

MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2001

Situation: After the Council has set the harvest levels for 2001, the next major step is to devise management measures that will achieve but not exceed those levels. The main difficulty is that there is so much overcapacity in the harvest sectors that severe restrictions are necessary to ensure harvest does not exceed the established limits. In past years, the Council's focus was limited to commercial fishing. Recently, recreational fisheries have also required increased attention.

Substantial reductions to harvest levels in 2000 required major changes in management measures for commercial and recreational fisheries. To avoid incidental catch of overfished bocaccio, lingcod, Pacific Ocean perch, cowcod, and canary rockfish, the Council needed to reduce opportunities to harvest other species as well. To allow as much harvest of those other species as possible, without further impacting depleted species, the Council restructured rockfish management by (1) separating the major species (canary, yellowtail, chilipepper, splitnose, and bocaccio), and combining the others into a new "Minor Rockfish" category; (2) combining the Eureka area with the Vancouver and Columbia areas to form a larger northern management area so the optimum yields match the management boundary (Cape Mendocino); and (3) assigning the minor rockfish species into nearshore, shelf, and slope subgroups. Closed seasons for lingcod and other species were established, trawl gear restrictions were changed to limit the catch of shelf species, and limits for both commercial recreational fishing sectors were reduced. For 2001, further reductions will be necessary. This will likely include reduced fishing for slope species in order to protect overfishing darkblotched rockfish, which is also overfished.

At the September 2000 meeting, the Council proposed several options for managing recreational fisheries in year 2001 (Exhibit C.9, Attachment 1) and a few general options for managing the commercial fisheries (Exhibit C.9, Attachment 2). These proposals were intended to cover the range of options necessary to achieve the necessary harvest reductions. **The Council's Ad Hoc Allocation Committee will meet prior to the Council meeting to develop more specific proposals for Council consideration (Exhibit C.9.b, Supplemental Allocation Committee Report).** Public proposals have also been received (Exhibit C.9, Public Comments).

Trip limits for commercial fisheries and bag limits for recreational fisheries are classified as "routine actions" that can be implemented quickly with minimal additional analysis. Seasons and gear restrictions are non-routine actions that may be implemented by abbreviated rule-making procedures. Allocations are also non-routine measures, and may only be implemented through full rule-making procedures. Any actions not authorized by the fishery management plan (FMP) require either FMP amendment or emergency action by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). There is not enough time between the November Council meeting and January 1, 2001, to complete full rule-making or plan amendment procedures, so emergency procedures would be required.

Motions must be visible in writing prior to vote. Emergency regulation motions must be visible in writing and a roll call vote is required.

Council Action: Adopt final management measures for recreational and commercial fisheries for 2001, including emergency regulations, if necessary.

Reference Materials:

1. Proposed Management Measures for Recreational Fisheries (Exhibit C.9, Attachment 1).
2. Proposals for commercial fisheries (Exhibit C.9, Attachment 2).
3. Ad Hoc Allocation Committee Report (Exhibit C.9.b, Supplemental Allocation Committee Report).
4. Groundfish Management Team (GMT) Analysis of proposed management measures for 2001 (Exhibit C.9.c, Supplemental GMT Report).
5. Exhibit C.9, Public Comment.

PFMC
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