

## ON THE CHARTS

### NMFS seeking qualified vessel

In the first quarter of 2012, NMFS will post an announcement for a vessel to participate in the Fisheries Research and Monitoring (FRAM) survey in the second half of 2012. The survey, which will run from Aug. 13 through Oct. 26, will cover the entire west coast, from Canada to Mexico, and is a key component of the stock assessment process for west coast groundfish species. Anyone interested in submitting a bid should contact Victor Simon at (206) 860-3368.

### Trawl fleet gets a Stocking Stuffer

NMFS Director Eric Schwabb has followed through on his earlier commitment to fund observers at the 2011 levels. NMFS has recently indicated that they will pay up to \$328 per day for observers in 2012.

## Landing totals show successful year

### Shrimp

The season started off with a bang and never slowed down as Oregon's shrimp fleet landed 48,257,231 lbs. of product in 2011.

The total was the 4th best on record, barely missing out on the No. 3 spot (1977).

A total of 72 vessels participated in the fishery this year, delivering just over 1,000 trips (47,500 lbs. per trip), with 21 boats delivering over 1 million pounds. Prices held steady for the year, averaging right at \$.51 per lb.

### Whiting

What started out as a season of many questions (size and availability of the fish, market conditions) was soon answered.

Over a four-month period, Oregon's whiting fleet landed over 150 million lbs. of product in 2011.

While that amount wasn't a record, the average price of \$.11 per lb. appears to have propelled the value of the fishery to a record amount (\$16+ million).

### Groundfish

A January 12 start date, combined with the fleet putting more effort into the crab and shrimp fishery, kept the landings down early, but it looks like the fleet began to hit their stride later in the year.

With the whiting landings adding up, quota pounds for other species became available in the second half of the year, and the fleet made the most of it.

For the year, it looks like landings coast wide will be about 85% of last years total, but increased ex-vessel prices (with Sablefish and Dover sole leading the way), may very well make the value of the 2011 fishery worth more than last years landings.

## OTC travels to Cold Water Prawn Forum

In late November, OTC Chairman Ted Gibson and OTC Director Brad Pettinger attended the Cold Water Prawn Forum in London, England.

The conference is an industry forum which offers a unique opportunity for stakeholders in the sector to review the status of coldwater shrimp today.

The objective of the conference is to bring together professionals, specialists and traders in the industry to share information and

exchange ideas in resources, production, opportunities, challenges and developments of the market.

The day before the forum, Gibson and Pettinger met with fishermen representatives from Norway, Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland. Presentations were given by each party on the status of their respective fisheries, followed with projections on next year's season.

## Trawl fleet sees mixed news on buyback loans

First the good news. With the shrimp season behind us, the earlier decision by the Oregon shrimp fleet to keep their portion of the loan assessment rate at 4.65% has paid off.

The newest loan numbers obtained on Nov. 18, now show the balance at \$77,389, which means the Oregon shrimp fleet won't be seeing those loan payments taken out of their paycheck for very long in the 2012 season.

Now the bad news: Even though the combined values of the whiting and traditional groundfish fisheries reduced their obligation of the loan by over \$1 million in the last 7 months, the groundfish portion on the loan is still almost \$2 million over the original loan amount.

Given that the groundfish fleet's total payments to date (\$13.8 million) are almost half of the original loan amount and the fleet still hasn't caught up with the accrued interest, further illustrates the need to restructure the buyback loan.

## All trawl quota landings assessed by OTC in 2012

At the end of 2011, the OTC went through the administrative rule process to change the definition of what constitutes a trawl landing.

The previous language was focused on the type of gear involved in the harvesting of fish and shrimp, where as the new language (for groundfish) is focused on whether the landing used trawl quota to cover the landing.

So in 2012, whether you use trawl, hook and line or pot gear to harvest groundfish within the rationalized trawl fishery, those landings will be subject to an OTC assessment of ½% (.005) of the landed value.

<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Original Loan</u>	<u>Current Balance</u>
Groundfish	\$ 28,428,718.88	\$ 30,148,064.42
CA crab	\$ 2,334,334.20	\$ 1,078,134.65
CA shrimp	\$ 674,202.18	\$ 721,803.88
OR crab	\$ 1,367,545.28	\$ 800,636.81
OR shrimp	\$ 2,228,844.53	\$ 77,389.65
WA crab	\$ 369,425.93	\$ 283,565.96
WA shrimp	\$ 259,399.63	\$ 136,847.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,662,470.63</b>	<b>\$ 33,246,443.01</b>

*From NMFS - As of 11/18/11*

## Santa Rosa 2 set for Feb. 21-23

For those of you who attended the Santa Rosa IFQ meeting last year, a similar event dubbed "Santa Rosa 2" is planned for Feb. 21-23 at the Portland Downtown Hilton.

The conference/workshop will recap what went right and not-so-right in the first season of the rationalized trawl fishery. Attendees will hear industry professionals discussing gear innovations, overfished species quota management strategies, quota financing, strategies for minimizing costs and improving revenues, and business planning. There will also be candid discussions of other challenges still facing West Coast trawlers.

The schedule will also provide plenty of time for informal discussions, networking and quota trading.

Look for your "Save the Date" postcard in the mail. We hope to see you there!

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