

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR 2009-2010 GROUND FISH FISHERIES – PART II

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed Agenda Item D.9.a, Attachment 1, November, 2007 and have the following recommendations.

There are a few management regime proposals the EC would like to request be included in the 2009/2010 specifications process.

Under the current monitoring regime, catcher/processors have 100% observer coverage, motherships have 100% observer coverage, and shoreside catcher vessels have 100% camera monitors. The only aspect of the whiting fishery which is not monitored either by camera or live body is the at-sea catcher vessel delivering to a mothership. The at-sea catcher vessel fleet is comprised of approximately 50% of the shoreside catcher vessels, the same fleet that experienced increased discard events this past season. At-sea and shoreside fleets fish common areas, thus there is no reason to believe that fleet behavior when encountering bycatch would be different. Given the totality of the situation, the EC believes it is prudent management to move the at-sea catcher vessel/mothership fishery to a full retention fishery with 100% camera monitoring of the at-sea catcher vessels.

Additionally, the EC would like to have the following management measures listed in Agenda Item D.9.a, Attachment 1, considered in the 2009/2010 specifications analysis: one trawl gear on board (per trip or per period); allow conversion of longline to pot/traps; adjustment to the 50, 60, and 75 fm lines; closing the whiting fishery on a projection of attaining a bycatch cap, and finally; we would like to see continued development of the federal electronic fish ticket and logbook programs.

We have concerns in regards to allowing limited entry fixed gear fisherman to access their allocations using open access gear, specifying trawl management lines in finer geographic scale, and the development of Rockfish Conservation Areas as hot/cold spot areas. Regarding the latter two issues, our concerns here are increased complexity being added to an already overwhelmingly complex management regime, and the creation of small exclusion zones which compromises existing vessel monitoring system capabilities, (a one hour pinging rate dictates a minimum size area threshold). We request that any work done on these latter two issues be done in close consultation with the EC.

PFMC
11/09/07