



Word on the Waves

a publication of the Fisheries Observation Science Program at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Observer Spotlight:

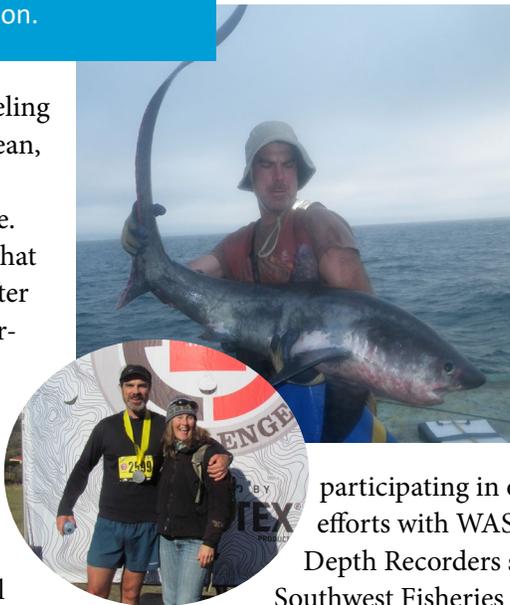
Kevin Stockman

Observing since 2008

Currently stationed in San Francisco

Kevin Stockman is passionate about the sea, its fish and the environment. He is thrilled to be working with the commercial fishing industry and participating in marine conservation.

Kevin remembers feeling an affinity for the ocean, fish and commercial fishing at a young age. He's been following that thread ever since. After completing his undergraduate degree at University of Pennsylvania, he moved to California (via mountain bike) where he earned a Certificate of Natural History. He spent ten years in clinical research biology, but eventually returned to the sea by answering a magazine ad for observers. He is currently finishing his Master's degree in San Francisco while observing in the non-catch share sector.



Kevin began observing in 2008 in the Drift Gillnet Observer Program in San Diego. He joined the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) in 2009 and has been stationed in San Francisco since 2010. His deployments are divided between the California Nearshore, California Halibut and Limited Entry Sablefish fisheries. Although he enjoys the variety, Kevin harbors a special fondness for the California Halibut trips as they are a San Francisco Bay specialty.

Kevin is an outstanding observer. He submits near-perfect data, mentors other observers and is a extremely knowledgeable about San Francisco-based boats and crew. He is always willing to help the Fisheries Observation Science (FOS) Program with anything from paperwork to research. In 2014, this included

participating in our collaborative efforts with WASEaGrant (Time Depth Recorders study) and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (EFP). He is well-known, well-liked and greatly respected by federal employees and fishermen alike.

From the Program

Hello Observers –

The new year is here! It's time for setting goals, anticipating change and looking forward. The Fisheries Observation Program (FOS) has been doing just that. With plans to establish an offline database system, implement new sampling priorities and methods and participate in electronic monitoring, 2015 promises to be an exciting year.

This is also a time of reflection. 2014 held many challenges and many successes. I'd like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your efforts, dedication and passion for this work. As the year progresses, we'll see more reports, papers and articles showing the value of observer data and how critical it is to effectively managing U.S. Fisheries.

Of particular interest in 2015 will be the release of a number of bycatch reports on protected species on the west coast. These reports rely heavily on FOS observer data and the work of our talented FOS analyst team. I'll be sure to share them once they are public. They are a great example of the relevance and use of observer data.

I hope 2015 finds you and your families well. As always, my door is open if you have questions or concerns; I am here to support you anyway I can. Please remember to be safe out there.

Sincerely,

Jon T. McVeigh
Program Manager

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Using Observer Data to Answer Management Questions: 2014 Chinook Bycatch

Kayleigh Sommers, PhD, Fisheries Observation Science Program Analyst

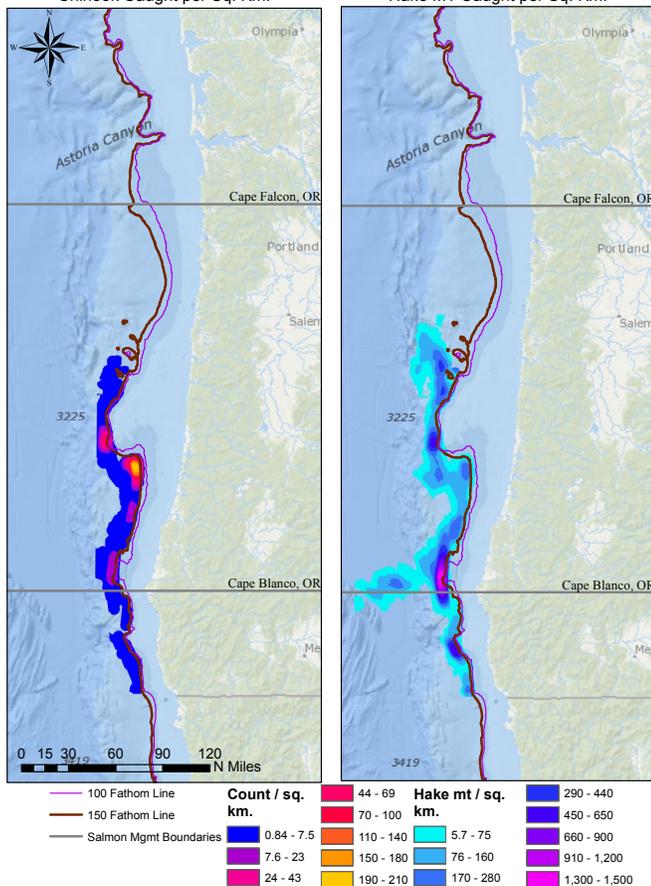
During October 2014, the Pacific whiting fishery exceeded the incidental take threshold of 11,000 Chinook salmon. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) took steps to reduce any further catch of Chinook by considering additional depth-based spatial closures for all sectors. To assess the efficacy of potential spatial closures, the Groundfish Management Team (a sub-committee of the PFMC) and NOAA's West Coast Regional Office asked analysts in NOAA's NWFSO Observer program to explore the amounts and locations of Chinook bycatch in 2014. Thanks to the hard work of observers, debriefers, and analysts, we were able to provide preliminary summaries and maps of in-season Chinook salmon bycatch. By comparing whiting catch and salmon bycatch, the Council will be able to consider how different management options will impact the fishery and the Chinook salmon

Notes

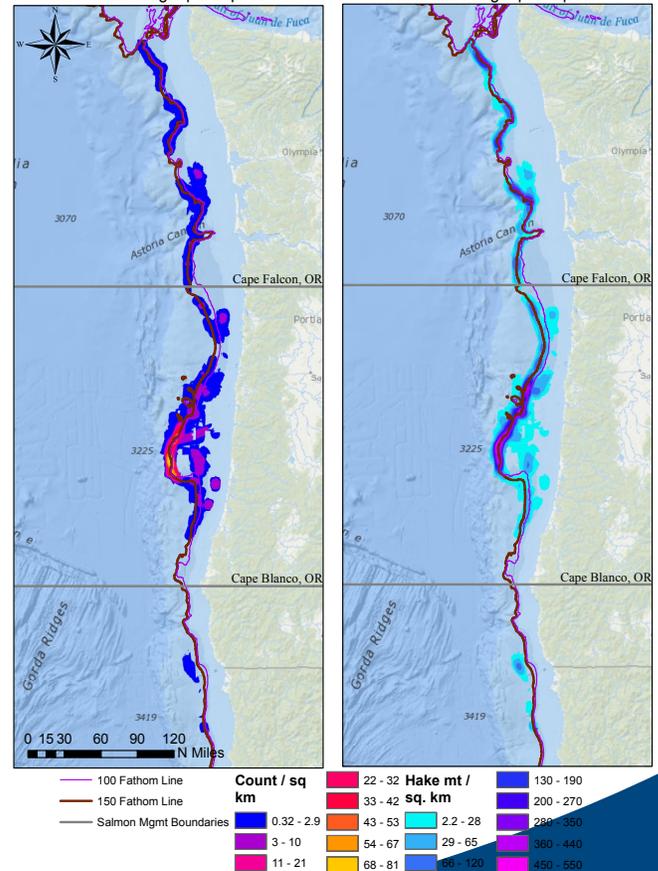
- All data are preliminary and have not been thoroughly checked for quality assurance. Specifically, some fish ticket and observer data are likely missing.
- Observer data have been aggregated to one-square-kilometer cells.
- Cells containing less than three vessels are not shown to maintain confidentiality. Therefore, some areas where fishing and Chinook bycatch occurred may not be shown.
- In the shoreside midwater trawl sectors, spatial location of landed species are estimated based on total catch in the trip and the proportion of landings recorded in a

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At-Sea Catcher-Processor: January 1 to October 15, 2014
Chinook Caught per Sq. Km. Hake MT Caught per Sq. Km.



Shoreside Midwater Trawl >50% Hake: January 1 to October 15, 2014
Chinook Caught per Sq. Km. Hake MT Caught per Sq. Km.



From the Galley

John LaFargue, CA Coordinator



The Chef gathering supplies.

Dungeness crab season is in full swing. In NorCal there are decent numbers per pot and the conditions are excellent. The Dungeness are much fuller than usual for this time of year. If you haven't caught/bought some already, get them before they molt!

After eating a few crab straight out of the pot, I usually turn to some time-tested crowd pleasers for variety: crab enchiladas, crab and muenster grilled cheese, crab topped steaks...and, more often than not, I whip up crab cakes for guests.

Crab cakes are a great way to extend the amount of crab you have on hand. They make great appetizers or a solid main dish. And there are infinite varieties! Let your imagination go wild! My repertoire ranges from a basic crab cake to coconut encrusted ones with a Thai curry sauce.

I am never disappointed with a homemade crab cake. Unlike in a restaurant setting where every ounce of meat costs big money, homemade crab cakes can be loaded with meat instead of bread crumbs. I once heard that crab cakes should be held together by will power alone. That's how I make mine...mostly meat, very little egg and bread crumbs. I do like to bread the outside of the meaty cakes for a nice crunch. Here is a basic recipe to get you started, but experiment and let me know what you come up with.

Dungeness Crab Cakes à la LaFargue

- 1 pound fresh crab meat
(approx. two large crab)
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 Tablespoon stone ground mustard
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives, green onion, parsley, or whatever you like
- 1-2 eggs
- 1 ½-2 cups bread crumbs (I prefer Panko)
- 4-5 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- Kosher salt
- Cracked pepper
- lemon wedges for serving

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Combine crab, mayonnaise, mustard, herbs, approximately ½cup bread crumbs and 1 egg. Depending on the size of the egg and moisture of the crab, you may need to add more bread crumbs or egg. I like the mix to just barely hold together when I form a small patty.

Form the mix in to small patties and set on a chilled plate. Since these are delicate, I recommend making the cakes a little smaller than the width of your spatula. I like to make mine on the thick side — an inch and half thick. Place remaining bread crumbs in small bowl. Firmly press the cakes into the bread crumbs making sure to cover all sides.

Heat oil and butter in a cast iron skillet over medium heat until foaming subsides. Add crab cakes. Cook for 3 minutes or so being careful to not scorch the bottom. Carefully flip them and place pan in preheated oven. Depending on how thick they are, they should be done in 3-5 minutes.

Plate them up and serve with lemon wedges or your favorite sauce...tartar, cocktail, Sracha. Use your imagination and enjoy!



Contact Us

Word on the Waves is published quarterly by the [Fisheries Observation Science Program](#) at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center to maintain communications with current observers and industry contacts. We want to hear from you! Please send submissions, suggestions and questions to the newsletter editor.

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Fisheries News

This section highlights industry-specific articles and websites. We try to keep it short. However, a slew of interesting websites and articles have found their way to us and they deserve more than a corner of the page. Here they are in no particular order:

Measuring the Effects of Catch Shares Project

This [website](#) is a clearinghouse for Catch Share-based reports and data. Purposefully neutral, the Project analyzes data from the West Coast Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and the Northeast Multispecies Sector Programs to create “objective, scientifically rigorous indicators of change.” It’s got a lot of good information. Check it out.

Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

This is a new [website](#) highlighting NOAA’s ecosystem work. The site explains this new fisheries management method, outlines its mission and discusses its future plans. They share good videos and charts. Take a moment to see what they’re up to.

Happenings in Morro Bay

Morro Bay has been receiving a lot of press lately. This [article](#) discusses the effect warm ocean waters are having

Featured Observer — continued



Kevin loves being outdoors. His favorite thing about observing is that it’s outside on the ocean where he can “feel the salty ocean air on (his) face and watch the sky and water conditions change throughout the day.” He enjoys trail running, mountain biking and birding. His bucket list includes competing in a full Ironman triathlon in the near future. He’s also looking forward to encountering a blue whale and white shark. Two creatures he has yet to see.

on what the Central Coast’s fleet is catching. This [article](#) showcases how well Morro Bay’s fleet did in 2013. They’ve made an astounding comeback.

Fisheries of the United States 2013

NOAA’s Office of Science and Technology releases this annual report demonstrating the importance of key fishing statistics to the nation. They provide the full report as well as a fact sheet. Take a look.

2013 Bycatch Reduction Engineering Report

Reducing bycatch is a big issue and a high priority. The [6th Annual Bycatch and Engineering Report](#) to Congress showcases grant-funded research focused on new fishing practices and innovative gear that contribute to reducing bycatch.

Pacific Groundfish Social Study

We know the catch share program is influencing fisheries. It is also effecting West Coast communities. This [study](#) looks at catch share’s social impact and its repercussions. You can download a copy of the accompanying presentation [here](#).

Observer Program Gets ‘Sea Legs’ as Fisheries Recovery

Here is [a good story](#) from the Chinook Observer singing the praises of the Observer Program and its participation in fisheries management.

Editorial: Fisheries observers demonstrate usefulness of biological expertise

Finally, there is [this editorial](#) from the Daily Astorian praising observers’ efforts and the positive results of the catch share program.



It’s obvious Kevin derives great satisfaction from observing. It meets his desire to have “a meaningful way to earn a living outside” and fulfills his childhood dream of working on fishing boats. He says: “I’m very happy that the work I do on boats provides a dual benefit to the local fishing economy and the conservation of our fisheries.”

We’re happy to have you on those boats, Kevin. Thank you for your outstanding work and continued commitment.

Fishing Slang: Funny Terms that are Handy to Know

Like all communities, the commercial fishing industry has its own slang. Knowing the slang can boost your credibility and help you fit in on the boat. In an effort to help you out, we've compiled a small list to get you started. Please note some of them are regional.

Vessel

Sissy Sticks: Outriggers with stabilizers; "flopplers" or "stabies"

Birds: Stabilizers off outriggers

Fo'c'sle/Forepeak: Space in the bow of the vessel for storage and/or crew

Screws: Propellers

Gunnel: Rail

Freeboard: Distance between water line and plane of deck

Gear

Hoochie: The plastic squid like bait often added in addition to the jig.

Fish

Trout: Kelp greenling/Slickheads

Greenling: Green/blue colored lingcod

Cod: Lingcod

Windsock: Fish hollowed out by hagfish/sand fleas

Goldeneye: Yelloweye

Rag mop: Sea star

Japanese Sole/China Dover: Deepsea sole

Butt: Halibut

Turbot: Arrowtooth

Greenies: Yellowtail rockfish

Brownies: Widow rockfish

Buckethead: Shortspine Thornyhead

Florida: Bank rockfish

Bosco: Greenspotted rockfish

Johnny Bass: Olive rockfish

Chucklehead: Copper rockfish

Warthog: Bronz-spotted rockfish

Hardheads: Thornyheads

Slobs: huge sun stars that take jigs

Rock Cod: all manner of rockfish

Whiting: name used for various species of hake

Idiot fish: Longspine/Shortspine Thornyhead rockfish

Channel Cod/Channel Rock: Thorny-heads

Flatties: California halibut

Bolina: Brown rockfish

Black cod: sablefish



US Naval Ship Bumps Into Canadian Authorities, Hilarity Ensues

Supposedly, this is an actual radio conversation between a US naval ship and Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland. We can't verify its validity, but it is pretty funny. Enjoy.

Canadians: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

Americans: recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision.



Canadians: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the captian of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No, I say again you divert YOUR course.

Americans: This is the Aircraft Carrier USS Lincoln, the second largest ship in the United States of Atlantic Fleet. We are accompanied by three Destroyers, three Cruisers and numerous support vessels. I DEMAND that you change your course 15 degrees north. I say again, that's one-five degrees north or counter-measures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.

Canadians: This is a lighthouse. Your call.

Program Snapshot

We thought you'd like to know how this season is going in terms of trips made, overall sea days, etc. Here's a snapshot for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 12, 2014:

Total Trips	
2013: 3006	2014: 3004
Catch Share: 2336	Catch Share: 2221
Non-Catch Share Limited Entry: 190	Non-Catch Share Limited Entry: 178
Open Access: 575	Open Access: 594
EFP: 5	EFP: 11

2014 Chinook Bycatch — continued

given haul. Catch Monitor data were matched to WC-GOP data to approximate locations of Chinook bycatch. At-sea discard location is observed directly, so locations are more exact.

- Some hauls were removed from the spatial analysis if they were clearly incorrect, e.g., appeared to occur on land.
- Due to spatial aggregation, these maps should be used to provide a broad picture of both fishing intensity and Chinook bycatch. Chinook bycatch hotspots should be considered approximate rather than exact.
- Spatial scales differ between maps to focus on the extent of the given fishery.
- Color scales differ between maps, reflecting different distributions of landings and Chinook bycatch.