

SMA 536 Paper Topic

Due date: December 1, 2003

Length: 3-5 pages, double-spaced

Rough draft: strongly encouraged but not required

Assignment: In broad terms, your assignment is to teach me something about an issue in marine affairs that is related to economics. Below are some options, but you are free to write about just about any topic. (If you choose a topic of your own, please email or talk with me about it, just so I know what's going on.)

Topic Option #1: Shellfish. My understanding is that Washington State is one of the few states with a commercial shellfish industry. Find out why, or write about a particular issue related to shellfish harvesting, or explore a particular recreational or commercial shellfishery. There are a ton of possibilities here, ranging from the rights of native tribes to the impact of wastewater and other pollutants to whatever's going on in Willapa Bay to the market for geoducks to the 3-day season in some recreational shellfisheries...

Topic Option #2: Fish farming. A recent issue of *The Economist* (August 9, 2003) heralded this as the coming "blue revolution". Write a response, or write about a particular issue related to fish farming, or explore a particular fish farming operation.

Topic Option #3: Container shipping. One student last year wrote a paper on the shipping industry, and it turns out that there's lots of interesting stuff here: for a long time it was a cartel, but in the 1980s it (was) turned into a free market...

Topic Option #4: ITQs (Individual Transferable Quotas). Note that there's a chapter in the text on ITQs, so I'd expect your paper to add to what's there in some interesting way, e.g., by discussing recent developments (such as the "two-pie" system promoted by processors), exploring in depth a particular fishery, etc.