

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON EXPANSION OF THE VESSEL
MONITORING SYSTEM

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) supports any option that exempts vessels fishing with salmon troll gear from a vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirement, such as Alternative 1 or the VMSC modified Alternative 5b.

Regarding the VMSC discussion of the canary rockfish catch estimate in the salmon troll fishery, the SAS believes the current impacts would be substantially reduced for a number of reasons:

1. The estimate of 1.6 mt annually is based on the upper end of the range from 2000 and 2001, years when retention of canary rockfish was allowed. The actual estimates were 1.53 mt in 2000 and 0.84 mt in 2001.
2. Landings of other groundfish species using troll gear have declined since 2000 and 2001, and it is reasonable to assume impacts to canary rockfish have declined as well. For example lingcod landings decreased from 10.3 mt in 2000 to 6.9 mt in 2004, and black rockfish landings decreased from 1.1 mt in 2000 to 0.9 mt in 2004 (note, these values include non-salmon target trips and should be considered as index values only, not as estimated harvest or impact levels of the salmon troll fishery).
3. Salmon troll fisheries have moved offshore in recent years which should reduce rockfish impacts. Oregon fleet has moved off shore as the chinook size limit has increased by adopted regulations over time and area.

PFMC
10/31/05