

PACFIN/RECFIN CONFIDENTIAL DATA ACCESS POLICY

Last Updated: 1/31/2024

This document addresses the access policy to Confidential Data residing in the PacFIN and RecFIN Databases, contributed by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and other data partners (collectively referred to as contributors).

The use of Confidential Data is intended for fishery management activities or fisheries related research (as specified below). Only individuals conducting such activities will be granted access. Individuals granted access under this confidentiality agreement are not to share data with others unless specified in this policy document or the PacFIN/RecFIN Certificate of Understanding and Statement of Nondisclosure of Confidential Data form (hereafter nondisclosure form). Should others need access to this data, they should be referred to PacFIN or RecFIN to request access under this data access policy.

In order to be granted access to confidential data, all individuals requesting authorized user status are required to read, acknowledge, date, and sign the nondisclosure form, affirming the individual's understanding of their obligations with respect to confidential data.

PacFIN and RecFIN will be the final decision makers about granting or removal of access, consistent with the terms and conditions of any existing data sharing agreements with the contributors. Should anyone who has been granted access violate the terms of this access policy or cease to be employed in a capacity that meets the criteria for access, their access will be rescinded. Should any contributors have concerns about violations of this policy they should report such concerns to PacFIN or RecFIN so that appropriate action may be taken.

In order for individuals to be eligible for approval to access Confidential Data that reside in the PacFIN and RecFIN Databases, they must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

1. Employees of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC); the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC); CDFW; ODFW; WDFW; west coast science centers and regional offices of the NMFS (i.e., West Coast Region (WCR), Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC)); and NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) personnel, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) personnel, state enforcement

personnel or any authorized officer. Only employees of the listed agencies that have a professional requirement for access to confidential fisheries data for fishery management, fisheries law enforcement, technical database or IT management, or fisheries research purposes will be given access. Individuals accessing confidential data from PacFIN/RecFIN must operate in compliance with existing state and federal Data Sharing Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding with PSMFC and the data contributors where required. To satisfy international fisheries agreements NMFS employees may share confidential data with Regional Fishery Management Organizations as required by those agreements.

2. Individuals under federal contract, cooperative agreement or grant awarded by PSMFC, PFMC, CDFW, ODFW, WDFW, WCR, NWFSC, or SWFSC will be given access only upon signature of a PacFIN/RecFIN nondisclosure form. All such individuals must require access to Confidential Data to satisfy the terms of their contract and for the purposes of fishery management, technical database or IT management, enforcement, or fisheries research in compliance with any existing state or federal Data Sharing Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding with PSMFC and the data contributors where required.

3. If the requester does not meet the requirements of criterion 1 or 2 above, PacFIN/RecFIN may direct the requester to engage the appropriate contributor(s) point of contact. Under this provision, individuals will be granted access only if they have received written authorization from the appropriate contributor(s) stating that the data source(s) (e.g. CDFW, ODFW, WDFW, WCR, NWFSC, SWFSC) have agreed to release the requested confidential data. A single source cannot authorize the release of data that is outside their jurisdiction.

Contributor point of contacts for requesting access to confidential fisheries data (Partial list)

Paulo Serpa
Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940
(805) 729-5409
Paulo.Serpa@wildlife.ca.gov
www.wildlife.ca.gov

Justin Ainsworth
Technical and Data Services Section Leader
Marine Resources Program
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
2040 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365
(541) 602-6711
Justin.C.Ainsworth@ODFW.Oregon.gov

Corey Niles
Coastal Marine Policy Lead
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 902-2733
Corey.Niles@dfw.wa.gov

Jon McVeigh
Fisheries Observation Science Program Manager
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Blvd. East
Seattle, WA 98112
(206) 302-2423
jon.mcveigh@noaa.gov

Charles Villafana
West Coast Regional Observer Program Coordinator
NMFS West Coast Regional Office
501 West Coast Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 980-4033
charles.villafana@noaa.gov

Kevin Hill
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037
(858) 546-7052
Kevin.Hill@noaa.gov

Appendix A: HMS logbooks and albacore port sampling data

Currently for HMS logbooks and albacore port sampling data housed by PSMFC for the SWFSC, the requester for access to these data needs to sign an NDA from the SWFSC. After approval from the SWFSC, the PacFIN data manager/staff will release these data or grant permission to access these data.

Appendix B: Recreational confidential data descriptions

Personally Identifiable Information

Personally identifiable information associated with recreational data (e.g., names, vessel identification numbers, phone numbers, addresses) is considered confidential.

Party/Charter trip-level sample interview data

Trip-level sample interview data provided by agency data partners (WDFW, ODFW, CDFW) from Party/Charter (PC) vessels is considered confidential, unless sufficiently aggregated so that the identity of an individual vessel cannot be determined directly or indirectly. As such, summarized or aggregated party/charter sample interview data must reflect data from three or more vessels for public reporting. This includes PC dockside interview data and PC onboard observing data.

Recreational Biological Sample Data

Recreational biological sample data (i.e., lengths, weights, age data from individual fish samples) from beach/bank, private/rental boats, and man-made/jetty modes is considered non-confidential. California Fish and Game Code identifies recreational biological sample data from the Party/Charter mode as confidential. As such, party/charter biological data from CDFW must be sufficiently summarized or aggregated so that the identity of an individual vessel cannot be determined directly or indirectly for public reporting. Recreational biological data provided by ODFW and WDFW is considered non-confidential. Personally identifiable information associated with this data from all modes will not be available to the public.

Recreational Beach/Bank, Private/Rental Boats, Man-Made/Jetty Data

Recreational data from beach/bank, private/rental boats, and man-made/jetty modes is considered non-confidential. However, personally identifiable information associated with these data will not be available to the public.

Catch and effort estimates

Recreational catch and effort estimates for all modes are considered non-confidential.

Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey

Estimates and data from the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) are considered non-confidential.

Additional considerations

Unless specified above, all other recreational data are considered non-confidential.