



AKFIN News

2012
Issue 2

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Enhancements to AKFIN's *Answers*
- 2 The SAFE Economic Status report and economic performance indicators for Alaska catch share programs
- 3 Sport charter logbooks and Statewide Harvest Survey
- 4 Fishing Fleet Profiles
- 5 New and ongoing developments

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1. Enhancements to AKFIN's *Answers*: Two new subject areas: (1) the Longline Survey - Haul View - and (2) the Noncommercial Fisheries Catch. In addition, we are providing a new option for large dataset exports for various dashboard reports, as well as three video tutorials designed to help users navigate the current reports and to customize their reporting experience. (See page 2)
2. 2012 SAFE Economic Status report and economic performance indicators for Alaska catch share programs: AKFIN provides programming, database management, and project management support to the AFSC Economics and Social Sciences Research Program. This support facilitates production of the SAFE Economic Status report and economic performance indicators for North Pacific catch share programs. (See page 2)
3. Sport Charter Logbooks and Statewide Harvest Survey datasets: The ADF&G Division of Sport Fish is supplying AKFIN with annual updates of the data collected by the sport charter logbooks and the Statewide Harvest Survey. (See page 2)
4. Fishing Fleet Profiles: AKFIN has collaborated with the NPFMC to produce a report entitled *Fishing Fleet Profiles* that provides detailed profiles of the fishing fleets that prosecuted the federally managed fisheries off Alaska in the year 2010. In addition to this report, AKFIN has recently completed an addendum that profiles the same fleets using the same criteria, but employing 2011 fisheries data. (See page 3)
5. New and Ongoing Developments: AKFIN is developing a new comprehensive dataset that will offer a holistic view of the Alaska commercial fisheries by collating both state and federal harvest data. As well, AKFIN has launched a new streamlined and user-friendly website, and is working with its partners to develop a standard approach to define and identify fishing trips. Finally, AKFIN's Bob Ryznar is now serving as the Program Manager of AKFIN and PacFIN, and Jean Lee has joined the AKFIN team. (See page 3)

AKFIN's Answers for Your Data Needs

AKFIN's *Answers* is an online reporting tool that provides authorized users with direct access to AKFIN's analytical database and metadata resources. AKFIN's *Answers* is constantly being updated with new data sources and customized functionality. Some of the major changes implemented this year are:

Longline Survey - Haul View - and Noncommercial Fisheries Catch subject areas: The new longline survey source provides haul-level data dating back to 1988, while the new noncommercial fisheries catch source provides a summary of sport fish, subsistence, and survey data that goes back to 1982. These new data sources are available in their own subject areas for building ad-hoc reports and in related reports on the Stock Assessment dashboard.

Large Data Export: AKFIN is offering users a new option on a number of Stock Assessment Longline Survey and Observer dashboard reports that will allow them to download large data exports instantly or at a later time, in the form of zipped .csv files.

AKFIN's *Answers*' Video Tutorials: Three video tutorials that describe (a) how to run a dashboard report, (b) how to perform a large data export, and (c) how to create a saved customization are now available on AKFIN's *Answers*' dashboard under the title: "AKFIN". These videos provide detailed instructions on running reports, changing parameters, reviewing report objectives, customizing programming, and exporting data.

2012 SAFE Economic Status Report and the Economic Performance Indicators for Alaska Catch Share Programs

AKFIN currently provides programming services, database management, and project management support to the Economics and Social Sciences Research Program, of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC). AKFIN's support facilitates production of the annual Economic Status Report of the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) for North Pacific Groundfish Fisheries, as well as annual reporting of economic performance indicators for Alaska catch share programs.

The SAFE Economic Status Report describes various economic characteristics of the commercial groundfish fisheries in Alaska, including harvest and processing activities, prohibited species catch, ex-vessel and first wholesale values, and fishing effort. The finalized 2012 SAFE economic status report will be presented at the December 2012 meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and will then be made available to users online at <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/stocks/assessments.htm>.

Standardized economic performance indicators project was implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2011 in order to monitor the overall performance of catch share-managed fisheries in the United States. Current indicators measure catch and harvest of fish and shellfish, fishing effort, and ex-vessel values. The development of new and additional indicators is underway. A complete catalog of these economic performance indicators is available at <http://tinyurl.com/performance-indicators>.

Alaska Charter Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey data

AKFIN has recently coordinated with the Sport Fish Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in order to obtain regular updates of Charter Logbook data and the Statewide Harvest Survey's (SWHS) annual sport fisheries estimates. With these data, AKFIN is able to fulfill data requests that pertain to charter operators, trips, and harvest, along with requests that pertain to saltwater and freshwater SWHS catch, harvest, and effort estimates.

Fishing Fleet Profiles

AKFIN collaborated with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to produce a report entitled *Fishing Fleet Profiles*, which contains profiles of the fishing fleets prosecuting the federally managed fisheries off Alaska. The objective of the project was twofold: first to group the wide variety of fishing vessels into 16 different commercial fleets and one sport charter fleet based on target species, gear types, licenses, and eligibility for catch share programs. And second, to generate individual fleet profiles by examining the catch, registration, and observer data from those vessels that participated in the 2010 fisheries for groundfish, crab, halibut, and scallops. The published results are available at <http://tinyurl.com/fleetprofiles>.

Following the publication of the *Fishing Fleet Profiles*, AKFIN undertook an addendum to the report that profiles the same fleets using the same criteria of classification, but this time employing data collected on those vessels that participated in the 2011 fisheries for groundfish, crab, halibut, and scallops. This second analysis yielded some interesting developments, such as the addition of 41 vessels in jig fleet, as well as the reclassification and transfer of some vessels in the Amendment 80 fleet to the BSAI trawl fleet. A copy of this addendum is available at <http://tinyurl.com/fp2011addendum>.

New and Ongoing Developments

Alaska Comprehensive Dataset

AKFIN is currently working on a new comprehensive dataset that will provide a more holistic view of the commercial fishing industry in Alaska. This new dataset is designed to combine state fish-ticket data with the federal blend catch-accounting data in order to provide annual species harvest and ex-vessel values by vessel, processor, gear types, state and federal regulatory areas, and territorial waters.

AKFIN Website

AKFIN has recently launched a new website that employs a more streamlined and user-friendly design. This new AKFIN website is now available at <http://www.akfin.org>.

Fishing Trip Identification

AKFIN is working with its partners to develop a standardized approach for defining and identifying fishing trips. The aim is to use Alaska fisheries data, including fish-tickets, logbooks, and vessel monitoring system data, to assemble trip datasets, or to incorporate trip data into existing datasets, or to do both. Please contact Bob Ryznar if you want to participate in this effort.

Staff Changes

We would like to announce that Bob Ryznar has accepted a new position that combines the work of both the Program Manager of AKFIN and PacFIN. We are confident that the blending of these management responsibilities will provide a more coherent and cohesive working relationship between the two Programs, and this will in turn benefit our users and partners. In addition, we would like to announce that Jean Lee has joined the AKFIN team. Jean has worked extensively with the AFSC Economics and Social Sciences Research Program and will be a valuable asset to AKFIN.

AKFIN's Annual Advisory Committee Meeting

In order to set development priorities and goals, AKFIN hosts an annual advisory committee meeting every spring in Juneau Alaska. We here at AKFIN would like to thank all of the committee members who attended the 2012 AKFIN meeting, singling out Jennifer Mondragon, Jessica Gharrett, Karla Bush, Kurt Iverson, Gail Smith, Cathy Tide, Kathy Jones, Ron Felthoven, and Mark Fina for their valuable contributions to the sessions, and for their ongoing support of the AKFIN Program.



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