

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER  
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM  
FISCAL YEAR 2010**

**PRIORITY 1 OF 3**

**1. Project Title:**

**Pacific Fisheries Information Network (“PACFIN”)**

**2. Organization Name and Address:**

**Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
205 Southeast Spokane Street  
Portland, OR 97202**

**3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number, and e-mail:**

**Brad Gilman  
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**4. Project Location Address: Same**

**5. Describe the organization’s main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:**

**The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission was authorized by an Act of Congress granting consent and approval for an interstate compact comprised of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho. The Commission manages a number of data collection and information programs for the Federal Government, the member State fish and game departments, the Bonneville Power Administration, and the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Commission.**

**6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

**The Pacific Fisheries Information Network (“PACFIN”) provides timely and accurate data essential for effective fisheries management. The nation’s first regional fisheries data network, PACFIN is a joint Federal and State data collection and information management project. Until FY ’07, it was funded as an express line item in the NOAA Fisheries budget. Starting in ’07, it has been**

funded under the programmatic account "Fishery Information Networks" within the NOAA Fisheries budget.

PACFIN aggregates detailed and summarized state and federal fisheries data to allow fishery managers and associated agencies to track commercial fish catches by area. This helps the Pacific Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries manage the annual fishing season off the coast of Oregon.

There is a direct correlation between fishery data and the commercial fisheries. When the data is extensive and trustworthy, Federal fishery managers have more confidence in expanding the commercial fishing seasons and quotas. When the data is incomplete or questionable, the fishery managers become conservative and begin to restrict fishing seasons in an effort to hedge against uncertainty. The Commission can adequately sample the West Coast ports with a funding level of \$3.5 million. The current funding level of \$2.973 million is insufficient for coastwide monitoring. The Commission will be required to drop many ports from the data collection program if funding levels are not restored to \$3.5 million.

7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

This program is over two decades old. Pacific States is the entity identified by NOAA to collect and assimilate fishery data on the West Coast. The program is underfunded by \$500,000.

7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

FY '97 thru FY '05---\$3 million  
FY '06 thru FY '07---\$3.5 million  
FY '08--\$2.973 million  
FY '09 (proposed)--\$2.973 million (Omnibus)  
Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Fishery Information Network Line Item  
\$2,973,000

8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific – e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account):

Commerce Department  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Fishery Information Network Line Item

9. What is purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

The PACFIN program involves port sampling on behalf of the National Marine Fisheries Service in all major West Coast ports, including all of the commercial fishing ports in the State of Oregon. The National Marine

**Fisheries Service, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Oregon Department of Fish and Game also supply fishery data to PACFIN. This information is assimilated by PACFIN and is used by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (a Federal body) to make management decisions on all of the commercially exploited fisheries on the West Coast, including all of the Federal fisheries occurring off Oregon's coastline. All of the Oregon ports and Oregon fishermen are impacted by the quality and breadth of the fisheries data.**

- 10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress. If so, who?**

**Pacific States is making this request with each Member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation (other than Rep. Walden).**

- 11. Funding Details:**

- a. Total project cost:**

**The President's budget proposes \$2.973 million for PACFIN. The program needs \$3.5 million annually to be effective.**

- b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal year 2010:**

**\$500,000 above the President's budget request. The request to Appropriations should be to ask that an additional \$500,000 be identified in the bill for PACFIN as a Congressionally Directed Funding project. NOAA treats the Congressionally Directed Funding items as additions to the Base.**

- c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity?**

**This is an exclusively Federal responsibility. The West Coast States and Canada contribute fishery data in kind to the program, which is assimilated with the catch data collected through PACFIN.**

- d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project?**

**Pacific States has been requesting that the Administration include \$3.5 million in future President's budgets as the base funding amount. Other Commission programs have been increased to reflect true program costs. PACFIN is one of the few remaining Commission data programs that is underfunded. Should future Presidential budget submissions increase to \$3.5 million, the Commission will cease seeking additional funds from the Congress. Our hope is that a plus-up for PACFIN will act as a catalyst for the new Administration to increase the base funding amount to \$3.5 million.**

- e. **Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010. (e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

**Pacific States has a Federally approved and audited overhead rate of 13%. These funds are retained by the organization to pay staff salaries and benefits, rent, travel and other related expenses. The remaining funds from the PACFIN grant are used to hire port sampling personnel on seasonal contracts. These personnel are deployed to commercial fishing ports in Oregon, Washington, and California.**

- f. **Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:**

**The Fish & Game Departments for all five West Coast States are statutorily mandated commissioners of Pacific States. The Commissioners have approved restoration of the PACFIN funding as part of the 2009 legislative agenda.**

- g. **Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the recipient organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?):**

**Yes. Funding dictates the number of port samplers which are deployed in commercial fishing ports.**