

FOX - F/ST

Copy: R. Brown  
Mr Fox  
SMI - Kelly  
SIZ - Everett  
SIS - Beatty  
F - Falden



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Stue-K

APR 15 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators  
Office Directors  
FROM: Gary Matlock  
F/SF - Gary C. Matlock  
SUBJECT: Release of Confidential Information

The Sustainable Fisheries Act amended section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), which deals with the release of confidential information and observer data. The former language in the statute referred to "confidentiality of statistics," whereas the amended language refers to "confidentiality of information" and applies to any information submitted under any requirement of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

A team is currently developing a rule to propose our interpretation of these changes. Until the rule is final, we have concluded that NMFS should not change its current practices regarding release of information submitted pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens Act requirement. Therefore, until further notice, you should follow current regulations and NAO 216-100 in response to any request for information. If you have any questions, please contact your NOAA GC representative.

