Whiting Mothership Cooperative
Preliminary Report to the PFMC
November 5th, 2011
WMC Cooperative Structure

WMC Membership Agreement

- Allocation of Whiting to the Members
- Catch Monitoring
- Transfers between Members
- Responsible Fishing Practices
- Enforcement

Signed by all 37 eligible permit holders

Whiting Bycatch Agreement

- Rules for modification of fishing behaviour
2011 Allocations

2011 Whiting Allocation to the WMC:
- 53,039 mt
- Assigned to members based on Catch History

2011 Bycatch Amounts
- Canary Rockfish 3.4 mt
- Dark Blotched 6.0 mt
- POP 7.2 mt
- Widow Rockfish 61.7 mt
- Pooled to the Coop
WMC Bycatch Rules

- Seasonal Pools
- Data Sharing
- Real Time Hot Spot Response
- Closure Areas
- Night Fishing Restrictions
- Enforcement/Sanctions
WMC Bycatch Rules – Seasonal Pools

- Four seasonal pool allocations
- Rules for accessing rollover bycatch
WMC Bycatch Rules – Data

Reporting to SeaState by the Fleet
- Members Provide NMFS Confidentiality Waivers
- SeaState Accesses NORPAC Observer Data
- Motherships report daily to SeaState

Reports from SeaState to the Fleet
- Daily Report
- Catch data
- Bycatch rates for MS sector, fleet, and individual vessels, 3-day averages
- Maps of bycatch hotspots
- Other useful bycatch avoidance information
WMC Bycatch Rules - Data

Mothership “Fleet to Fleet” Reporting Requirement

- Total amount of whiting received in past day
- Elevated Bycatch Tows - (between 100% to 150% of the Base Rate)
- High Bycatch Tows – (>150% of Base Rate)
WMC Bycatch Rules – Hot Spot Response

Real Time Response to High Bycatch Rates

- Establish a Bycatch Base Rate of 4 species
  - Canary: 0.06 kg/mt (4 lbs in a 30 ton haul)
  - Dark Blotched: 0.11 kg/mt (7 lbs in a 30 ton haul)
  - POP: 0.14 kg/mt (9 lbs in a 30 ton haul)
  - Widow: 1.15 kg/mt (75 lbs in a 30 ton haul)
  - Chinook: 0.06 salmon/mt

- Fleet Relocation Required for Exceeding Trigger Rates
WMC Bycatch Rules – Hot Spot Response

- **Fleet Must Relocate IF:**
  - 3 day average bycatch rate exceeds the Base Rate and the Fleet’s YTD bycatch rate exceeds 50% of the Base Rate
  - 3 day average bycatch rate exceeds 125% of the Base Rate, or
  - Bycatch rate during any single day exceeds 200% of the Base Rate

- Fleet must move to an area where they can reasonably expect to achieve a lower rate.
  - Test tows required on entering new area
WMC Bycatch Rules – Closed Areas

Closure Areas:

- Pre-season Closures
- Advisory Cautionary Areas
- In-season Closures
- Time Closures – Night Fishing Restrictions
- NMFS Closures
WMC
Pre-Season Closure Areas

- Nine Closures
- 2000 sq. km.
- Advisory Areas
How We Got There

- Bycatch Committee
- Historic Observer Data 2000-2010
  - Whiting Catch
  - Bycatch of 4 Over-fished Species
  - GIS Layering with Detailed Bathymetry
- VMS Tracklines of “Disaster Tows”
- Captains’ Local Knowledge
- Flexibility – Commitment to Review & Adjust
Development of a Closed Area - Nitinak Canyon
Nitinak Canyon – Observed Dark Blotched “Bad” Hauls
Nitinak Canyon – Observed Dark Blotched “Block Rates”
Nitinak Canyon – Dark Blotched “Disaster Tow” VMS Tracks
Nitinak Canyon – The WMC Area Closure
Nitinak Canyon – “Cost vs Benefit”
Other Fishing Restrictions

- No Night Fishing
- Vessels may short-wire and make deliveries at night
- Test Tows required when entering a new fishing area

Enforcement Actions

- Stop Fishing Order
- Vessel Captain Damages: $2,500 per violation
- Owner Damages: $10,000 per violation
Results

2011 Catch & Bycatch Use to Date
Comparison to Prior Years
Behavioural Changes
WMC Catch and Bycatch Use through Oct. 9th 2011

Percent of Whiting and Bycatch Allocations Used through 10/9/11

- Whiting
- Canary
- Darkblotch
- POP
- Widow
2011 Rates Compared to 3 Prior Years

MS Sector Bycatch Rate Comparisons 2008-2011

Kg/Mt Rate

Canary  Darkblotch  POP  Widow

2008  2009  2010  2011
One Change in Behaviour

2011 Fishing Inside 100 fms Compared to Previous 10 Years

Cumulative % of Hauls

Depth in Fathoms

2000-2010 cum %  2011 cum %
Biggest Change

Awareness that this is not a race
Questions?