FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN ELEMENTS POTENTIALLY ADDRESSED BY THE
BYCATCH PROGRAM AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT 18)

In addition to incorporating language describing the Council’s policies and program direction for bycatch monitoring and mitigation, Amendment 18 could also update and reorganize the fishery management plan (FMP), so it better reflects the current management regime. These changes would be categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis, pursuant to NAO 216-6 §6.03a.3(b).

Chapter 1, Introduction: Update introduction language, so it includes references to recent FMP amendments.

Chapter 2, Goals and Objectives: Review FMP goals and objectives and revise as necessary to be consistent with the Council’s preferred alternative from the Bycatch Program EIS. Add Strategic Plan goal on capacity reduction, per the preferred alternative. Review definitions, and update as needed.

Chapter 5, Periodic Specification and Apportionment of Harvest Levels: Revise FMP language from Amendment 17, per Council’s recommendations from September 2004 meeting on “red light/green light” process.

Chapter 6, Management Measures: Per the Council’s preferred alternative: revise sections on bycatch, observers, and standardized reporting methodologies; revise section on allocation and add section on discard cap programs; revise section on permits to reference individual fishing quota (IFQ) program development as requiring bycatch-reduction measures; add section on the use of Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) as a management tool for reduction of overfished species bycatch. Update and re-organize chapter to reflect Council’s current practices and procedures for recommending new management measures and regulatory programs; remove references to foreign fishing. Integrate any management measures from Chapter 11 that are still relevant to today’s fisheries into this chapter.

Chapter 7, Experimental Fisheries: Remove references to development of domestic fisheries as primary reason for exempted fishing permits (EFPs). Update with Council’s current EFP policies, and cite promotion of gear development for bycatch reduction as a Council-supported use of EFPs. Also, add a requirement that recipients of EFPs report on their total catch of overfished species as a condition of issuance of EFPs.

Chapter 8, Scientific Research: Add requirement for reporting on total catch of overfished species as a condition of Secretarial acknowledgment of scientific research.

Chapter 11, Management Measures that Continue in Effect with Implementation of Amendment 4: Integrate measures from this chapter that are still relevant to the fisheries into Chapter 6, and remove Chapter 11 from the FMP.

No changes are planned for other parts of the FMP, except for minor editorial corrections.

PFMC
10/15/04