



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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Sacramento, CA 95814

Exhibit G.10.b
Supplemental CDFG Report
September 2000



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September 8, 2000

PFMC

Dr. Don McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

Attached please find a summary of the groundfish regulation options that we will recommend for groundfish fishery management off California commencing January 1, 2001. Mr. Tom Barnes will be prepared to give a brief power point presentation providing background information on the options on Thursday, September 14, 2000 of our upcoming meeting.

These same options, and complimentary options as they apply to state-managed species, were recently approved by the California Fish and Game Commission for consideration in regulation of fisheries that come under their authority. Commission hearings on the options will be held during late September and October with a final decision on December 8, 2000.

The options were developed assuming: 1) the bocaccio optimum yield (OY) south of Cape Mendocino in 2001 will continue to be set at 100 metric tons, 2) the recreational regulations in the area will need to be adjusted to stay with the 100 metric ton OY for the combined fisheries, 3) we may need to reduce the recreational lingcod harvest south of Cape Mendocino, based on stock assessment discussions at the recent ad hoc allocation committee meeting, 4) there will be no need to adjust the regulations to provide further protection for canary rockfish (again, based on input provided at the ad hoc committee meeting), and 5) the incidental catch of cowcod south of Point Conception must be reduced by about 50 percent from recent years' levels. You will note that bottom fish species that associate with nearshore and shelf rockfish appear in the options. This is because of reports and observations this year that indicated that fishing for those species during the rockfish and lingcod closures (i.e., January-February south of Point Lopez and March-April between Lopez and Cape Mendocino) was causing bycatch problems for nearshore and shelf rockfish, the two groups the regulations were intended to protect.

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Please note: While there are a lot of options included in the summary, we expect very few of them will actually be needed in the final regulations, either by the Council or the Commission. Our final assessment of bocaccio catch in the recreational fishery south of Cape Mendocino this year will be critical in this regard.

We look forward to discussing our proposals at the meeting.

Yours truly,



LB Boydston
Representative
Intergovernmental Affairs Office

Attachment

cc: Robert C. Hight, Director

Robert Treanor, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

**PROPOSED GROUND FISH FISHERY REGULATION
OPTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA FISHERIES¹**

1. The southern rockfish and lingcod management line should be moved from Lopez Point to Point Conception. This would place Avila Beach and Morro Bay in the central California management area and be consistent with the statistical area boundary used by the MRFSS.
2. Rockfish and lingcod closure periods south of Cape Mendocino should be extended to November-February in the south and January-April or March-June in the central area. These additional closure periods may be needed to reduce the bocaccio catch to under 100 mt in the combined commercial and recreational fisheries in 2001. The catch of lingcod in the combined fisheries would be projected to be at or under 130 mt (the statewide catch assumed for 2000 management). These closures would apply to the recreational fishery and the LE and OA fixed gear commercial fisheries for nearshore and shelf rockfish and lingcod.
3. Reduce the rockfish bag limit to between 3 and 9 fish, either year round or in lieu of a complete fishery closure (see previous regulation option). This would be done to meet biological and allocation objectives for the complex.
4. Fishing for and retention of cabezon, greenlings, scorpionfish, and sanddabs would be prohibited during the rockfish and lingcod closures south of Cape Mendocino. These closures would apply to the recreational and fixed gear commercial fisheries, as described above, and are intended to minimize bycatch of rockfish and lingcod when fishing for these species.
5. Reduce the bag limit for bocaccio from three to two or one fish. This would be done to further reduce targeting on bocaccio, but could increase discard of dead fish.
6. Reduce the number of hooks that anglers may use when fishing for rockfish or lingcod from three to two or one. This would be done to reduce the chances of catching more than a limit of bocaccio on a single drop.
7. Close the season or part of the season for lingcod, cabezon, and greenlings south of Cape Mendocino during September-April. This would apply to fishing for, and possession of any of these species, both sport and commercial. These closures are being considered by the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) and would be intended to meet biological and allocation objectives for the individual species and at the same time protect nesting fish.
8. Reduce the lingcod bag limit from two to one fish. This would be done to meet biological and allocation objectives for the species.
9. Increase the minimum size limit for cabezon from 14 to 15-18 inches. Increasing the size limit will save immature fish and contribute to meeting biological and allocation objectives for the species. This action is being considered by the FGC.
10. Provide for the transport, pursuant to California regulations, of recreational groundfish through restricted areas under terms and conditions specified on an annual permit that may be issued by the Manager of the Marine Region.
11. Prohibit fishing for and retention of cowcod. This option is intended to eliminate targeting on cowcod, but could increase discard of dead fish. It would apply to all recreational and commercial fisheries off California.
12. Prohibit recreational and commercial fishing year round for federal groundfish (Option 1) as follows: Area 1-- The area bounded by 118° 50' W. Long., 33° 50' N. Lat., 120° W. Long., and 32° 20' N. Lat. Area 2--The area bounded by 117° 50' W. Long., 32° 50' N. Lat., 118° W. Long., and 32° 30' N. Lat. Option 2: Is the same as Option 1, but excludes nearshore rockfish, cabezon, greenlings and scorpionfish. The FGC will adopt complementary regulations affecting state-managed fisheries for bottom fish species (sheephead, ocean whitefish, California halibut, in addition to all commercial trawling).

¹ Prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game for consideration by the Pacific Fishery Management Council for use in managing California groundfish fisheries commencing January 1, 2001. Complimentary regulations are being considered by the California Fish and Game Commission.

