

CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Management measures for groundfish are set by the Council with the general understanding these measures will likely need to be adjusted within the biennium to attain, but not exceed, the annual catch limits (ACL). This agenda item will consider inseason adjustments to ongoing 2013 fisheries. Potential inseason adjustments include adjustments to Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries and adjustments to commercial and recreational fishery catch limits. Adjustments are, in part, based on recent landings and the latest information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program.

In May the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prepared a Public Notice and letter to the Council regarding the issuance of 2012 surplus carryover quota pounds (QP) to the 2013 shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) program (see <http://tinyurl.com/bmf95> and Agenda Item F.9.b, NMFS Letter 1). Carryover was issued for all IFQ species except Pacific whiting, petrale sole, and lingcod (north and south of 40°10' N. latitude). NMFS did not issue carryover for Pacific whiting, consistent with Council action in November 2012 (see <http://tinyurl.com/plrzx7u>). Surplus carryover for petrale sole was not issued because NMFS determined there was a high risk of exceeding the 2013 ACL for petrale sole. Further, NMFS did not issue surplus carryover for lingcod because the QP management unit was coastwide in 2012 and is now divided north and south of 40°10' N. latitude. Current regulations at § 660.140 (c)(3)(vii), address reallocation with changes in management areas and subdivision of species groups for quota share in quota share accounts. However, these regulations do not specifically address reallocations with changes in management areas and subdivision of species groups for QP in vessel accounts with carryover. NMFS requests the Council consider how the reallocations by geographic area affect lingcod surplus carryover and provide an option for issuing lingcod carryover in 2013 (Agenda Item F.9.b, NMFS Report). Long-term solutions for all species are expected to be considered in September 2013 under future trawl trailing actions.

At their March 2013 meeting, the Council considered the performance of the shorebased IFQ fishery in 2011 and 2012, progress to date in 2013, as well as additional pre-IFQ bycatch rate data, and recommended the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA be moved from 75 to 100 fathoms from the area 40°10' to 48°10' N. latitude in Period 2. The RCA modification was intended provide greater access to target species while allowing the individual accountability afforded by the rationalized fishery to minimize bycatch of overfished species. At the April 2013 Council meeting and in a subsequent letter, NMFS announced that the RCA modifications could not be implemented under the inseason procedures and that such adjustments should allow for public input through a notice and comment rulemaking (Agenda Item F.9.b, NMFS Letter 2). The Council adopted the following adjustments for implementation through a notice and comment rulemaking 1) the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA be moved from 75 to 100 fathoms from the area 40°10' to 48°10' N. latitude for Period 6 in 2013 and 2) the 2014 RCA configuration in the area 40°10' to 48°10' N. latitude be 100 fm shoreward and 150 fm seaward for Periods 1-6. At this meeting, NMFS is anticipated to provide an update on the process to implement the Council's recommendation.

Council Action:

1. Consider information on the status of 2013 fisheries and adopt inseason adjustments, as necessary.
2. Consider recent action regarding surplus carryover and recommend a method for issuing lingcod carryover, given changes to the management area that occurred in 2013.
3. Discuss the process for implementing the trawl RCA adjustments, as necessary.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.9.b, NMFS Letter 1: Surplus Carryover Decision.
2. Agenda Item F.9.b, NMFS Report: Lingcod Surplus Carryover Option.
3. Agenda Item F.9.b, NMFS Letter 2: RCA Recommendations for April 15-April 30.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Adopt Recommendations for Adjustments to 2013 Groundfish Fisheries, Including Carryover
- Kelly Ames

PFMC
05/30/13