

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
REPORT ON THREE-MEETING OUTLOOK AND APRIL AGENDA

As discussed at the Pacific Council's June and November 2004 meetings, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is proposing that the 100-fm nontrawl rockfish conservation area (RCA) boundary (north of 40°10' N latitude) be modified to provide for targeted fishing on spiny dogfish by limited entry longline vessels. WDFW is proposing that two discrete areas off the northern Washington coast, which are contiguous with the 100-fm isobath, be provided through an RCA modification from February through May each year, beginning in 2006. (This approach is analogous to providing the Apetrale spots in periods 1 and 6 for the limited-entry trawl fishery.) It is our understanding that consideration of this proposal requires a two-meeting process and, in order to meet this timeline, the Council's final action would need to occur in June 2005.

WDFW staff have drafted an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be tiered off of the 2005-2006 Groundfish Specifications Environmental Impact Statement; the draft EA is currently undergoing review by National Marine Fisheries Service and Council staff. It is anticipated that a draft will be ready for the Council's consideration in April as the first meeting of the two-meeting process. Therefore, we request the Council include a placeholder for this consideration on its April agenda, and schedule final action for June, as part of the three-meeting outlook.

PFMC  
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