2007 NOAA Fisheries Employee of the Year Nomination
Narrative

Nominee's Name: Last, First, Middle: **Nomination Category:**

Harvey, Chris_____ **_Program Employees – Management/Scientific/Technical _**

Address at Least One of the Following Factors in the Justification Below.
Contributions to NOAA and NOAA Fisheries programs that resulted in:

For Non-Management:
- Enhanced economic viability of commercial and/or recreational fishing;
- Enhanced public appreciation for the mission of the agency;
- Enhanced safety or health of NOAA Fisheries workforce;
- Enhanced morale of the NOAA Fisheries workforce or inspired excellence in its members;
- Enhanced stewardship of NOAA Fisheries protected/managed species/associated habitats;
- Improved accuracy, reliability, or reproducibility of scientific results;
- Improved customer service;
- Increased efficiency and/or reduced cost of operations;
- Improved equal employment opportunity or diversity in NOAA Fisheries;
- Strengthened ties to other NOAA elements or NOAA Fisheries constituents; and/or
- Brought unusual credit to NOAA Fisheries or members of its workforce.

For Management:
- Demonstrated exceptional leadership, development of the workforce, and/or program management.

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Dr. Chris Harvey as Employee of the Year. As I describe below, his efforts have greatly enhanced our ability to act as stewards of NOAA's trust resources, significantly improved NOAA's ties with its partners, and has brought unusual credit and recognition to NOAA Fisheries.

Chris's research focuses on Ecosystem-based Management of the California Current LME, with special emphasis on west coast groundfish. His research tackles broad, complex issues ranging from foodweb models, climate effects on rockfish, bioenergetics of groundfish, non-indigenous species, and stable isotope analysis. In FY07 Chris led a team on a research project documenting significant effects of fishing on assemblages of rockfishes. This landmark paper revealed dramatic shifts in the body size of 16 rockfish species, including 6 that are considered overfished. By taking into account changes in body size as well as shifts in density, he was able to estimate how the flow of energy has been fundamentally altered in this part of the ecosystem. His work suggests the potential for important shifts in the allocation of energy in the system that could severely restrict the ability of overfished stocks to rebuilt to previous levels. This work has been cited by researchers in the academic and NGO community as one the most important papers on west coast groundfish published in the last decade, and one which undoubtedly will greatly impact the development of Pacific Fisheries Ecosystems Plans as well as the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment. There is absolutely no question, that this work will greatly enhance our ability to manage rockfish fisheries along the west coast.

Chris tackled another important topic—the potential of predator-prey interactions to alter predictions of stock assessment models. Chris's analysis of the interactions between hake and rockfish is a very important and interesting examining of the interplay between fishing regulations and predator-prey dynamics. This paper (that includes authors from all FRAM programs) was motivated by the fact the highly valuable hake fishery is constrained by bycatch of overfished rockfish. However, is we reduce fishing on hake, and hake eat rockfish, the net result is that predation rate go up on rockfish—the opposite intent of the fishing regulation. Using carefully constructed realistic predator-prey models

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Narrative (continued)

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The first step in any ecosystem management endeavor is to define the boundaries of the ecosystem under consideration. While a seemingly simple step, varying management objectives, governance structures and scientific biases has made this effort extremely challenging at best (and horrendously frustrated at worst). Chris has entered this arena at perhaps the most challenging level—the entire Pacific Basin. Working with all PICES member nations, Chris has taken a leading role in understanding how different countries and management agencies define and delineated ecosystem boundaries. Given the extreme differences in perspectives of countries such as Korea, Russia, China, the U.S. and Canada, reaching a common understanding has been a long and difficult process. Nonetheless, Chris's careful, rigorous and non-threatening manner has resulted in a document that will serve as a cornerstone for all forthcoming EBM efforts in the Pacific Basin. The document carefully chronicles how each of the PICES member nations decides what constitutes an ecosystem as well as what actions might be appropriate within these boundaries. By comparing what different countries are doing and through sometimes long and tedious discussions, Chris was able to forge something of a consensus about best practices for defining ecosystem boundaries. His leadership in this exercise cannot be underestimated, and the impact of this project on management actions as well relationships with PICES and its members has been enormous. His hard work not only shed a very positive light on NOAA, but also deepened our partnership with PICES.

Chris serves as one of the best examples in the NWFSC of what it means to be a successful NMFS scientist. Chris's work is top-notch and viewed with respect around the globe. Invitations to Sweeden, Canada and the Great Lakes to tackle sticky EBM problems are testament to his scientific skills. But, success at NMFS does not lie in the production of pure science. Chris is sharply focused on producing science that is actually useful in fisheries management. For many there is a trade-off between creating useful versus "interesting" science. Chris has very quickly learned to make the useful interesting. This serves the needs of NOAA in two ways. First, it means that management benefits from the very best science. But, perhaps of equal importance is the fact that the work is clearly understood and adapted by those in other regions or countries. Thus, the impact of Chris's work is global not just local. In a program where we have many young scientists trying to navigate the sometimes difficult waters of applied ecology, Chris serves as a beacon of how to get things done that matter.