

# A Maximized Retention and Monitoring Program for the Pacific Whiting Shoreside Fishery

FMP Amendment 10

# Transition to Regulations

- 2007 fishery prosecuted under EFPs
- Temporary rule to establish processor responsibilities
  - RIR/EA available by early January 2007
  - Proposed rule published by late -January
  - Final Rule effective by April 1

# Regulatory Development & Implementation

<u>November 2006</u>	Draft EA chapters 1 & 2 with range of alternatives
<u>March 2007</u>	Draft EA for final Council action
<u>Summer 2007</u>	Proposed rule publishes
<u>Winter 2007-08</u>	Final rule publishes
<u>April 2008</u>	Core regulations in effect

NOTE: Regulations such as E-fish tickets and E-logbooks may become effective later than core regulations.

# November 2006

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- PFMC considers the range of alternatives
- PFMC provides recommendations on alternatives to be analyzed for March 2007

# The Range of Alternatives

- Alt. 1** No Action -- Catch sorted at sea
- Alt. 2** Status Quo -- EFPs and maximized retention
- Alt. 3** Observers -- Federal or industry funded observers & maximized retention
- Alt. 4** Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) – Federal or industry funded EMS, catch monitors & maximized retention

# Alternative 1 – No Action

- Catch in excess of trip limits would be prohibited
- LE permit with trawl endorsement
- Paper logbooks & fish tickets
- WCGOP observer coverage ( $\approx 20\%$  of deliveries) - vessels randomly selected from all trawl vessels
- Port samplers, plus industry samplers in Oregon
- No legal overages

## Alternative 2 - Status Quo

- Maximized retention defined in EFP
- LE permit with trawl endorsement & EFPs
- Paper logbooks until E- logs developed
- EMS to monitor maximized retention at-sea
- States manage EFPs & NMFS coordinates EMS
- Port samplers, plus industry samplers in Oregon
- Overages reported on fish tickets
- Vessels abandon prohibited species & overages to state

# Alternative 3 - Observers

- Maximized retention
- LE permit with trawl & annual whiting endorsements
- Logbooks & fish tickets
  - E-logs and E-tickets when adequately developed
  - Daily fish ticket submission
- Observers monitor retention at sea
- Observers at processor to collect data for fish ticket verification, count salmon, & collect biological data
- Prohibited species & overages abandoned or donated

# Alternative 3 - Suboptions

## Monitoring vessels at sea

- Alt. 3A - Federally funded observers (WCGOP observers)
  - Vessels randomly selected from all trawl vessels (≈20% of deliveries)
- Alt 3B - Industry funded observers
  - Vessels pay directly to permitted provider

## Monitoring shoreside processors

- Alt. 3A - Federally funded observers (WCGOP observers)
  - Availability dependent on monitoring needs in other groundfish fisheries
- Alt. 3B - Industry funded observers
  - Processors pay directly to permitted provider

## Alternative 3 – Suboptions (continued)

### Handling of prohibited species and overages

- Alt. 3A - Prohibited species donated and overages abandoned to state of landing. Sold at fair market value
- Alt. 3B - Profit from sale of prohibited species or overage fish illegal. Create a donation program

# Alternative 4 – EMS & Catch Monitors

- Maximized retention
- LE permit with trawl & annual whiting endorsements
- Logbooks and fish tickets
  - E- logs and E-tickets when adequately developed
  - Daily fish ticket submission
- EMS for monitoring retention at sea
- Catch monitors at processor to collect data for verification of fish tickets & salmon counts
- Prohibited species & overages abandoned or donated

# Alternative 4 - Suboptions

## Funding for monitoring vessels at sea

### Alt. 4A - Federally funded EMS

- WCGOP funds availability depends on need to use same funds to monitor other groundfish fisheries to meet the MS-Act requirements

### Alt. 4B - Industry funded EMS

- Vessels pay directly to EMS permitted service providers

## Funding for monitoring shoreside processors

### Alt. 4A - Federally funded catch monitors (WCGOP observers)

- Observers availability depends on need for observers to sample other groundfish fisheries to meet the MS-Act requirements

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### Alt. 4B - Industry funded observers

- Processors pays directly to catch monitor provider

## Alternative 4 – Suboptions (continued)

### Handling of prohibited species and overages

- Alt. 4A - Prohibited species donated and overages abandoned to state of landing. Sold at fair market value
- Alt. 4B - Profit from sale of prohibited species or overage fish illegal. Create a donation program

# Quick Comparison of Concerns

- Alt 1 - Inadequate to support bycatch limits that allow fishery full access to the whiting allocation
- Alt 2 - EFPs are a temporary fix. States & NMFS not interested in continuing. Lacks authority to resolve processor issues
- Alt 3 - Coverage provided by federally funded observers may not be adequate to support bycatch limit management
- Alt 4 - Coverage of federally funded EMS and catch monitors (observers) may not be adequate to support bycatch limit management

# What is Needed from PFMC

- Does the PFMC believe that the alternatives in draft Chapter 2 adequately frame the *range* of alternatives?
- Does the PFMC have recommendations for modifying the alternatives (i.e. adding or rejecting any alternatives) before sending them out for public review?
- Is there a PFMC preferred alternative?
- Are there specific shoreside sector monitoring program issues that the PFMC wants analyzed in the EA?