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Welcome to the California Sea Grant Fisheries Newsletter

We're back!! For 27 years (1973-1999) we published the Sea Grant Extension Program Newsletter covering fisheries, seafood and other coastal issues. We are restarting the newsletter, which will focus on marine fisheries, as part of the National Sea Grant fisheries extension initiative. Our goal is providing readers with fisheries information in a concise, non-advocacy, educational format.

This issue includes an update on our activities related to California's Marine Life Management Act, information about a useful regional web site, a farewell to Seafood Specialist Bob Price, and other information. Future issues will highlight fisheries research results, lead you to sources of useful fisheries and seafood information, and discuss important fisheries issues. We will try to focus on information that is not readily available from other sources such as newsletters, listservs and web sites.

If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter, let us know either by filling out and returning the enclosed postcard, by sending an email with your address to Janelle Kohl at jmkohl@ucdavis.edu, or by phoning (530) 752-5797 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please specify if you would prefer to receive the newsletter by mail or via email as a pdf attachment. Sending you the newsletter electronically will save paper, lower our cost, and speed delivery. The newsletter will also be viewable at the California Sea Grant College web site: <http://www.csgd.ucsd.edu/PUBLICATIONS/SgPubIndx.html>.

As always, we greatly value your suggestions and ideas about the newsletter. Please feel free to contact us. jmkohl@ucdavis.edu

Heads Up! News Connecting the West Coast Fishing Community

Do you want to learn what other West Coast fishermen in your industry or other industries are up to? Do you want to publicize an event? Share your research or an article? Find out how to make your fishing operation safer? If you replied, "Yes," to any of these questions the Heads Up! web site will be a great tool for you. Just click on <http://www.heads-up.net>

Heads Up! is a joint project between the California, Oregon, and Washington Sea Grant programs and several fishing industry associations. Alaska Sea Grant is on the road to becoming a partner, too. Oregon Sea Grant staff created the web site in 1998 and in 2001 it became a regional site managed by Oregon Sea Grant, full of news and events applicable to people along the West Coast.

The mission of Heads Up! is to strengthen connections among fishermen, fishing families, industry, communities, agencies, and other groups through the exchange of timely information that will support the industry's transition to the future. Visitors to Heads Up! like that it is non-commercial, shares a broad base of topics, and serves and connects all gear types and fisheries.

Articles are catalogued under four headings: Industry, Safety, Family, and Seafood. You can also search for articles or publications under any key word or date. If you want to read current weather information or NMFS news releases, you can access them on the home page. Hot links and a continually updated calendar page are also available. Soon we will add crew referral and research update pages, too.

Please tell your friends, co-workers, and constituents about this resource. Submission of articles and events is **simple** on Heads Up! And if you have any questions about the site, feel free to call us at (530) 754-4324 or email ksortais@ucdavis.edu.



Marine Life Management Act: Sea Grant's Role

It has been over four years since California's Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) was passed. Signed on September 30, 1998, the MLMA became law on January 1, 1999. This multi-faceted legislation emphasizes scientific management to conserve and replenish fish stocks. Sea Grant's role with MLMA implementation is primarily science-related, including:

- Editing and producing *California's Living Marine Resources: A Status Report*.
- Designing and operating the independent peer review process for fishery management plans.
- Funding university research on topics relevant to California fisheries.

The first two roles are described below, and we will highlight fisheries research in future newsletters.

The MLMA mandated a report on the status of California's fisheries. The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) contracted with the University of California Sea Grant College Program to edit and print the book. The editing task involved not only revising the text to achieve uniformity of style, presentation and content, but also coordinating the timely completion of authorship, peer review, and graphics.

California's Living Marine Resources: A Status Report was published in January 2002.

The book contains the most up-to-date information available on oceanic, environmental, regulatory, and socioeconomic factors affecting California's living marine resources. More than 135 species of marine fish, invertebrates, plants, mammals, and birds are individually discussed in the 592-page book. The editors of the Status Report scouted out leading scientific experts near and far to write and review all the sections of the report. Because the information contained in the *Status Report* is time-sensitive, one-fourth of the text will be updated annually. Staff of the California Department of Fish and Game recently completed the first update.

The report (UC ANR Publication #SG01-11) can be purchased for \$25 from ANR Communication Services, University of California, 6701 San Pablo Ave., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94608; phone (800) 994-8849; it can also be ordered at the Web Site <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>. If you prefer, you can view, download, or print an online copy of the report, which is located at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/status>. The online version appears to be popular; approximately 22,000 people have accessed it since spring 2002. Another tool for meeting the goals of the Marine Life Management Act is the development of fishery

management plans for fisheries managed by the state. The plans are intended to foster sustainability of fisheries and rebuilding of fish stocks and are the primary basis for managing the sport and commercial fisheries for the species covered. To date, three fishery management plans have been written: the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan, the White Seabass Fishery Management Plan, and the Draft Market Squid Fishery Management Plan. The nearshore plan covers nineteen species: California sheephead, Cabezon, kelp greenling, rock greenling, California scorpionfish, monkeyface prickleback, and 13 species of rockfish.

Scientific peer review, independent of DFG, is a key part of each plan's development. DFG contracted with the Sea Grant Extension Program to manage the peer review process. The purpose of the external peer review is to ensure the accuracy and validity of the scientific basis for each plan. The reviewers must determine if the plan is based on sound scientific theory, knowledge, procedures, and practices. The peer reviewers cannot be CDFG employees, cannot have participated in any aspect of the plan's development, nor have any vested interest in how management schemes are set up. They must evaluate the plans only on the scientific elements listed above.

The scientific peer review reports for the Nearshore, White Seabass, and the Draft Market Squid Fishery Management Plans were submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission and CDFG. Based on the reviews, the Commission returned the plans to the CDFG staff to be revised in conformance with the suggestions of the independent peer review panels. The White Seabass Plan was the first for which revisions were completed, and it was adopted by the Commission on April 4, 2002. At the time, the Commission commented that it was a historic moment: the first fishery management plan to be adopted by California. The Nearshore Fishery Management Plan was adopted by the Commission on August 29, 2002. The Draft Market Squid Management Plan is currently undergoing revisions suggested by the peer review panel.

To view information about these fishery management plans and the Marine Life Management Act, go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/>. An excellent reference to the MLMA is *Guide to California's Marine Life Management Act* by Michael L. Weber and Burr Heneman. It can be viewed on line at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/mlma/. Copies of the book can be purchased by contacting the author by email: MLEoWeber@aol.com.

Seafood Technology Specialist Bob Price Retires



Dr. Bob Price left the FDA in 1974 to become a Sea Grant Seafood Technology Specialist at the Cooperative Extension at UC Davis.



Bob teaches high school students about properties of various rockfish.

Following a distinguished and productive 30-year career dedicated to ensuring a safe and wholesome seafood supply, Dr. Robert J. Price's last day with the University of California Sea Grant Extension Program as Seafood Technology Extension Specialist was January 31, 2003. Bob, a walking encyclopedia of seafood safety and processing knowledge, has made many contributions in providing technical assistance and information to food processors, food service companies, importers/brokers, food educators (media), commercial fishermen, academia, consumers, and regulatory personnel.

"Bob and I have worked on seafood related projects ranging from consumer education to onboard handling of salmon since 1974, and his retirement creates a void in our program," reflected Fisheries Specialist Chris Dewees. Bob had numerous significant accomplishments and awards during his career. Here are a few examples.

- Served as chair and principal author of the Seafood HACCP Alliance's "Compendium of Fish and Fishery Product Processes, Hazards, and Controls" <http://seafood.ucdavis.edu/haccp/compendium/compend.htm>.
- Named the 1994 California Fisheries and Seafood Institute "Member of the Year."
- Served as chairman and numerous other volunteer leadership roles for the Northern California Institute of Food Technologists (elected "Member of the Year" in 1995).
- Created seafood quality, decomposition, and species identification workshops in collaboration with federal agencies and industry trade associations.

A summary of Bob's outstanding career accomplishments are featured on the California Sea Grant College Program web site at: <http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu/EXTENSION/pricestory/priceindex.html>

Bob will become an emeritus Extension Specialist at UC Davis. We hope that the California seafood community joins us in thanking Bob email: rjprice@ucdavis.edu for all that he has done to enhance seafood quality and safety and in wishing him a happy retirement and success with his future!

(compiled by Pam Tom and Chris Dewees)



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This quarterly newsletter was supported by the National Sea Grant College Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under NOAA Grant #NA06RG0142, project number A/P-1, through the California Sea Grant College Program. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of any of those organizations.

