and federal source agencies, (3) a monthly updated log table that records all changes in the Alaska commercial fishing vessels' data, and (4) the various AKFIN value-added fields that provide users with the best and most comprehensive available vessel data. These AKFIN fields include built-in logic that selects the best data from the available source agencies based on business rules, which have been endorsed by the AKFIN advisory committee members. The AKFIN comprehensive vessel table has a hundred and thirteen fields that consist of vessel attributes and auxiliary information, such as state and federal vessel identifiers, vessel length, net and gross tonnage, horsepower, refrigeration, fuel and hold capacity, propulsion, as well as the owner's name, city, state and vessel's home port. AKFIN's comprehensive vessel and vessel log tables are available to users of *AKFIN Answers*.

First Wholesale Product Price Indices

The AFSC and AKFIN's Gross Earnings Workgroup, a committee comprised of state and federal analysts and economists, has developed a new and improved wholesale-product price index (PPI) for Alaska groundfish. These prices are provided in two indices: that is price by processor/species/product/and FMP areas and price by processing sector/species/product/and FMP areas. The pricing procedure compares and matches the Commercial Operators' Annual Report prices with the Weekly Production Reports using a stepwise matching algorithm that starts with the most refined level of aggregation at the individual processor stage, and ends with the least refined level of aggregation, which is the average groundfish price by species group and product code. At present, AKFIN has wholesale-product price indices dating back to 1998. The wholesale-product price index or PPI tables can be downloaded from the dashboard in *AKFIN Answers*, or they can be obtained as wholesale values in the Comprehensive Vessel Weekly Production Report.

Ongoing Developments

Alaska Community Profiling

AKFIN is currently working with social scientists from the AFSC to develop a Community Profiling subject area and dashboard reporting page on *AKFIN Answers*, to be rolled out by the beginning of December 2011. This reporting area is a comprehensive collection of over 400 pre-calculated data points, including relevant census, commercial, recreational and subsistence statistics by year and by Alaskan community.

Fleet Profiles

In collaboration with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, AKFIN is working towards identifying all of the vessel fleets that collectively comprise the Alaska Fisheries. The primary objective of this cooperative project is to classify specific groups of vessels by their respective fisheries. For example, the project will identify the vessels by length, homeport, year of construction and gear, as well as by the vessels' target species, and possibly by their licenses and the entitlements associated with the individual vessels.

Ex-vessel Prices

In conjunction with AFSC and the Gross Earnings Workgroup, AKFIN is re-engineering AFSC's proxy ex-vessel prices into a stored PL/SQL procedure. This process will allow the computation of ex-vessel prices for the at-sea fisheries where there are little to no shoreside deliveries. Once these indices have been completed, these proxy ex-vessel prices will be entered into AKFIN's comprehensive datasets and will be available to the users of *AKFIN Answers*.

AKFIN's Annual Advisory Meeting

In order to set development priorities and goals, AKFIN hosts an annual advisory meeting in Juneau, Alaska during the month of April. AKFIN would like to thank all of the committee members who attended the last AKFIN meeting, and would like to invite interested parties to contact Bob Ryznar for more information about attending the next meeting in the spring of 2012.



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