

TITLE: Estimation of Angler Effort in Puget Sound, Washington State Using An Angler-based Phone Survey

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OBJECTIVE: To describe the new survey methods implemented in Washington State and some of the benefits of using an angler-based survey approach.

ABSTRACT:

In July of 2003, a new phone survey was implemented to collect data used to estimate the total number of angler trips taken in Puget Sound, Washington. This survey takes advantage of the WILD (Washington Interactive Licensing Database) system which obtains (electronically) the angler contact information (name, address, phone number) for each licensed angler at the license point-of-sale. The WILD system provides the information needed to target only WA State fishing license holders during the phone survey. This survey is conducted six times during the year and provides an unbiased, efficient estimate of angler effort. Estimates of effort (angler trips) are generated for four fishing modes and each of Puget Sound's ten catch reporting areas. Details of the survey methods and the WILD license system will be presented along with survey results.