

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON  
STATUS OF GROUND FISH FISHERIES AND CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

With the implementation of depth-based management, coupled with current trip limit and B Platoon strategies, a level of complexity has been built into enforcement that the Enforcement Consultants (EC) would like the Council to consider. As currently configured, B Platoon fishing periods and Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) are staggered by two weeks. For enforcement, this meant that when the RCA lines shifted on March 1st, instead of enforcing six lines determined by 862 waypoints defining RCAs coastwide, we had for two weeks the responsibility of enforcing 12 lines as determined by 1,724 waypoints defining RCAs coastwide. This situation will occur each time the lines shift throughout the year.

The EC fully understands the reasons for the B Platoon system and is not asking that B Platoon be scrapped. Rather, the EC would like to see RCA areas enforced independent of the B Platoon system. We request one set of lines regardless of platoon. If this proposal was adopted, the two week shifted opportunity incurred by B Platoon vessels in the spring would be made up in November when the B Platoon vessels would actually incur a benefit. However, we also recognize that with more than one line change during the management year, this benefit may not be realized.

This modification would greatly benefit enforcement efforts and take one step towards simplifying an extremely complex regulatory regime.

PFMC  
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