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Shrimp Bycatch Meeting Summary
January 9, 2001

At its November 2000 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) established a coastwide Optimum Yield (OY) of 93 metric tons for canary rockfish as part of its rebuilding plan for that species. The fishery for pink shrimp managed by the states has routinely taken canary rockfish as an incidental harvest. The Council allocated 5.5 metric tons of its annual canary rockfish OY to the shrimp fishery as bycatch, an amount that is approximately half of the recent average annual estimated landings of that species by the shrimp fleet. Representatives of the affected state and federal agencies (Table 1) met at the offices of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission on January 9, 2001 to discuss options for management of the shrimp fishery that would limit canary rockfish bycatch to these levels.

Participants reviewed recent estimates of catch and landed bycatch in the shrimp fishery (Table 2) and the status of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in the ocean shrimp fishery. State (Florida and North Carolina) and federal regulations regarding the use of BRDs in Atlantic and Gulf coast fisheries were also presented. Given the existing time constraints (the shrimp season traditionally opens on April 1), members of the workgroup recognized that any regulations to restrict bycatch implemented for the 2001 pink shrimp fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California would necessarily be by emergency order. Members of the workgroup were unable to specify an acceptable bycatch reduction device (BRD) design. Designs applicable in regions like the Gulf of Mexico may not work under the conditions of the Pacific fishery, and members were reluctant to stifle the creativity of industry to develop its own workable BRD systems.

Oregon representatives conveyed the views of their shrimp fishers. Shrimpers believe that they do not have a voice in the Council process, and that regulators should give the industry a chance to demonstrate the extent to which bycatch can be reduced voluntarily. The Oregon shrimp industry will resist regulations that they believe could limit future options for access to groundfish as an incidental catch. A minimum estimate of 3-5% of a shrimp fishers income are thought to come from the sale of incidentally-taken groundfish. Shrimpers might be willing to accept BRD regulations as a short-term emergency measure, but might resist those same measures proposed on a permanent basis.

The following were identified as a range of options for State agency action:

1. Implement consistent, mandatory BRD regulations in all coastal shrimp fisheries by April 1 or as soon as possible.
2. Recommend use of BRDs at the beginning of the shrimp season, but implement regulations that trigger mandatory use of BRDs if the bycatch of canary rockfish is projected to be greater than 2.5 metric tons by June 1.

   This option implies a commitment by state agencies to monitor landings of bycatch species in the shrimp fishery on a real-time basis. It also presumes that agencies will develop minimum standards for an acceptable BRD.
3. Promote voluntary use of BRDs by the shrimp fishery, and monitor the levels of cooperation and bycatch by the fleet.

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4. Close the shrimp fishery coastwide when the projected take of canary rockfish exceeds 5.5 metric tons.
5. Do nothing.

The following were identified as options for Federal agency action:

1. Preempt state regulations and develop a coastwide federal Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the pink shrimp fishery.
2. Prohibit landings of groundfish by shrimp gear.
3. Restrict other federal FMP fisheries if the take of canary rockfish by state shrimp fisheries exceeds the PFMC allocation of 5.5 metric tons.
4. Request research and/or funding assistance from the NW Fisheries Science Center.

The following were identified as additional options or as areas needing additional work:

1. Require use of logbooks, or include a column on shrimp fish tickets, that designate whether the vessel used a BRD while fishing.
2. Produce a pamphlet or other educational publication on the need for BRD use, the types of BRDs that are effective, and where they can be obtained.
3. Institute an observer program (possibly funded by shrimp landing assessments) to assess the frequency of BRD use by the fishery and the levels of bycatch.
4. Prepare and present a briefing for presentation at the meeting of the three state Fish and Wildlife commissions scheduled for March. If warranted, develop an interstate agreement to coordinate management of the pink shrimp fishery by the three states.
5. Conduct the research necessary to prepare for the possible implementation of permanent BRD regulations in the future.
6. Establish a procedure for testing and certifying the effectiveness of existing or new BRD designs.
7. Investigate the potential for use of time/area closures to limit the bycatch of canary rockfish by the shrimp fishery, or to suggest time and/or area scenarios under which mandatory BRD use might be appropriate.
8. Require retention and landing of all canary rockfish taken by shrimp gear for accounting purposes. Fishers may sell only that portion of their landed catch allowed under existing trip limit regulations. (Note: this option would require an Experimental Fishing Permit [EFP].)
9. Consider a pooling of state funds in order to fund a research position to investigate shrimp bycatch and BRD applications.
10. Develop a clear problem statement to identify the purpose of future pink shrimp fishery regulations.

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The Workgroup agreed on the following recommendations for state action:

1. Immediately implement State Option #3.
2. Implement Additional Option #4.
3. Start the administrative processes necessary to eventually implement State Option #2.

Table 1. Shrimp byccatch meeting attendees.

Name	Organization	email address
Dave Hanson (chair)	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	dave_hanson@psmfc.org
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Table 2. Landings by directed shrimp trawl fisheries operating in PFMC areas (in metric tons). †

State	Year	Pink Shrimp	Canary Rockfish	Other Rockfish	Flatfish	Roundfish	Misc. Groundfish	Other Species
CALIFORNIA	1990	3,946.1	0.0	24.1	2.4	4.7	0.1	2.9
	1991	4,701.2	0.0	20.8	2.1	3.8	0.0	0.5
	1992	8,474.1	0.0	12.7	0.5	2.7	0.1	1.5
	1993	3,228.3	0.0	11.8	1.1	1.5	0.1	0.5
	1994	5,069.4	0.0	35.4	5.1	7.8	0.1	7.2
	1995	2,558.0	1.8	30.7	5.9	4.5	0.1	4.7
	1996	4,244.9	1.1	25.5	6.3	4.1	2.6	3.2
	1997	6,325.6	2.7	22.2	6.2	6.1	3.0	7.4
	1998	830.3	3.3	10.4	1.8	1.8	0.7	1.5
	1999	1,922.9	2.4	16.0	5.0	3.1	0.9	1.2
	2000	1,094.7	0.4	2.7	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.2
OREGON	1990	14,461.8	0.0	486.2	29.6	27.9	0.3	0.7
	1991	9,851.9	0.0	393.5	25.3	30.1	0.2	0.8
	1992	21,787.5	0.0	395.1	27.9	106.8	0.3	2.8
	1993	12,212.1	0.0	673.6	29.0	93.7	0.3	22.0
	1994	7,432.6	0.0	203.5	31.0	50.9	0.1	20.6
	1995	5,491.1	4.9	158.9	45.5	30.1	0.2	8.6
	1996	7,133.5	12.1	286.1	74.9	51.0	1.7	3.4
	1997	8,872.2	7.6	92.7	37.7	35.5	4.5	38.9
	1998	2,765.0	7.6	115.1	41.2	21.8	1.6	60.9
	1999	9,276.5	31.2	81.2	119.5	64.4	3.6	9.9
	2000	11,546.3	9.7	73.0	55.9	56.6	2.5	50.4
WASHINGTON	1990	6,144.2	0.0	353.9	41.5	25.5	0.1	0.4
	1991	4,510.2	0.0	367.3	23.9	9.8	0.0	0.4
	1992	5,448.5	0.0	332.4	8.9	38.5	0.0	49.5
	1993	7,010.6	0.0	612.0	32.5	141.0	0.0	112.6
	1994	2,479.1	0.0	243.8	57.9	52.6	0.1	7.9
	1995	3,292.4	2.5	184.8	66.2	61.3	0.1	0.2
	1996	2,410.7	1.9	217.3	37.1	52.1	0.0	0.1
	1997	2,248.2	0.6	60.4	10.8	11.2	0.1	18.0
	1998	743.0	1.1	45.3	8.2	9.2	0.0	40.6
	1999	1,199.5	1.3	24.6	15.2	6.9	0.0	35.6
	2000	1,903.1	1.2	36.6	12.1	13.4	0.0	49.1
TOTAL	1990	24,552.1	0.0	864.2	73.5	58.0	0.5	4.0
	1991	19,063.3	0.0	781.6	51.3	43.6	0.3	1.7
	1992	35,710.2	0.0	740.2	37.3	148.0	0.3	53.9
	1993	22,451.0	0.0	1,297.4	62.6	236.1	0.3	135.2
	1994	14,981.0	0.0	482.7	93.9	111.3	0.3	35.8
	1995	11,341.5	9.2	374.5	117.6	95.9	0.4	13.5
	1996	13,789.2	15.1	528.9	118.3	107.2	4.4	6.7
	1997	17,445.9	10.9	175.3	54.7	52.9	7.5	64.2
	1998	4,338.2	12.0	170.8	51.1	32.7	2.4	103.0
	1999	12,399.0	34.9	121.8	139.8	74.4	4.5	46.7
	2000	14,544.1	11.2	112.2	69.5	71.4	2.5	99.7

† Directed fishery landings in California were trawl landings that contained more than 100 pounds of pink shrimp. Directed fishery landings in Washington and Oregon were those made using shrimp trawl gear (either single- or double-rigged).