

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
OBSERVER DATA AND MODEL IMPLEMENTATION

Dr. Jim Hastie from the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center updated the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on progress with the bycatch models for the limited entry trawl and fixed gear sectors. Dr. Hastie described revisions to models for both sectors based on recommendations made by the SSC in March 2004 (Exhibit C.4.a, Attachment 3).

In addition, for the trawl bycatch model:

1. Lingcod discard mortality was revised downward from 70% to 50%.
2. Catch histories from retired permits (following buyback) were transferred to recently acquired permits.

For the fixed gear bycatch model, following SSC recommendations, bycatch rates have been estimated separately for pot and longline gears. According to Dr. Hastie, the percentage split in landings between these gear types has been similar over time in the observer data for the limited entry fixed gear sector. The percentage split for the limited entry sector has been applied to the open access fishery in the bycatch model.

The SSC discussed how to incorporate bycatch estimates into the stock assessment process and emphasized the need for consistency in these estimates across all species for the upcoming assessment cycle. These issues, and appropriate stratification of data for both trawl and fixed gear sectors (e.g., depth and time of year), should be resolved before the data workshop planned for July 2004.

PFMC
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