

AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Situation: The American Fisheries Act (AFA) mandates that, "the Pacific Fishery Management Council... shall recommend for approval by the Secretary [of Commerce], conservation and management measures to protect fisheries under its jurisdiction and the participants in those fisheries from adverse impacts caused by this Act, or by any fishery cooperatives in the directed pollock fishery."

During 2000, the Council developed and reviewed various alternatives for providing protection to West Coast groundfish fisheries. The Council requested staff analyze several qualifying criteria that would be used to exclude AFA vessels.

Staff has prepared a draft plan amendment to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan that details several management alternatives for protecting West Coast groundfish fisheries from harm caused by the AFA. The draft will be provided as a briefing book supplemental handout (Exhibit C.14, Supplemental Attachment 1). A portion of the analysis of central concern is the determination of the number of catcher vessels qualifying under alternative qualifying requirements. This issue is covered in Attachment 2 (a draft excerpt from Supplemental Attachment 1).

At this meeting, the Council could take preliminary action on these measures, i.e., adopt the draft plan amendment for public review and final decision in September.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider adopting for public review the draft plan amendment.**

Reference Materials:

1. Draft Plan Amendment for Management Measures to Protect West Coast Groundfish Fisheries from Harm as a Result of the AFA (Exhibit C.14, Supplemental Attachment 1).
2. AFA catcher vessel qualifying and permits held (Exhibit C.14, Attachment 2).

PFMC
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