



Memorandum

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Resources Program

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Preliminary 2000 Shoreside Pacific Whiting Program Summary

The shoreside Pacific whiting fishery program implemented yellowtail rockfish bycatch measures and controls for the 2000 season that had been proposed by industry and approved by council. This new management approach involved three different bycatch rate check periods. Once 30, 55, and 85% of the shoreside Pacific whiting allocation was attained, vessel-specific bycatch rates were determined. Any vessel exceeding a bycatch rate of 12 kilograms of yellowtail rockfish per metric ton of whiting was required to suspend its normal delivery schedule for a certain number of days based on its specific bycatch rate.

For the first check period, which ended July 18, 2000, two vessels were placed in timeout (their bycatch rates were 13.29 and 13.08 kg of yellowtail rockfish per metric ton of whiting). During the second period (30-55%), ending August 11, 2000, both of these vessels, as well as the rest of the fleet, incurred a much lower yellowtail rockfish bycatch rate and no vessel exceeded the bycatch rate cap. The third and final check point occurred on September 3rd, 2000, once 85% of the shoreside Pacific whiting allocation had been attained. For this period only one vessel exceeded the bycatch rate cap for yellowtail rockfish (15.69 kg/mt). However, this vessel had already left the fishery.

The bycatch program, proposed by industry for the 2000 fishery, appears to have been quite effective as the yellowtail bycatch was reduced from 481 metric tons to 189 metric tons. In conjunction with this, widow rockfish bycatch was also reduced from 192 metric tons to 76 metric tons. This decrease (61%) is quite remarkable and is the lowest yellowtail rockfish bycatch rate since the start of the shoreside Pacific whiting fishery program.

In contrast, salmon bycatch was higher than it has been in the past such that the chinook salmon bycatch threshold, as stated in the biological opinion, was exceeded. requiring the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to reinitiate consultation. The result of this was that when the Makah released some of their allocation to NMFS, NMFS was unable to reallocate this quota to the other sectors of the whiting fishery.