

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2011-2012 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

At its November 2009 meeting, the Council adopted the following preliminary range of management measures for the 2011-2012 Groundfish Fisheries:

Overarching

- Ensure consistency with Amendment 23: Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures
- Develop a petrale sole rebuilding plan and corresponding management measures
- Analyze impacts to protected resources using best available science
- Revise selected coordinates of rockfish conservation area (RCA) boundaries for trawl and fixed gear to more closely approximate depth contours
- Conduct hot spot/cold spot analyses for canary and yelloweye rockfish for potential groundfish fishing areas (GFAs) or closures (e.g., RCAs) for both commercial and recreational fisheries
- Include in the definitions section, the sablefish dressed weight definition
- Implement sorting requirements for species that have management targets

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)

- Evaluate gear stowage requirements for fixed gear vessels transiting closed areas
- Evaluate VMS technologies to allow drifting by limited entry and open access vessels
- Reconvene the Ad Hoc Vessel Monitoring System Committee to discuss VMS issues related to the trawl rationalization program

Pacific Whiting

- For the new tribal Pacific whiting fisheries, analyze projected impacts to overfished species and the associated management implications in coordination with the tribes
- Analyze non-treaty midwater trawl trip limits within the primary season for non-whiting species, which would allow vessel payment up to a species-specific trip limit

Limited Entry Non-whiting Trawl

- Analyze management measures for the limited entry trawl fishery as a contingency plan in the event trawl rationalization is implemented later than January 1, 2011
- Compare current trawl gear regulations with the specifications used during applicable trawl bycatch reduction studies. Determine whether regulatory flexibility can be provided to allow the trawl fleet to develop bycatch reduction modifications necessary to succeed in a rationalized fishery

- Analyze new limited entry trawl latitudinal management lines south of 40°10' N. latitude, which may reduce overfished species impacts, while increasing fishing opportunities in other areas
- Analyze size limits for lingcod

Fixed Gear Fisheries

- Examine size limits and removing the spawning closure for lingcod
- For Oregon, analyze management measures for cabezon
- For California, modify the gear description for other flatfish hook and line gear to align with recreational regulations
- For California, analyze the impacts of allowing fishing within 100 fm of Catalina Island
- For the limited entry fixed gear sablefish program, analyze changes to the ownership and control calculation similar to those proposed under the Amendment 20: Trawl Rationalization

Recreational Fisheries

- Analyze lingcod size limits
- Develop a long leader recreational fishery seaward of 150 fm in California, similar to activities conducted under the Recreational Fishing Alliance and Golden Gate Fishermen's Association exempted fishing permit
- Analyze the impacts of groundfish retention in the Oregon all-depth Pacific halibut fishery
- For Oregon, analyze management measures for cabezon
- For California, analyze removing the lingcod spawning closure
- For California, consider exempting flatfish from the groundfish depth and season closures
- For California, modify regulations regarding filleting at sea and fillet lengths for federal groundfish species, which would assist dockside species identification
- For California, analyze the impacts of allowing fishing within 100 fm of Catalina Island (west end of the island because cowcod is on east side)
- For California recreational, analyze changes to the depth restriction as well as retention of shelf and slope rockfish in the Cowcod Conservation Areas

The Council recommended that the following items be considered as lower priority. Depending on workload these items may not be analyzed in the 2011-2012 specifications process

- Modify, if necessary, the definition for dressed weight as well as ice and slime deductions for Pacific halibut to ensure consistency with the International Pacific Halibut Commission
- Generate midwater trawl trip limits for Pacific whiting during the primary season south of 42° N. latitude (the California early season) to prevent early attainment of the southern Pacific whiting allocation

- For California commercial fisheries, analyze retention of shelf and slope rockfish retention in the Cowcod Conservation Areas
- Analyze removal or modification of the Period 2 closure for limited entry and open access non-trawl fisheries south of 34°27' N. lat to align fishery regulations
- Develop additional management lines for California and Oregon recreational fisheries
- Consider mandatory logbooks for recreational charter/for hire vessels

The Council also stated that initial analyses of management impacts should assume the same catch sharing for canary and yelloweye rockfish between sectors and states as depicted in the 2009 bycatch scorecard, prior to the start of the season.

PFMC
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