

EFFORTS TO REDUCE YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH CATCH IN THE WHITING FISHERY:
REVIEW OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

Situation: At the March 2000 meeting, the Council discussed the exempted fishing permit (EFP) for the shore-based whiting fishery, focusing mostly on incidental catch of widow and yellowtail rockfish. Shore-based whiting industry representatives briefly described a draft agreement that would require fishery participants to maintain a incidental catch rate at or below a specified level. The intention would be to reduce the overall level of incidental catch or rockfish in the shoreside whiting fishery. At-sea whiting fishery representatives said they also like to present their rockfish avoidance plan to the Council. The Council asked both sectors of the industry to present their reports at the April meeting. The Council will provide comments to the industry and may also consider recommending National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) include provisions in the EFPs.

Council Action:

1. **Comments to industry and recommendations to NMFS, if appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. At-Sea Bycatch Control Plan (Attachment B.16.a.).
2. Memo dated March 16, 2000 from Neal Coenen to Don Mclsaac regarding Whiting EFP Consideration (ODFW Report B.16.).

PFMC
03/20/00