

CANARY ROCKFISH ALLOCATION AND INSEASON ADJUSTMENT IN THE PINK SHRIMP
AND OTHER FISHERIES

Situation: At the March 2000 meeting, the Council reviewed the “placeholder” trip limit for the pink shrimp fishery and made several revisions. However, the Council intends to revisit the canary rockfish allowance at the April meeting. The pink shrimp fishery is classified as an open access groundfish fishery, although some vessels have groundfish limited entry permits. Catches by non-permitted vessels count towards the open access allocations, and catches by permitted vessels count towards the limited entry allocations. The open access allocation of canary rockfish is only 15 mt (33,000 pounds) for the entire open access fishery. The open access fleet includes vessels that target canary and other rockfish, salmon troll vessels, and other incidental fisheries.

Council members expressed concern vessels participating in the shrimp fishery might take the entire open access allocation of canary rockfish and began discussing ways to prevent that. At this meeting, the Council will continue the discussion and may decide to take action, which could include direct allocation to the shrimp fishery, adjustments to the trip limit, or other measures. The Council does not have management authority over the shrimp fishery at this time, but can limit the amount of groundfish shrimp vessels may retain and land. The issue of incidental catch of canary rockfish will also be discussed as the Council begins preparing a rebuilding plan for this species.

Council Action:

- 1. Recommend action to prevent premature attainment of the open access canary rockfish allocation.**

Reference Materials: None.

PFMC
03/20/00