



Establishing a Full Retention and Monitoring Program in the Shore-based Whiting Fishery


**Implementing Amendment 10 to the
Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP**

Draft Environmental Assessment



Further Development of Alternatives

- NMFS held a public scoping meeting in Newport, Oregon on December 8, 2003
- NMFS attended ODFW 2004 whiting EFP meetings in Oregon
- Discussion at these meetings shaped the range of alternatives



Components of a Monitoring Program (Issues)

- Establishing full retention and monitoring
- Verifying full retention of catch
- Sampling prohibited and overfished species
- Tracking overage and donation fish



Monitoring Options (Alternatives)

- No full retention or monitoring
- Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) process
- Federal Observer Monitoring Program
- Combination Monitoring Program




Analysis of the Alternatives

- Effects of establishing a full retention and monitoring program on groundfish fishery
- Most alternatives predicted to have minimal effects on groundfish fishery
- Alternatives vary by cost and the quality of the data produced




Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative

- No provision for full retention
- Vessels required to sort catch at sea
- Observer coverage is provided by the West Coast Observer Program
- Monitoring is Federally funded
- Generates the least amount of fisheries data
- Estimated cost is \$51,000



Alternative 2 – Status Quo

- Full retention requirements specified in the EFP
- No monitoring at sea to verify full retention
- State port samplers track/sample salmon and groundfish species at plants
- Monitoring costs are shared by industry and management agencies




Alternative 2 – Status Quo (continued)

- State and Federal enforcement staff track overage/donation fish
- Generates more fisheries data than Alternative 1 but less than Alternatives 3 or 4
- Estimated cost is \$148,000



Alternative 3 – Federal Observer Monitoring Program

- Full retention and monitoring requirements specified in Federal regulation
- Federal observers monitor 100% of shore-based whiting trips
- At sea monitoring funded Federally (Option 3A(1)) or by industry (Option 3A(2))



Alternative 3 – Federal Observer Monitoring Program (cont.)

- Federal observers track/sample salmon and groundfish species at plants
- Plant sampling funded Federally (Option 3B(1) or by the States (Option 3B(2) or by industry (Option 3B(3))
- Federal enforcement staff track overage/donation fish
- Generates greatest amount of fisheries data
- Estimated cost is \$690,000



Alternative 4 – Combination Monitoring Program

- Full retention and monitoring requirements specified in Federal regulation
- Electronic monitoring on 100% of shore-based whiting trips
- At sea monitoring funded Federally (Option 4A(1) or by industry (Option 4A(2)))

Alternative 4 – Combination Monitoring Program (cont.)

- Federal observers/state samplers track/sample salmon and groundfish species at plants
- Plant sampling funded Federally (Option 4B(1) or by the States (Option 4B(2) or by industry (Option 4B(3))
- Federal/State enforcement staff track overage/donation fish
- Generates more fisheries data than Alternatives 1 and 2 but less than 3
- Estimated cost is \$380,000