

UPDATE ON AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT MEASURES

Situation: The American Fisheries Act of 1998 (AFA) provides the Council the opportunity to recommend management measures to protect fisheries under its jurisdiction and participants in those fisheries from harm caused by the AFA. Provisions in the AFA provide vessels and processors greater flexibility in when and how they participate in the Bering Sea pollock fishery. Because they are better able to arrange their schedules, these vessels and processors could potentially maximize participation in other fisheries, including West Coast groundfish fisheries. The concern is that AFA vessels and processors will use benefits gained by the AFA to move into West Coast groundfish fisheries, increase effort, and cause harm to current participants.

At the June meeting, the Council gave further consideration to management measures aimed at protecting West Coast groundfish fishery participants from harm caused by the AFA. For the time being, the Council has set aside further development of measures to restrict participation in the shore-based processing sector. The Council's rationale was that tangible harm to the processing sector as a result of the AFA has not yet been demonstrated. Moreover, the delay will allow for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to complete portions of their AFA analysis pertaining to shore-based processors, which could guide the development of West Coast management measures.

For the November meeting, the Council directed staff to provide an update on recent actions taken by the NPFMC in regard to the AFA. A summary of NPFMC actions to date is included in the briefing materials (Exhibit C.5, Attachment 1).

Council Action: None.

Reference Materials:

1. *Summary of North Pacific Fishery Management Council Actions Related to the American Fisheries Act* (Exhibit C.5, Attachment 1).

PFMC
10/13/00