

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT

Objective Statement: To avoid adverse impact caused by the American Fisheries Act (AFA) by maintaining status quo capacity and maintaining permit value for AFA and non-AFA permit holders.

To ease in the analysis, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) suggests the Council limit the analysis to the following options:

The proposed options are based on the following criteria:

**Catch history** based on:

- a. minimum tonnage requirements, i.e., 50, 100, 500 metric tons in any one of the qualifying years; **or**
- b. number of deliveries, i.e., 10 deliveries in any one of the qualifying year.

**Qualifying years (window periods):**

- a. 1995, 1996, 1997;
- or**
- b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through 9/16/1999.

Definition: An AFA catcher vessel is a vessel that holds an AFA permit and was fishing pollock during the AFA's qualifying years.

Process: The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel suggest the following:

- 1) Set participation criteria for AFA catcher vessels in the:
  - a) mothership whiting fishery,
  - b) shore-side whiting fishery,
  - c) groundfish other than whiting.

- 2) Analyze the following participation option:

A. Mothership Whiting Fishery:

A.i. Harvested (50, 100 or 500) mt whiting during any one of the following:

- a. 1995, 1996, 1997;
- or**
- b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through 9/16/1999.

A.iii. Made 10 deliveries during any one of the following

- a. 1995, 1996, 1997;
- or**
- b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through 9/16/1999.

B. Shorebased Whiting Fishery:

B.i. Harvested (50, 100, 500) mt whiting during any one of the following:

- a. 1995, 1996, 1997;
- or**
- b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through 9/16/1999.

B.iii. Made 10 deliveries during any one of the following:

- a. 1995, 1996, 1997;
- or
- b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through 9/16/1999.

C. Groundfish other than whiting:

C.i. Harvested (50, 100, 500) mt groundfish other than whiting and cannot be based on bycatch landed in the whiting fishery, during any one of the following:

- a. 1995, 1996, 1997;
- or
- b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through 9/16/1999.

C.iii. Made 10 deliveries of groundfish other than whiting and cannot be based on bycatch landed in the whiting fishery, during any one of the following.

- a. 1995, 1996, 1997;
- or
- b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through 9/16/1999.

- 3) Issue AFA catcher vessels a Pacific Coast Groundfish eligibility endorsement based upon meeting the eligibility criteria.
- 4) Non-AFA catcher vessels may participate in all Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries as per their limited entry (LE) permit and do not need an eligibility endorsement to do so. AFA catcher vessels which do not meet the selected minimum landing criteria are precluded from participation in such fisheries unless substituting for another AFA catcher vessel of similar or greater size (i.e., downsizing).
- 5) If an AFA catcher vessel meets the Council's selected participation criteria, then the vessel is eligible to use or obtain (lease or purchase) a limited entry trawl A permit and use it only in a fishery that the vessel qualified for under the above criteria.
- 6) AFA catcher vessels not meeting requirements:

Any limited entry (LE) trawl permit assigned to an AFA catcher vessel not meeting the minimum landing requirements will be revoked. The GAP suggests setting a control date to provide notice to potential purchasers of any LE permits held by AFA vessel owners which do not meet the selected minimum landing criteria will be revoked. The GAP suggest setting the control date as of April 7, 2000.

The topic of AFA as it relates to catcher-processors, motherships, and shoreside processors was not addressed by the GAP, and there is no new comments on these sectors. The GAP suggest you refer to staff's briefing Supplemental Attachment B.15.a.

PFMC  
04/06/00