

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON ADOPTION OF A PROPOSED RANGE OF 2004  
GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The existence of a B Platoon continues to provide an additional layer of complexity to regulations due to staggering implementation of related management measures by fifteen days. The Enforcement Consultants (EC) recommend the Council consider eliminating B Platoon, so one set of regulations apply to the entire limited entry trawl fleet beginning in the year 2004.

Utilizing depth contours versus latitude - longitude lines when enforcing depth based management is not the tool of choice, according to the majority EC opinion. However, a 20 fathom contour curve currently exists for recreational and commercial fisheries in California, South of Point Conception. Our understanding is that the extension of the existing contour line concept to 30 fathoms is based upon consistency with the current regime and bathymetric considerations. While we understand the unique situation South of Point Conception, we believe that impacts from violations by sport fishers can be as significant as that from commercial fishers. So, ensuring our ability to fly over closed areas to identify incursions with precision is important. The EC will continue to resist erosion of the Council's latitude - longitude enforcement policy.

PFMC  
06/20/03