Management Proposals for Commercial Fisheries in 2001

Note: The Ad Hoc Allocation Committee is scheduled to meet October 23-24, 2000 and is expected to refine proposals for Council consideration at the November meeting.

LIMITED ENTRY

Option 1 - Each commercial limited entry groundfish vessel will be allowed to harvest groundfish in two, 2-month periods during the fishing year, plus December. One fishing period must be selected during the first 6 months of the year (January through June) and one period during the following 5 months of the year (July through November). A period will consist of consecutive calendar months and will begin when the vessel makes a landing of groundfish in any given calendar month. Additionally, harvest will be managed to provide some fishing opportunity in December. December, by default, will be a period for the entire limited entry fleet. Targets for this final month will be conservative to maximize the harvest opportunity selected by vessels earlier in the fishing year, but will provide ability for adjustments to prevent exceeding overfishing levels. These provisions apply to all limited entry groundfish vessels, including whiting and pink shrimp fishers.

Option 2 - Each limited entry vessel will be allowed to harvest groundfish in one 3-month period during the first 6 months of the year (January through June) and one 2-month period during the following 5 months of the year (July through November) plus December. A period will consist of consecutive calendar months and will begin when the vessel makes a landing of groundfish in any given calendar month. Additionally, harvest will be managed to provide some fishing opportunity in December. December, by default, will be a period for the entire limited entry fleet. Targets for this final month will be conservative to maximize the harvest opportunity selected by vessels earlier in the fishing year, but will provide ability for adjustments to prevent exceeding overfishing levels. These provisions apply to all limited entry groundfish vessels, including whiting and pink shrimp fishers.

Option 3 - ("status quo") The general management structure used in 2000 involving gear, species, and area restrictions would be continued in 2001. Trip and cumulative landing limits would be adjusted with the intention of achieving the specified catch levels and reducing bycatch, consistent with rebuilding plans and other Council goals and objectives.

Option 4 - The year will be divided into two cumulative limit periods. Cumulative landing limits for the first half of 2001 would be set in advance and not revised until the period ends. Cumulative limits for the second half of the year would be estimated in advance but would likely require adjustment before or during the period.

OPEN ACCESS

To help limit the take of canary rockfish in the pink shrimp fishery, the Council recommends the states require that shrimp fishers use fish excluders.

Option 1 - North of Cape Mendocino, the open access fishery will be open from April through September. During January through March and October through December, a small trip limit (perhaps 500 pounds per month) for nearshore rockfish will be available.

Option 2 - Between Cape Mendocino and Pt. Conception, the open access fishery will be closed January through April (depending on closure of the recreational fishery) and open from May through September. During October through December, a small trip limit (perhaps 500 pounds per month) for nearshore rockfish, or nearshore rockfish and associated species such as greenlings and cabezon, will be available.

Option 3 - South of Pt. Conception, the open access fishery will be closed January through February and November through December (depending on closure of the recreational fishery). The fishery will be open from April through September. During October, a small trip limit (perhaps 500 pounds per month) for nearshore rockfish, or nearshore rockfish and associated species such as greenlings and cabezon, will be available.

PFMC
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