NOAA
FISHERIES

Fisheries Information System Program

What is FIS?

The Fisheries Information System program is a state-regional-federal partnership that supports sound, science-based fisheries management. We do so by fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration and funding innovative projects to improve the quality of fisheries-dependent data.

A Program Management Team, composed of members from each region, guides the work of FIS. West Coast representatives are:

Dave Colpo (PacFIN)
Craig D'Angelo (NWFSC)
Curt Whitmire (NWFSC)

FIS Program Contacts

Michael Liddel
Program Director
michael.liddel@noaa.gov

Lisa Peterson
Program Coordinator
lisa.peterson@noaa.gov

fisheries.noaa.gov/national/commercial-fishing/fisheries-information-system-program
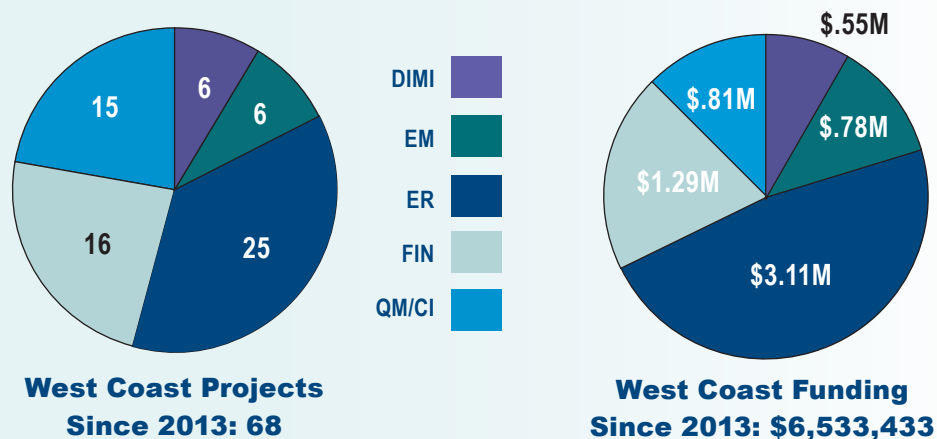
FIS on the West Coast

A Regionally Driven Collaboration

While fisheries-dependent data collection, reporting, analysis, and management are inherently regional functions, there are numerous benefits to collaborating nationally and among regions. The Fisheries Information System program (FIS) brings together representatives from regional offices, science centers, fishery information networks, commissions, and state agencies to spark innovation, promote information-sharing, reduce redundancy, and help coordinate priority-setting.

Along with convening cross-disciplinary communities of practice, a key FIS initiative is an annual competitive request for proposal process, funded in collaboration with the National Observer Program's Electronic Technologies program and the National Catch Share Program, to support fishery-dependent data projects. In the West Coast Region, this funding has supported projects conducted by the West Coast Regional Office, the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, the Pacific Fisheries Information Network, the Recreational Fisheries Information Network, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a joint project with the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

Since 2013, FIS has funded more than 260 projects in the areas of data improvements, modernization, and integration (DIMI); electronic monitoring pre-implementation and implementation (EM); electronic reporting pre-implementation and implementation (ER); Fishery information network development (FIN); and quality management and continuous improvement (QM/CI). Here is the breakdown for projects on the West Coast:

Legend:
- DIMI
- EM
- ER
- FIN
- QM/CI

West Coast Projects Since 2013: 68

West Coast Projects pie chart values: 6, 6, 25, 16, 15

West Coast Funding Since 2013: $6,533,433

West Coast Funding pie chart values: $.55M, $.78M, $3.11M, $1.29M, $.81M
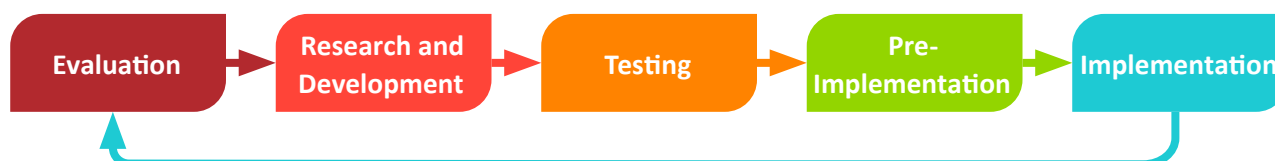
Making an Impact

FIS support is making a significant impact in the region. On the West Coast, groundfish harvest specifications and management measures are set every two years, with the various data needed to set them spread across multiple documents and sources. Manually compiling and tracking all the information over the 18-month process was time-consuming and prone to error. To address these issues, FIS supported a partnership among NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Regional Office, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to develop a specifications and allocations database.

The automated system improves management of the fishery by providing up-to-date information in a timely manner. For instance, the database provides public reports of draft harvest specifications as they are being determined by the Council. This helps to identify and correct mistakes early in the process, eliminate version control issues, and provide a common reference point for stakeholders. The database also serves as an easily accessible archive of the documentation that supports management measures. This documentation, in turn, will enhance the process for subsequent analyses and decisions, such as federal fishery regulations, stock assessments, and allocation reviews. In the future, the database may integrate additional information, such as landings, to further aid the collaborative management of West Coast groundfish among the Council, NOAA Fisheries, and the West Coast states and tribes.

Supporting the Project Life Cycle

Through RFP funding, supplemented by engagement from communities of practice called Professional Specialty Groups, FIS provides targeted support that yields effective, innovative solutions to high-priority challenges across the project life cycle.

Evaluation → Research and Development → Testing → Pre-Implementation → Implementation

Recent RFP-funded projects in the West Coast region, by project life cycle stage:

2022

- ■ Continued Development and Implementation of PacFIN Fishery Descriptions *(West Coast Regional Office)*
- ■ Improved System of Tracking for United States Data Submissions *(WCRO)*
- ■ Development of a Web Application Programming Interface for Transfer of WDFW Puget Sound Sampling Program Data to the Pacific Recreational Fisheries Information Network *(Recreational Fisheries Information Network)*
- ■ Monitoring Vessel Movement and Fishing Activity with Low-Cost Location Loggers: Application in the West Coast Dungeness Crab Fishery *(Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)*

2021

- ■ Enhancing Efficiency and Accessibility of HMS Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reporting: Convert to PacFIN APEX Reporting Platform *(WCRO)*
- ■ Ship of Theseus: FIN Entity Resolution Toolkit *(Pacific Fisheries Information Network)*
- ■ West Coast Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Program: Evaluation and Improvement Using Value Stream Mapping *(WCRO)*
- ■ WCR Permit Program Value Stream Mapping and Application Requirements Documentation *(WCRO)*
- ■ Add Comprehensive West Coast Fishery Descriptions to PacFIN Data Warehouse *(WCRO)*
- ■ Continued West Coast Coastal Pelagic Species Data Consolidation and Integration *(Southwest Fisheries Science Center)*
- ■ Onboard Record Collection Application: A Joint Effort Between the West Coast Region Observer Program, Pacific Islands Region Observer Program, and PacFIN to Develop Electronic Reporting for Pelagic HMS Fisheries Observers *(PacFIN)*
- ■ Implementing an Electronic Logbook for the West Coast Groundfish Fishery *(WCRO)*
- ■ West Coast Groundfish Observer Program Communications Module Development *(Northwest Fisheries Science Center)*
- ■ Development of a Web Application Programming Interface for Data Transfer to the Pacific Recreational Fisheries Information Network *(RecFIN)*

For a complete list of FIS-supported projects since 2013, please visit fisheries.noaa.gov/data-tools/fis-supported-projects.