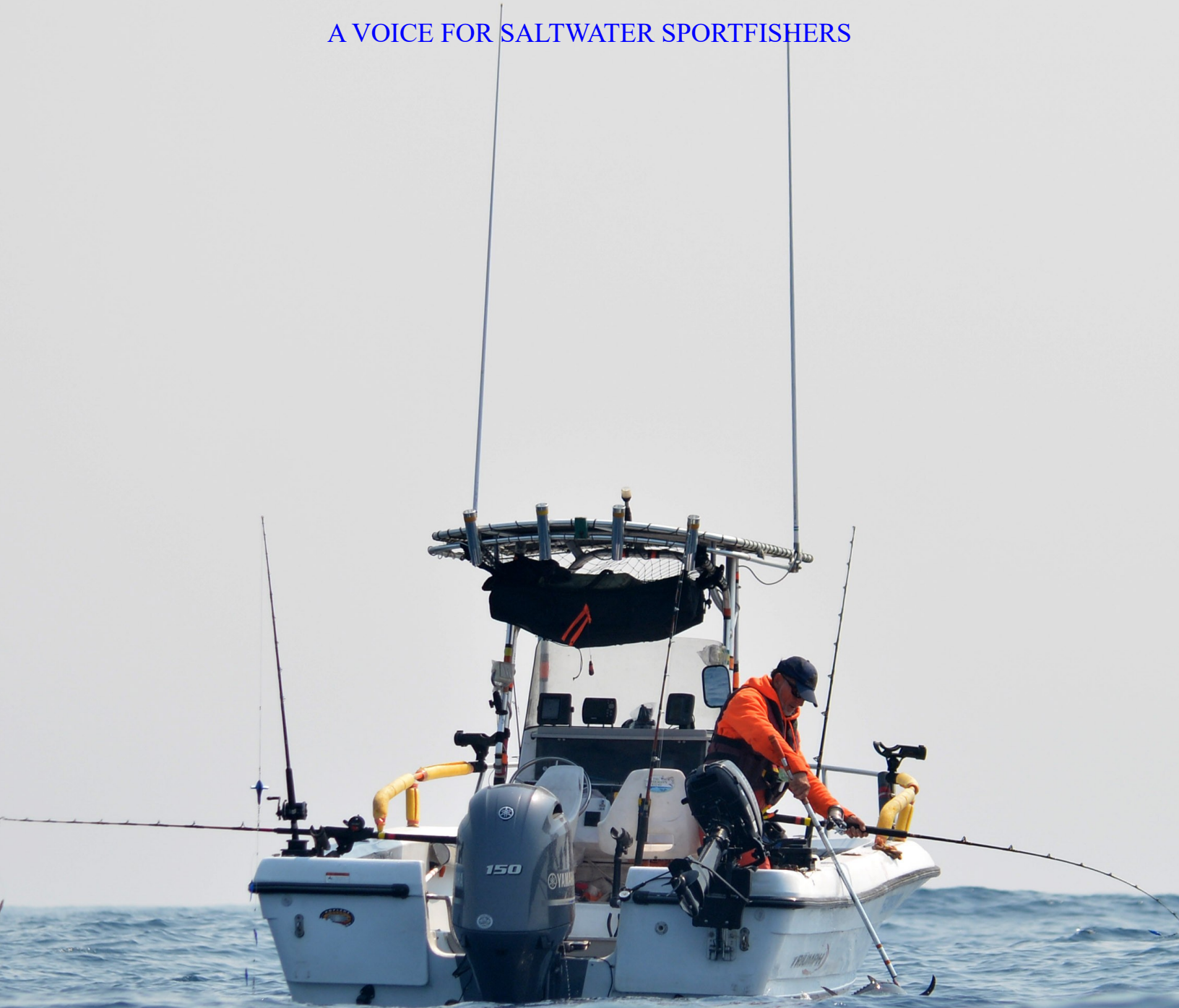


HUMBOLDT AREA SALT WATER ANGLERS

2017 FALL NEWSLETTER

A VOICE FOR SALTWATER SPORTFISHERS



*Pikeminnow Management ~ Klamath Dam Removal
Trinidad Pier Youth Fishing Tournament
Marine Resource Education Program ~ Ocean Boundaries*

The mission of Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers is to represent North Coast fishermen's historic and ongoing right to sport fish along the Northern California coast; advocate reasonable and rational sport fishing seasons and regulations; educate our members and the general public about the economic and cultural contributions of sport fishing to our local economies; and promote sustainable stewardship of the resource.

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All photos and articles in this issue are donated by HASA members and interested parties.

Submission ideas and photos should be sent to longfish@humboldt1.com. Comments are always welcome. Send to hasa6191@gmail.com

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This is issue #35

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Humboldt Harbor Safety Committee

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President's Message

by Scott McBain



This time of year is always a hard one for me. Loss of daylight, beginning of the cold wet season, nostalgia for summer fishing opportunities. However, it is also the beginning of the new year that will provide more opportunities in the coming year, plus crabbing opportunities (which I hear has been pretty good so far). There has been good news so far with this fall's initial rains, which has allowed the coastal Chinook salmon to access all of the upper watersheds and have a successful spawning cycle that will hopefully produce abundant juveniles this spring, and more fishing opportunities on the ocean in coming years (200 adult Chinook reported at Van Arsdale fish ladder through Thanksgiving). Similarly, the predicted poor adult fall-run Chinook salmon escapement on the Klamath River has been better than expected, with lots of jacks (7,000 adult Chinook on the Shasta River alone through October 5). So hopefully this will translate into some salmon fishing opportunity in the coming year

HASA continues to be active in saltwater sportfishing, both now and in the future. Tom provides another excellent update on the PFMC efforts on Page 10, and Casey provides an update on his participation in MREP that seeks to help us better understand the PFMC process and be more effective in representation (see Page 12). This investment into future is important for all of us to help preserve fishing opportunities for the next generation. Speaking of next generation, HASA has continued to support local fishing derbies to encourage new young anglers to our sport. HASA has again supported the Burnt Ranch derby, as well as the Trinidad Pier derby (see Page 8). Seeing the smiles on those kids' faces reinforces the importance of our continued support for these events. Many thanks to Ken Jones, Ed Roberts, and others for all the hard work they put into these events.

I encourage folks to see the rockfish review on Page 10, as there are some important updates on current rockfish regulations that you should be aware of in case you are thinking about heading out on the water soon. First, the season is still open through December, yet we are again constrained by the 20 fathom (120 ft) depth limit due to us exceeding our yelloweye rockfish allocation. As Tom points out, the increasing use of descenders are helping reduce yelloweye mortality for those fish that are released; however, it appears that there is still a large number of anglers that are misidentifying (and harvesting) yelloweye rockfish, which is limiting our ability to have flexibility on increased fishing depth. While the north-coast wasn't the biggest culprit, we need to do a better job in yelloweye rockfish identification and education to all coastal anglers. CDFW has a very helpful identification sheet that should be printed on a color printer and be on board everyone's boat that is rockfishing. In case you don't have it, here is a link to the ID guide: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=138378&inline>

Lastly, [the Humboldt Tuna Club board](http://www.humboldtclub.com/smf) is still under construction, but the temporary site is still up (www.humboldtclub.com/smf). If you would like to contribute an article to future newsletters, or have suggestions on a topic you think would be interesting to HASA members, please share with Casey (longfish@humboldt1.com). Hope everyone has a good holiday season!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott McBain".

Eel River Recovery Project Tracks Sacramento Pikeminnow and Wants to Help Manage Them

By Pat Higgins

The Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) is non-profit grassroots group that employs citizen assisted monitoring to take the pulse of the Eel River ecosystem, including assessing fish populations. ERRP was formed after community scoping meetings in September 2011 all over the Eel River basin and there was universal concern about the non-native, highly predatory Sacramento pikeminnow, formerly known as the squawfish. People were concerned about their impacts on native salmon and steelhead and thought they needed to be controlled, if possible.

It wasn't until 2016 ERRP received a grant from the Salmon Restoration Association (SRA) in Ft Bragg to do a pikeminnow census. SRA holds the annual World's Largest Salmon Festival on the 4th of July weekend annually and gives out grants from proceeds for salmon monitoring, restoration and outdoor education. The study design for the South Fork Eel River pikeminnow monitoring was created in cooperation with Dr. Bret Harvey of U.S. Forest Service Redwood Sciences Lab in Arcata, who has studied the species extensively. The reach chosen, which is from Rattlesnake Creek to Standish Hickey State Park, is where Dr. Harvey found predation in fall by large adult pikeminnow on juvenile steelhead. ERRP uses a dive team of six that walk and swim six miles a day for two days. Day 1 the team covers from the Hermitage at the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek to the Gomde Monastery at the mouth of Cedar Creek, then Cedar Creek to Standish Hickey on day 2. Dive teams have been comprised of seasoned ERRP volunteers who also count salmon, professional fish biologists who volunteer, agency staff and University of California graduate students affiliated with the Angelo Reserve.



Bureau of Land Management Biologist Zane Ruddy and Americorp member Emily Maloney.



UC Berkeley Day 2 team: Phil Georgakakos, Kristin Shikella, Garbo Gin, and Veronica Uva.

The biggest surprise of both survey years was the abundance of steelhead trout juveniles in the survey reach, which was not as dominated by pikeminnow as anticipated. Findings in 2016 were that there were 1408 total pikeminnow counted, with 132 large adult pikeminnow over 18" long, 80% of which were concentrated in deeper pools and around large woody debris jams. Evidence from 5 years of observation suggests this is due to intensive otter predation. In 2017, there were slightly fewer large adults (90) and slightly fewer pikeminnow overall (1173). There was also a substantial reduction in 4-8" fish counted, likely as a result of poor recruitment in recent wet years. Interestingly, the number of fish in the 14-18" size class increased, reflecting high recruitment during the 2013-2015 drought.

A major difference in 2017 was that large adult pikeminnow were not only in pools, but also in runs and ambush locations like at the base of cascade. This was likely due to the very late high-water conditions due to one of the wettest years in the last 100 years.



Otter chowing down on very large adult pikeminnow on the SF Eel. Photo by Ann Constantino, 7/1/17.

Since many of the largest pikeminnow are concentrated in just a few deep pools, it would be easy to remove them using highly trained scuba divers with spear guns during low flow periods in late summer. The large adults consume very large numbers of juvenile salmonids and have also decimated native fish species like the Sacramento sucker and three sculpin species. Large adult pikeminnow also tend to be females and the most fecund in terms of producing eggs and offspring. Therefore, large adult removal would also depress the population resilience of the pikeminnow, particularly if removal is conducted for ten years, which is equivalent to the life span of a pikeminnow. Scientists call this prolonged selective pressure a “press disturbance” on the population, from which it will not likely rebound for a long time. ERRP will be seeking a permit for pikeminnow removal from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife after one more year of trend data collection in 2018. Annual dive counts in 2019 would be carried out in early summer prior to removal of adults later in the year. Repeating this cycle will supply trend data to show effectiveness and can be used for adaptive management.

Virtually every fisheries study and restoration or recovery plan about the Eel River since the 1979 introduction of the pikeminnow has called for their removal or management. ERRP has highly skilled divers ready to volunteer and active interest from the science community to help support the project. You can help fund these efforts by joining the Eel River Recovery Project on-line at www.eelriverrecovery.org or by sending your donations to PO Box 214, Loleta, CA 95551. Call Pat Higgins at 223-7200 or Eric Stockwell at 845-0400 if you have questions or want to join the dive team next summer.



For a Good Bite!

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From the Helm

By Larry De Ridder



Klamath River Renewal Project

November 9 from six to eight o'clock pm there was an informal presentation at the Adorni Center regarding the proposed deconstruction of four dams on the Klamath River. For those new to this, there are six dams on the Klamath River that affect fish migration. Closest to us, and furthest downstream, is Iron Gate Dam. Working upriver from there, one would encounter Copco Dams 1 and 2, and J.C. Boyle Dam. Further upriver are Keno Dam and Link River Dam, which are not being considered for demolition.

Available at the Adorni Center presentation were various colorful marketing-style brochures, somewhat informative but light on details. Much of the reason for the lack of specifics is likely due to the fact this is mostly wishful thinking on the part of many parties, pending the federal government's approval to proceed. In anticipation of an ultimate federal go-ahead, many of the involved government and private entities have created the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC), a non-profit entity created for the purpose of obtaining title to the various dams and arranging for their deconstruction. If approved, funding is projected to be split between Pacific Power, the current owner (\$200 million collected from customers' power bill surcharges) and California (\$250 million from Proposition 1 Water Bond funds).

Advertised benefits include: restored access to 400 miles of spawning habitat for anadromous species, reduction of toxic blue-green algae in warm lake waters, changes to job and recreational opportunities in the affected reach, and a substantial number of directly-created and support jobs for the duration of the project. Of interest to saltwater fishermen is the projected increase in salmon populations as natural spawning is enhanced, Iron Gate hatchery is closed, and the disease-infested stretch directly below the hatchery is scrubbed clean by winter floods.

The three general phases of the project are (1) Planning, (2) Construction, and (3) Monitoring and Remediation. The planning phase includes everything from jumping through government procedural hoops, to collecting native plant seeds, site security, and documenting current conditions. The Construction phase is fairly self-descriptive but includes side issues such as fire control, road grading and maintenance, and arranging food and restroom facilities for the workforce. Monitoring and Remediation includes such items as native plant placement and documentation of the ecological changes as they take place.

The two dams not included in the proposed demolition are expected to be transferred to the federal government. Link River Dam will continue to control the level of Upper Klamath Lake, and Keno Dam will remain in place to provide water diversion and flood control.

If all goes as KRRC staff hopes, dam removal would be concluded sometime between 2020 and 2022. If salmon and steelhead move into the upper waters as projected, we could see changes to our KMZ fishing seasons only a few years later.

I'm trying to get a bit more for you. In the meantime...

Tsunami Debris Update

It's been six years since the 2011 destructive earthquake that destroyed much of the East Coast of Japan. Since that time more than 600 known pieces of debris have washed ashore on the west coast of North America. The total number of pieces is likely in the thousands. Debris first washed north and east from Japan on the Kuroshio Current, then crossed the ocean on the eastward flowing North Pacific Current, and then either came south on the California Current or swept north on the Alaska current. That debris introduced at least 300 species of animals and protists to our coast


which are not native to this coast. The largest group was mollusks, which includes marine snails, nudibranchs (marine slugs, many of which are beautifully colored), and oysters. The second largest group was annelids (segmented worms), then cnidarians (including sea anemones), bryozoans (mossy-looking animals that may also resemble coral), crustaceans (crabs and shrimp), echinoderms (starfish), other smaller groupings, and two species of fish. At least two groups – sea anemones and limpets – were able to establish themselves and reproduce multiple generations on the debris they hitchhiked aboard. This is likely the single largest single migration of its sort, thanks to the prevalence of man-made materials that made the trek. In previous years most of the floating debris would have been woody material, which would rot, fall apart, or eventually sink. Most of the surviving materials in this case were plastic or other man-made materials that can survive in the marine environment for many years. It could take years to determine whether any of these Western Pacific organisms have established Eastern Pacific populations. If any of these creatures manage to establish themselves here, there could be ripple effects for many years as their influence in the existing ecosystem manifests. Despite intensive efforts to document and study arriving debris, it's plain that most of it was never reported. If you do encounter something unusual, don't be afraid to document where and when it was found, preserve it and contact a local Fish and Wildlife office, or a marine research institution.

Suit Filed to Prevent Crabbing

In the event you missed this, in early October the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) sued the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in an effort to stop commercial crabbing. As reported in the Times Standard, the complaint alleges CDFW has violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The bottom line is based on the fact that ESA-listed marine life such as leatherback turtles and humpbacked whales periodically become entangled in crab gear, and some subsequently die. The plaintiffs demand that the State obtain an incidental take permit prior to authorizing a crab season. Data used to justify the suit include NMFS-documented entanglements of 19 humpbacks, two blue whales and one turtle in California during 2016, an increase from 2015. According to the fisheries services entanglement report, there were 71 total west-coast whale entanglements in 2016, of which 66 were in California waters. The discrepancy between the two sets of numbers was not clear. CBD states that entanglement in commercial fishing gear is one of the primary threats impeding the recovery of the three listed species. Last year Governor Brown signed legislation intended to promote greater efforts at retrieving more lost crabbing gear, in part to prevent entanglements. Another bill in the works would create a grant program for an emergency response effort to free entangled animals. A copy of the suit can be obtained at :

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/fisheries/pdfs/17-10-3_CA_Dungeness_Crab_Entanglement_Complaint.pdf

The document is 16 pages long and is not difficult to follow. It's unclear at this time how long this will take to play out in the courts, nor whether there will be any trickle-down effect on sport crabbing.



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2017 Trinidad Pier Youth Fishing Derby

By Ken Jones

Although chilly the previous afternoon, Sunday, September 17, 2017 turned out to be a beautiful day at Trinidad, the small town located on California's scenic redwood-forested, northwest coast just 24 miles north of Eureka. It was a perfect day to go fishing! Luckily, a kids fishing derby just happened to be scheduled at the Trinidad Pier. The event was the 4th Annual Trinidad Pier Youth Fishing Derby sponsored by United Pier and Shore Anglers of California (UPSAC), the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Pacific Outfitters, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Free loaner rods and reels, free terminal tackle, free bait, free hot dog lunches, raffle prizes, and a winner in each age group helped generate excitement. In response, 45 youngsters along with roughly 60 adults turned out to enjoy the short-sleeve weather and fishing which, although a little slow, did produce a variety of fish—striped seaperch, cabezon, kelp greenling, rock greenling and one ugly buffalo sculpin.



Next up was the raffle with EVERY entrant winning at least one gift. Gift items were bought from a donation by the Humboldt Salt Water Anglers and supplemented by a few gifts from United Pier and Shore Anglers of California.

A big thank you is due to all who contributed gifts and helped out at the tournament.

Donating money, food and gifts for the meals, insurance and prizes were a variety of different groups and businesses—Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers (HASA), Pacific Outfitters, United Pier and Shore Anglers of California (UPSAC), Ken Jones—Pier Fishing in California (pierfishing.com), and Ed Roberts. A custom built rod made by Dan Troxel of “Bass Man Dan’s Custom Fishing Rods” was raffled off with proceeds going to help pay next year’s costs.

Organizers were Ed Roberts of the California Fish and Wildlife Department, Ken Jones, President of United Pier and Shore Anglers of California (UPSAC) and owner of pierfishing.com, and Grant Roden of the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria.



Helping out at the event were a number of different people. Several came from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife—Dustin Hixon, Carly Stanton, Kevin Butler, and Russell Janak. Robert Gardner, Vice President of UPSAC traveled north from the Bay Area. Local residents providing assistance included Nate Ferguson, Dan Troxel, Ed Roberts and Grant Roden.

See all the photos by Ken Jones at <http://kenjonesfishing.com/2017/09/2017-trinidad-pier-youth-fishing-derby/>



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Groundfish Wrap-up for 2017

Tom Marking GAP Sport Representative
HASA Board Member



Fish are always on my mind...but since we are only a few days away from Thanksgiving, so is turkey and family. Hopefully, we can all enjoy the holiday with the family and relatives without too much political dissention and arguing. We need to bridge gaps and promote “world peace” by applying this idealistic goal on the home front. After the PFMC meeting last week, with the “trawl gear switching” item that pits fixed gear sablefish sectors against trawler sector brings this goal to the forefront. The Biennial Specifications (SPEX) process pulls skeletons out of the closet and things really heat up.

ROCKFISH REVIEW: Modification for the current 2017/18 cycle, where we had the bag limit reduced to three black rockfish and one canary, seems to have had the desired effect; the changes have kept us within our allocation at last glance. The attempt to grant us more depth (10 fathom) for all areas above the Southern California area didn’t work out quite so well. The extra depth resulted in a much increased impact to yelloweye rockfish (YE). Where we had been only impacting about 1.5 metric tons (mt) per year across the State we pressed the 3.9 mt allocation limit by late summer, and thus the roll back of the ten fathoms in all areas. We did get to keep the Nov-Dec fishery, but at 20 fathoms or less, not the “all depth” we had hoped for. This same season structure will be in place for 2018, so try to avoid the YE areas; if successful, maybe we can keep the extra depth for all year. It’s up to us to show we can fish deeper, without impacting YE, or we will lose this opportunity in the future. The good news is that the YE are rebuilding much faster than projected. As more data from surveys and bycatch come in, the models are updated and there is a 50% chance the stock will be rebuilt by 2027 (formerly projected to be 2071 in 2011). One serious problem this year was the number of YE brought to the dock all across the State. Anglers are not looking at CDFW literature for identification between YE, Canary and Vermillion, and that really pushed the mortality up. While decenders have helped with less mortality, mis-identification really hurt us this year. Our area had about 5% YE brought to the dock, while other areas north and south of us were at 9% and the Central Coast area was at 20%. That is unacceptable, and we are our own worst enemy.

SPEX process for 2019/2020: We are now starting the process to look at species harvest allocations and management measures for all groundfish. These projections and proposed management measures will be analyzed over the winter and brought back to the PFMC in March and April of 2018 for preferred proposed alternatives, presented to the public in April, with final adoption in June of 2018. The decisions will be implemented on January 1 of 2019. For our area, such measures impact all the groundfish stocks we encounter. Timing is a problem. The CDFW will not have the final numbers for harvest for this year until about late February, so we are trying to build in flexibility for harvest levels prior to having those final totals. For the North area, we are trying to get a few extra black and canary rockfish in the bag limit, and maintain at least two ling cod, and maybe push for a third (if possible). The lingcod non-trawl allocation was exceeded this year south of the 40 d 10’ line at Horse Mountain and that will probably cause a reduction of bag limit to one ling cod. Here’s the wrinkle, north of this management line the ling cod are abundant and plentiful, but from Horse Mountain to the Oregon Border we are in the same bag limit as the south. I’m trying to get that changed this year, so that we in the North Area can have a different bag limit than south of the 40 d 10’ line. CDFW seems to be softening on this concept and has agreed to analyze this. I think our loss of the salmon season this year helped out on this issue, in conjunction with the reduction to three black rockfish. They seem sympathetic to our plight, and are trying to help us out where they’re able.

We tried to get CDFW to consider the 30’ long weighted leader (to keep the hooks at least 30’ off the bottom to avoid YE) but it isn’t on the table for consideration with them. They see this as too complicated to manage and enforce, so for Recreation, this concept isn’t being considered by the Department. However, a recreation group from Half Moon Bay just got an application accepted by the Council (for consideration) of an Exempted Fishery Permit (EFP) to try this inside the RCA in their area. This was over the strenuous objections of Marci Yaremko on the Council Floor. An interesting dynamic is going on there, with the new Recreational Rep, Marc Gorelnik, pushing this item forward over Marci’s objection. But, since he comes from that area, and knows all these guys, that may be the linkage for support. I don’t think it’s going to go forward, but we’ll see in March. The Department is adamantly opposed to this, and wants to focus on more depth and time on the water, rather than this boutique fishery that they don’t support. However, this type of fishery is being considered for the Commercial Sector. The Council forwarded three EFP’s, two applications in CA and one from Oregon. They are primarily to harvest yellowtail and widow rockfish, mid-water pelagic types.

INPUT: The CDFW will probably hold a few Conference calls, or solicit surveys from the various Management Areas about mid-January to February on what we would like to see analyzed for our bag limits and season structures. In 2016, they held regional meetings around the State, but due to low turnout and expense of travel, they will use conference calls this cycle. That should work out OK, so long as the numbers are published so we have some time to compare and contrast these numbers to the current cycle.

HALIBUT: If you've been paying attention to the HTC site, you will have noticed that CDFW posted a notice that they have neglected to apply the net weight calculation on pacific halibut for the past three years, the result being we've left about 25% of the allocation in the water. It seems the net weight deduction was not put into the model, and it was detected this year. The impact was less than 25% this year since we exceed the allocation of 34,580 lbs anyway, so with the net weight deduction, we only left about 4,500 lbs in the water. But that wasn't the case for 2015 and 2016. No doubt, we lost a lot of time on the water due to this oversight. They have promised to do better in the future (sigh)!

And, remember back last winter when this column reported that the IPHC surveys were starting up in our area again, with 32 sample stations located all the way down to the 37.5 degree line (above San Francisco)? Rumor is the new survey stations south of the 40 degree line were lots of zeros, but we won't know until the December Interim meeting in Seattle what the results were, and what it means for the 2A allocation and percentage over the entire halibut world. Last year we were reduced from 2.87% down to 2.2% due to the new "time/space model" and a "hook competition" analysis scheme. That was particularly disappointing, after six years of struggles to improve us from 2.1% in 2011 only to get knocked back down again. It's a tough life at these meeting, when you don't have much political clout. The Washington Tribes (with whom I have a very good relationship) helped us all out immensely by garnering 1.33 million (M) lbs. of allocation for 2A, when the model suggested we should be reduced back to 0.65 M lbs. From a practical position, the Commission will keep us up toward the 1 M lb. area, since that seems to be an agreed minimal amount we need to sustain our fishery sectors. The final decisions will be made at the Portland Annual Meeting in late January of 2018.

Crabbing: Crabbing has been stellar for me the few times I've been out of Trinidad. Crabs can't resist committing suicide in my pots in very short order. Maybe they like the look of my drift boat, and want to get a closer look. The weight is a bit light, as they are about 18%, but they will get fatter each week by about 1%, so we should have the crabbing grounds to ourselves for another 5 weeks or so. The domoic acid levels are very low or non-existent it seems, so have fun out there...and be safe!

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Marine Resource Education Program – MREP

By Casey Allen

The acronym MREP (pronounced M-Rep) is rather clever as this program basically trains attendees to be better marine representatives. The two, three-day workshops cover all aspects of fisheries management and begins with a comprehensive look at fisheries science. It includes presentations on data collection, stock assessment and modeling, internal verification and review, and collaborative research. The presenters were the folks that actually do the work. We listened to talks from leading scientists on oceanography, climate change, and socioeconomic considerations. This all provided a common background and prerequisite to the fisheries management workshop.

The management workshop covers the nuts and bolts of decision making. How the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) takes the science generated by NOAA Fisheries researchers and, through a series of public meetings, comes to a decision on marine issues. We even had a hands-on, mock PFMC meeting. Again, this was facilitated by the folks who actually do the work.



The MREP West workshop is a product of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and is supported by NOAA Fisheries, the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Moore Foundation, and the Packard Foundation. The workshops began on the East Coast as a way to educate fishermen to be more effectively involved in fishery management decisions. The program soon spread to all regions of the United States. It is attended by anyone with a stake in marine fisheries. There is no cost to participants and all meals are provided. The discussion continues over dinner and drinks. This format fosters a nice relaxing atmosphere where there is plenty of opportunity to talk with agency scientists and council members.

One major take-away for me was the fact that the Moore Foundation and the Packard Foundation help fund this program. They have been viewed as anti-fishing organizations in the past, but their commitment to educating fishermen is commendable. The Environmental Defense Fund and the Nature Conservancy are working with fishermen and NOAA researchers to develop innovative fishing gear to reduce bycatch. Their success shows what can be accomplished by working together. Check out this video (<https://vimeo.com/200907637>).

It was obvious that the majority of the work revolves around the commercial fishing industry. Recreational fishing is important to fishery managers, but it does not have near the same impact on fish stocks or the economy. There was little talk about commercial versus recreational fish quotas because the workshops were not meant to deal with real issues but were designed to follow the process of fisheries management decision making. It was pointed out over drinks that the recreational take is measured in numbers of fish and the commercial take is measured in metric tons of fish. It is difficult to find a common denominator and then assign an economic value to the common number. It was clear that a few specific fisheries, like Gulf red snapper and Pacific halibut, could use more work on allocations.

The term “over-fishing” has been used to describe the status of fish stocks that are in trouble even if the cause has nothing to do with fishing. This bothers a lot of fishermen and a search for a new word to describe stocks in trouble is underway. After all, fishermen only catch what they are allowed to catch and don’t generally “over fish.” If they do, it is called poaching. The words depleted, degraded, stressed, and endangered are examples of stock descriptions under consideration but the search continues to remove the negative stigma from “fishing.”

There was a lot of discussion on how to bring an issue to the PFMC and have some action taken. Just showing up to a meeting and providing public comment will not likely garner consideration. It is best to start with a local representative to the PFMC and then approach the appropriate sub-committee. If the issue is deemed worthy, they can bring it to the attention of the Council. The PFMC has an omnibus list that contains issues brought to the sub-committees and have not been considered.

My favorite part of the workshop was the people I met. There are some real characters in the fishery world. I met a recreational rep from Washington and two from the Oregon Coast. They are all interested in uniting to get a better allocation of Pacific halibut for all three states. Dave Croonquist, the Washington sport rep has some ideas on how to do that. He wrote a summary of the PFMC meeting that includes his comments and is very interesting (see page 18).

To learn more about the MREP West program and how to apply, visit their website:

<https://www.gmri.org/fisheries-convening/mrep-west>

Don’t forget the link to the PFMC. There is a ton of information available there.

<https://www.pcouncil.org/>

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Halibut Interim Meeting for 2017

Tom Marking GAP Sport Representative

IPHC Interim Halibut Meeting: The International Pacific Halibut Commission had their interim meeting on November 28 and 29 that gives the “state of the fishery” and the results of the summer survey. It also sets up the agenda for the Annual Meeting to be held in Portland, OR in January of 2018. There were some interesting items brought forth for discussion and analysis.

As you may remember, we had the original 15 survey sites brought back during 2017 and an additional 32 sites located below the 40 degree line down to the 37.5 line off San Francisco. While they didn't reveal the weights achieved in the survey they had this to offer. One halibut was caught off San Francisco and one caught between the 39 line and the 40 line. From 40 to 42 degrees the weight per unit effort (WPUE) was similar to the rest of the 2A area (but that weight was not specified either). But, the good news is our North area is similar to the rest of 2A.

The Oregon (OR) area had solid survey results, but the Washington (WA) area was very poor due to a large low oxygen area from the Columbia River up the coast where no halibut were caught, in an area that usually has good catch history. This last happened in 2009, but was located off the OR coast. The 15 new survey sites the Tribes had requested in this WA area were all zero, so they were dropped from the survey results. This will affect the survey findings for this year when it comes to distribution of the halibut. Last year the 2A region was 2.2% of the halibut universe, and this year it is 1.9%.

Catch Results: The survey catch results were down substantially in 2A, 2B and 4A, with all but one area showing a drop in survey WPUE. However, the Commercial Catch WPUE was up in all areas. Of particular concern is that the Survey NPUE (number per unit effort) were way down in all areas, raising the concern that the younger fish are disappearing and only the older fish area out there. This is consistent with the poor recruitment that has been observed since 2010. The new Total Mortality Assessment and Distribution Model, has the 2A area recreational harvest being reduced from 520,000 lbs in 2017 down to 210,000 lbs projected for 2018. You don't have to be a mathematician to figure what a drop of 60% of our share will do to our time on the water. Canada, the 2B area, is also particularly hit hard. Mind you, these are not actions, just Staff reports and the final decision will be made in January at the Annual Meeting, but it's going to be very ugly for distribution this year. The poor recruitment over the past seven years has the population starting to slide back to the 2012 low harvest years if we keep fishing at the same intensity. That was the bad news.

Halibut Identification: This was interesting, it seems that the spots on a halibut's tail is a bit like a fingerprint and they are tagging halibut and taking pictures of the tail in a study to see if that can identify halibut caught at a later date. They've tagged over a thousand and hope to follow the results over the next several years. There are all numerous studies on growth as dependent upon temperature, food, salinity, etc to try to better identify environment factors affecting growth. There is a substantial list of research projects to be done over the next year or two.

Whale predation in the Bearing Sea Area is creating havoc for long liners, (kind of like sea lions on salmon for us). They are considering using pots to try to lessen the impact on the fishery.

Salmon: here is an interesting factoid having nothing to do with halibut. Pink salmon are showing up in the California runs this year; that's never been seen before...straying no doubt! Some chum salmon are also showing up here and there, but that happens on occasion. The ocean conditions are moving the fish around it would seem!

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A Summary of the PFMC Meeting in Costa Mesa, Ca. Nov. 15 & 16

By Dave Croonquist—Washington State Recreational Fishing Representative

The morning of the 16th, I attended the Washington state delegation meeting to get an overview on what was going to happen today (11-16-17) at the PFMC halibut session. Michele Culver went over the staff proposal that had been submitted to the Council. She said that because of the short season, it was reasonable to set an annual limit of four fish. If we get the four days that will probably happen, then the annual limit is moot. If we get up to six additional days, depending on the harvest rate, then the limit kicks in. She doesn't expect the annual limit will create any issues as about 87% of the Washington halibut anglers catch two or fewer halibut.

There was a brief discussion of the Scoping Exercise E.1 – Attachment 3 that was developed to look at management protocols for the commercial halibut fishery with the possibility of getting away from the current derby style fishery for the commercial fleet. The Council started the halibut session at 8 a.m. There were no changes to the various state proposals. An audio recording of the halibut session can be heard here: It is about 1 hour and 40 minutes.

ftp://ftp.pcouncil.org/pub/R1711_November_2017_Recordings/11-16-17am1Copy.mp3

Michele Culver outlined the WDFW proposals starting at 16:02 and ending at 22:15. Oregon and California followed her. Public comments were taken. I presented the following comments starting at 48:45 and ending at 52:06.

Good morning, Mr. Chair, PFMC members,

My name is Dave Croonquist. I live in Sequim, Washington. I am here on behalf of hundreds of halibut anglers, various city and county governments, and many small businesses. I want to expand on our letter of support for the 2018 sport halibut season structure.

We mentioned the Scoping Exercise E.1 – Attachment 3. While it appears to be designed to address commercial issues, we would like to suggest that you and the NPFMC, working with the IPHC, can use the exercise as basis to take a different look at how the sport halibut fishery is administered in US waters. In particular, we would direct you to 16 USC 773 (c) Regional Fishery Management Council involvement where portions read that the council:

“...may develop regulations governing the United States portion of Convention waters...” and

“...If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign halibut fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocation shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen...”

The Magnuson-Stevens Act lists 10 Conservation and Management measures, four of which give you the latitude to work with the sport fishing communities of the West Coast states to affect changes in our halibut season structure:

Number 3 reads: *Manage individual stocks as a unit throughout their range, to the extent practicable; interrelated stocks shall be managed as a unit or in close coordination.*

Number 4 reads: *Not discriminate between residents of different states; any allocation of privileges must be fair and equitable.*

Number 8 reads: *Take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities to provide for the sustained participation of, and minimize adverse impacts to, such communities (consistent with conservation requirements).*

And Number 10 reads: *Promote safety of human life at sea.*

We think it is time to move the sport fishery away from a directed quota fishery. With a daily bag limit, a field possession limit, an annual limit and more timely catch reporting, we could have a better season structure that puts the sport fleet on the water when sea conditions are safer. We would also be building a more stable economic base for our coastal communities.

The IPHC will be a critical component in any changes to the sport halibut fishery. The IPHC doesn't set a quota for the private/non-charter halibut angler in Alaskan waters. The IPHC only tracks their total removals for catch accounting and stock assessment. In 2016, the Alaskan private fleet caught an estimated 2.8 million lbs of halibut. If the Alaska private/non-charter fleet doesn't have quota, is it fair and equitable to assign a quota to the 2A sport fleet?

There are lots of questions to be answered. The challenges ahead of us are many and varied. The sport fishing communities in 2A are willing to work with you to achieve a better distribution of opportunities for halibut sport fishing in US waters. When can we start? Thank you. Dave Croonquist

After I made my comments, Bob Alverson of the Fishing Vessel Owners Association – WA, followed me. Bob is also one of the IPHC halibut commissioners. Bob commented, favorably, on the GAP proposal to reduce the sablefish incidental halibut take cap from 70K lbs. to 50K lbs. with a bump back to 70K if the IPHC quota goes above 1.5M lbs. for 2A. Paul Clampett is next at 55:08 – 58:13. He has a sablefish license and doesn't understand our proposal to try to move the sablefish fleet incidental take of halibut from the sport fishing share to the commercial share. Butch Smith, Ilwaco Charter fleet, at 58:20 to 1:02:51, followed Paul. The last comments are from Gary Olson and his son at 1:03:20 to 1:05:27. They fish for sablefish and like the allowance for the incidental take of halibut. I would encourage you to listen to the testimony.

There was additional council discussion and questions to Steve Keith, Assistant Director for the IPHC about my comments on the Alaska non-charter fleet not having a quota fishery. That discussion runs from 1:11:17 to 1:21:50. It is also worth listening to. In short, the Alaska charter fleet and the commercial halibut fleet have quotas, but the sport fleet doesn't. The estimated non-charter take is taken off the top of the overall allocation before the charter and commercial fleet get their allocations. Thus, the reason for my question as to why the 2A sport fishery has to fish on a set quota. The Pacific halibut is the same fish from the end of the Aleutian chain to Fort Bragg, California. The PFMC guidelines (#3,4, and 8) can, I think, be interpreted to give us the same access for the sport fleet as the Alaska non-charter fleet enjoys.

We will continue our efforts to get some kind of a season structure that lets us fish when sea and weather conditions are conducive to a safer small boat fishery. We think that establishing an annual limit on halibut, similar to what Canada has done and administering the fishery with a daily limit (1) and a field possession limit (2) can help spread pressure out. What kind of a season structure is still to be determined. Alaska has a long non-charter season. Canada can fish from February to December depending on their harvest numbers. They have a size restriction (one under 32" and one under 52" for their field possession limit) to help protect spawning size females and to also extend their season. Canada has a six fish annual limit. They saw a lot more pressure this year and closed their season in early September. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. We are also going to continue to push for a more timely catch record card reporting process so the state might have current year data for the fall PFMC meetings.

The IPHC annual meeting will be held in Portland, OR, January 22-26, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel. Meeting information can be found in the link : <http://iphc.int/meetings-and-events/annual-meeting.html>

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Humboldt Currents

By Casey Allen



This issue's cover photo is of **Red Rider**, handling his albacore by himself. Steve Haynes is known for fishing alone and helping everyone else find and catch fish over the VHF radio. His proper speech and eloquent tone make him easily recognizable over the radio. He is a true gentleman on the water and a local fishing celebrity.

Northern California Red Abalone are starving, they are not reproducing, and their numbers are in severe decline according to California Department of Fish and Wildlife researchers. On December 7th The Fish and Game Commissioners will either reduce the sport fishery dramatically or close it altogether. If they close the fishery the loss of revenue from license sales will make it tough to fund continued research and the hope of a re-opened fishery, after recovery, is doubtful. It could take 10 years. If the Commissioners adopt a severely reduced fishery, license revenues will decrease while administrative costs and enforcement costs will increase.

The decline of red abalone is blamed on changing ocean conditions. Unusual warm water conditions have contributed to toxic algae blooms, a decline in kelp forests, and an explosion in purple urchins. The warm water caused by the "blob" and El Nino will hopefully give way to cooler conditions, but with 90% of the kelp forests gone it will take a long period of cool water for recovery to begin. The question is, will we get it? Scientists predict the ocean will continue to warm. Whether caused by humans burning fossil fuels or a natural earth cycle, it seems there is little we can do to reverse the trend.

Thanks to local diver and past National spearfishing champion Brandi Easter, here is a link to the Department of Fish and Wildlife's initial statement of reason (ISOR) report to the Fish and Game Commission at their October 2017 meeting with summary of suggested actions for the 2018 regulation rulemaking in December.

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=150102&inline>

Link for the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP)

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/ARMP>

See Chapter 7 for why there has been regulatory reductions in total allowable catch (TAC)

Link for the Department's report on the 'perfect storm'

<https://cdfmarine.wordpress.com/2016/03/30/perfect-storm-decimates-kelp/>

The **North Coast Marine Protected Area** baseline monitoring projects are complete and available at OceanSpaces.org (http://oceanspaces.org/sites/default/files/north_coast_state_of_report-final.pdf). In the report they call ocean warming the North Pacific Marine Heatwave because it is unprecedented and (hopefully) won't last. Many of the projects encountered unusual ocean conditions like the starfish die off due to a wasting disease, the effects of domoic acid, a decline in kelp forests and abalone, and an increase in urchins. It should be recognized that these baseline studies came at a time of great change in our ocean, which makes continued study and monitoring most important. Many thanks to all the researchers who contributed to this report. This kind of study was a big reason many recreational fishers supported the creation of the MPA network.

The amended **Marine Life Management Act** will be implemented in 2018 and there will be one more opportunity for public comment before the Fish and Game Commission takes action early next year. The MLMA amendments are designed to make fisheries management more transparent and inclusive through partnerships. It will consider entire ecosystems rather than single species management. The link <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MLMA> explains it all. Most of the goals appear agreeable but some of the language sounds to me like it will be easier to be more restrictive, especially to commercial fishing.



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Jared Huffman is working on a bill to amend and re-authorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Many of the amendments re-define or add detail to terms used in the Act. One example, the term “overfishing” will be redefined to apply only to declines due to recreational or commercial fishing. The word “overfished” will be replaced in the Act with “overfished or otherwise depleted.” The bill will also address Fisheries Management Flexibility and Modernization, Healthy Fisheries Through Better Science, and Strengthening Fishing Communities. From what I have read in a draft document it appears Mr. Huffman and his staff are listening to the fishing community and understands what is needed to meet future management challenges.

Humboldt Bay dredging is getting back on schedule with the work at the Eureka Marina. The City of Eureka was forced to use a more expensive method of dredging because of a lack of permitting for disposal sites and the urgent need for dredging. The spoils were loaded into containers by a long reach backhoe situated on the same barge. The spoils were then unloaded at the Humboldt Offshore Ocean Disposal Site three miles off shore. The Harbor District is working on a draft EIR for programmed dredging and disposal. When completed, dredging will be a continuous activity on Humboldt Bay



which will lower volumes and the stress on approved disposal sites. The majority of people I talk to are still in favor of beach disposal because the dredged material is no different than winter runoff from our major rivers. The lack of beach access or aesthetics during disposal is really minimal. So is the cost.



Michele Gerdes battles one of her first albacore 35 miles west of Humboldt Bay

It was a great year for albacore and California halibut and we once again met our quota of Pacific halibut early. I wonder if the same warm water that harms ocean salmon and abalone, helps albacore and California halibut. The halibut were plentiful in Humboldt Bay and, unlike last year, much larger.

The albacore water was more accessible this year due to more calm periods. The fishing out of Humboldt Bay was as good or better than anywhere along the coast so the runs offshore were reasonable, and the fish were most always there.

I missed the Trinidad Pier Youth Fishing Tournament (see page 8) because it was a tuna day. Ken Jones of the United Pier and Shore Anglers of California and Ed Roberts of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife managed another successful event. Although not everyone caught fish, every kid received a prize. Attendance was down from last year and could be attributed to the tuna weather, deer season, and the fact school had started. When the tuna are in range, it is like a national holiday. Folks drop everything, call in sick, forget sleep, and head for the horizon.



The Gerdes family tuna fishing aboard Reef Madness, Eric, Lars, Michele, and Lydia

DRAWING LINES IN THE WATER

Although invisible to the naked eye, governments have carved the world's oceans into many zones, based on both international and domestic laws. These zones are often complex, with overlapping legal authorities and agency responsibilities. Internationally, the closer one gets to the shore, the more authority a coastal nation has. Similarly, for domestic purposes, the closer one gets to the shore, the more control an individual U.S. state has.

This primer explains the ocean jurisdiction of the United States under international law, as well as the domestic distinction between federal and state waters (Figure P.1).

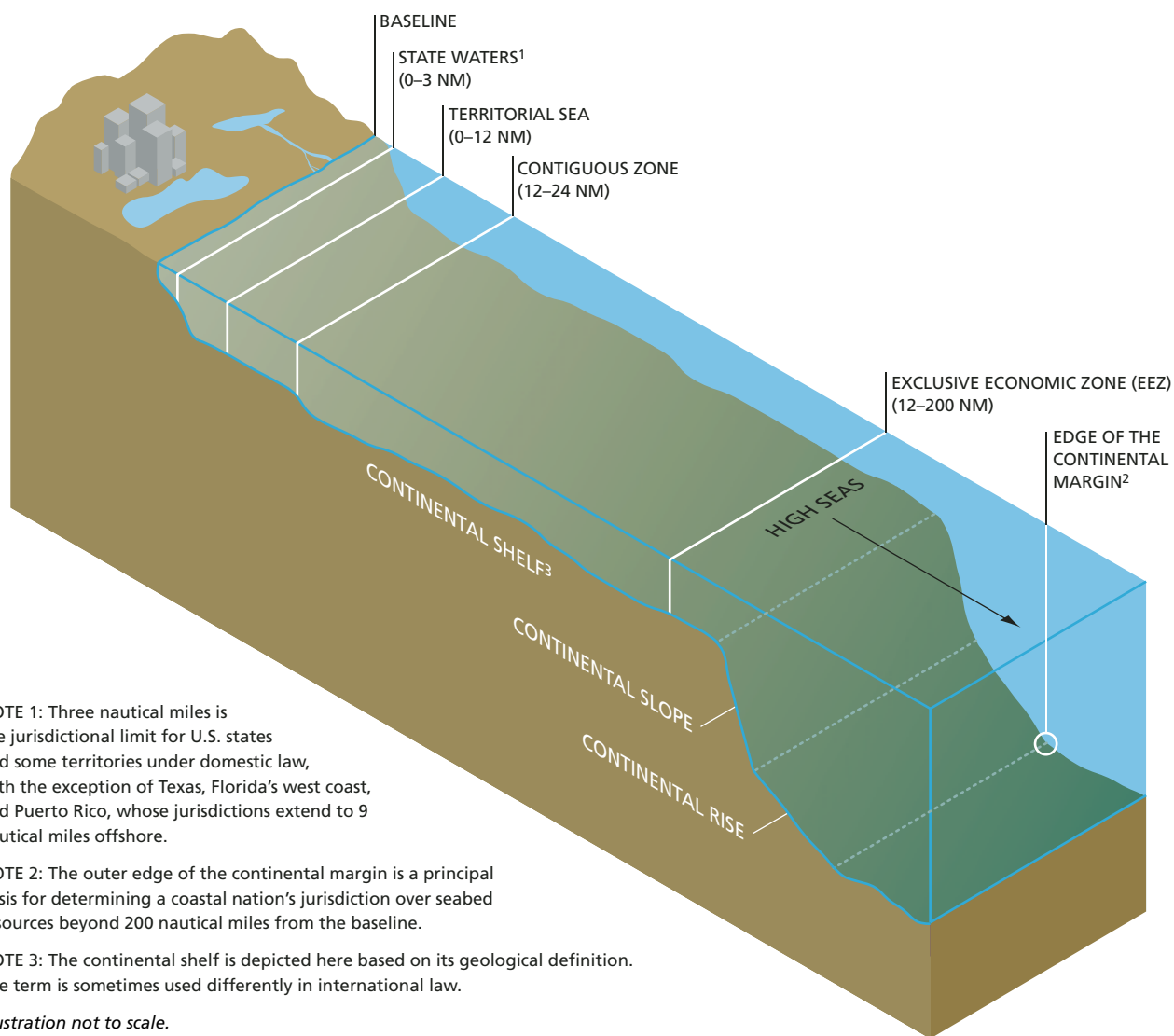
The Baseline (0 Miles)

For purposes of both international and domestic law, the boundary line dividing the land from the ocean is called the baseline. The baseline is determined according to principles described in the 1958 United Nations Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOS Convention), and is normally the low water line along the coast, as marked on charts officially recognized by the coastal nation. In the United States, the definition has been further refined based on federal court decisions; the U.S. baseline is the mean lower low water line along the coast, as shown on official U.S. nautical charts. The baseline is drawn across river mouths, the opening of bays, and along the outer points of complex coastlines. Water bodies inland of the baseline—such as bays, estuaries, rivers, and lakes—are considered “internal waters” subject to national sovereignty.

State Seaward Boundaries in the United States (0 to 3 Nautical Miles; 0 to 9 Nautical Miles for Texas, Florida's Gulf Coast, and Puerto Rico)

In the 1940s, several states claimed jurisdiction over mineral and other resources off their coasts. This was overturned in 1947, when the Supreme Court determined that states had no title to, or property interest in, these resources. In response, the Submerged Lands Act was enacted in 1953 giving coastal states jurisdiction over a region extending 3 nautical miles seaward from the baseline, commonly referred to as *state waters*. For historical reasons, Texas and the Gulf Coast of Florida are an exception, with state waters extending to 9 nautical miles offshore. (Note: A nautical mile is approximately 6,076 feet. All references hereafter in this Primer to miles are to nautical miles.) Subsequent legislation granted the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa jurisdiction out to 3 miles, while Puerto Rico has a 9-mile jurisdictional boundary.

Figure P.1 Lines of U.S. Authority in Offshore Waters



Several jurisdictional zones exist off the coast of the United States for purposes of international and domestic law. Within these zones, the United States asserts varying degrees of authority over offshore activities, including living and nonliving resource management, shipping and maritime transportation, and national security. A nation's jurisdictional authority is greatest near the coast.

The federal government retains the power to regulate commerce, navigation, power generation, national defense, and international affairs throughout state waters. However, states are given the authority to manage, develop, and lease resources throughout the water column and on and under the seafloor. (States have similar authorities on the land side of the baseline, usually up to the mean high tide line, an area known as state tidelands.)

In general, states must exercise their authority for the benefit of the public, consistent with the public trust doctrine. Under this doctrine, which has evolved from ancient Roman law and English common law, governments have an obligation to protect the interests of the general public (as opposed to the narrow interests of specific users or any particular group) in tidelands and in the water column and submerged lands below navigable waters. Public interests have traditionally included navigation, fishing, and commerce. In recent times, the public has also looked to the government to protect their interests in recreation, environmental protection, research, and preservation of scenic beauty and cultural heritage.

The Territorial Sea (0 to 12 Nautical Miles)

Under international law, every coastal nation has sovereignty over the air space, water column, seabed, and subsoil of its *territorial sea*, subject to certain rights of passage for foreign vessels and, in more limited circumstances, foreign aircraft.

For almost two hundred years, beginning with an assertion by Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson in 1793, the United States claimed a territorial sea out to 3 miles. In 1988, President Reagan proclaimed a 12-mile territorial sea for the United States, consistent with provisions in the LOS Convention. The proclamation extended the territorial sea only for purposes of international law, explicitly stating that there was no intention to alter domestic law.

The Contiguous Zone (12 to 24 Nautical Miles)

International law recognizes a *contiguous zone* outside the territorial sea of each coastal nation. Within its contiguous zone, a nation can assert limited authority related to customs, fiscal, immigration, and sanitary laws. In 1999, President Clinton proclaimed a U.S. contiguous zone from 12 to 24 miles offshore enhancing the U.S. Coast Guard's authority to take enforcement actions against foreign flag vessels throughout this larger area.

The Exclusive Economic Zone (12 to 200 Nautical Miles)

The LOS Convention allows each coastal nation to establish an *exclusive economic zone* (EEZ) adjacent to its territorial sea, extending a maximum of 200 miles seaward from the baseline. Within its EEZ, the coastal nation has sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing living and nonliving resources, whether found in ocean waters, the seabed, or subsoil. It also has jurisdiction over artificial islands or other structures with economic purposes.

In 1983, President Reagan proclaimed the U.S. EEZ, which currently occupies the area between 12 miles (the seaward limit of the territorial sea) and 200 miles offshore for international purposes. It also includes areas contiguous to its commonwealths, territories, and possessions. Consistent with international law and traditional high-seas freedoms, the U.S. does not generally assert control over surface or submarine vessel transit, aircraft overflight, or the laying of cables and pipelines on the ocean floor, nor does it assert jurisdiction over marine scientific research in the U.S. EEZ to the same extent that most coastal nations do. The United States requires advance consent for marine research, if and only if, any portion of the research is conducted within the U.S. territorial sea, involves the study of marine mammals, requires taking commercial quantities of marine resources, or involves contact with the U.S. continental shelf.

The Continental Shelf (12 to 200 Nautical Miles or Outer Edge of Continental Margin)

The legal concept of the continental shelf has evolved over the last sixty years. A 1945 proclamation by President Truman first asserted a U.S. claim to resources of its continental shelf. This proclamation set a precedent for other coastal nations to assert similar claims over resources far from their shores. The need to establish greater uniformity was one of the driving forces behind the 1958 United Nations Convention on the Continental Shelf. However, the 1958 Convention showed limited vision, defining the continental

Box P.1 Acknowledging Change: The Need to Update Federal Laws

Over the past twenty years, U.S. presidents have issued a series of proclamations changing the extent and nature of U.S. authority over the oceans. The changes, creating a territorial sea to 12 miles, a contiguous zone to 24 miles, and an exclusive economic zone to 200 miles, have not been comprehensively reflected in domestic laws. Many laws also use imprecise or inconsistent terms to refer to ocean areas, such as “navigable waters,” “coastal waters,” “ocean waters,” “territory and waters,” “waters of the United States,” and “waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.” These terms can mean different things in different statutes and sometimes are not defined at all.

Legal disputes have already occurred over the seaward extent of jurisdiction of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Clean Water Act and the Oil Pollution Act both refer to a 3-mile territorial sea. Inconsistencies and ambiguities in geographic definitions have caused problems in civil and criminal cases unrelated to natural resources, such as the regulation of offshore gambling. Congress has amended some laws regulating marine commerce to reflect the 12-mile U.S. territorial sea. However, there has been no systematic effort to review and update all ocean-related U.S. statutes and regulations.

shelf based on a nation’s ability to recover resources from the seabed. As technological capabilities improved, uncertainty began anew about the seaward boundary of a nation’s exclusive rights to continental shelf resources.

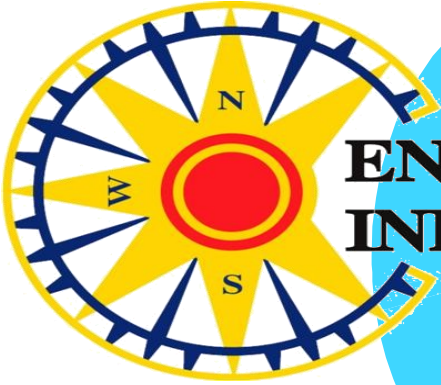
The LOS Convention generally defines the *continental shelf* for purposes of international law as the seafloor and subsoil that extend beyond the territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of a coastal nation’s land mass to the outer edge of the continental margin or to 200 miles from the baseline if the continental margin does not extend that far. The legal definition of the continental shelf thus overlaps geographically with the EEZ.

Where a coastal nation can demonstrate that its continental margin extends beyond 200 miles, the LOS Convention has a complex process for asserting such claims internationally. The U.S. continental margin extends beyond 200 miles in numerous regions, including the Atlantic Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, the Bering Sea, and the Arctic Ocean. However, because the United States is not a party to the LOS Convention, it can not assert its claims through LOS Convention mechanisms. (For more discussion on the LOS Convention, see Chapter 29.)

The High Seas (Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions)

International law has long considered areas of the ocean beyond national jurisdiction to be the *high seas*. On the high seas, all nations have certain traditional freedoms, including the freedom of surface and submerged navigation, the freedom to fly over the water, harvest fish, lay submarine cables and pipelines, conduct scientific research, and construct artificial islands and certain other installations. These freedoms are subject to certain qualifications, such as the duty to conserve living resources and to cooperate with other nations toward this end. In addition, a nation exercising its high seas freedoms must give due regard to the interests of other nations.

Originally defined as the area beyond the territorial seas of coastal nations, today the high seas are defined by the LOS Convention as the area seaward of the EEZs of those nations. Sixty percent of the world’s oceans remain in this zone, where the traditional freedom of the seas still prevails. Even on the high seas, the United States and other coastal nations have some limited ability to exercise governmental authority. For example, U.S. citizens on the high seas remain subject to U.S. law, as do individuals on U.S.-flagged vessels and aircraft.



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