Analysis Illustrating the Effect of Two Different Finer Area Bycatch Rate Overfished Species Allocation Formulas

The Council’s November 2008 motion on the initial allocation of overfished species specifies the use of “finer area bycatch rates” for use in estimating the amount of quota share of overfished species. In June of 2008, Council staff proposed two different methods for making a finer area bycatch rate allocation of overfished species. The difference between these two methods is the treatment of that area south of 40° 10’ N. latitude. One option uses one latitudinal area south of 40° 10’ N. latitude while the other area uses two latitudinal areas south of 40° 10’ N. latitude. Council staff will need clarification on which of these options the Council intended in order to move forward on various pieces of analysis.

The following figures illustrate the effect of the two options. From these figures, it is evident that the initial allocation of bocaccio, darkblotched, and widow are the species most highly affected by differences in the initial allocation formula. These differences apply purely to those entities with history south of 40° 10’ N. latitude. The effect of applying the finest scale bycatch rate area (splitting the area south of 40° 10’ N. latitude into two regions for purposes of estimation) is that those entities with history in areas where darkblotched, bocaccio, and widow are most abundant would tend to receive relatively greater amounts of quota share for those species. Inversely, the effect of applying the more moderately fine scale bycatch area approach is to more evenly spread out the initial allocations of darkblotched, widow, and bocaccio to entities with history south of 40° 10’ N. latitude.

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