

Draft Work Plan Excerpt: Amendment 18 Implementation Measures For Consideration in the 2007-2008 Biennial Specifications Process

Based on the discussion above, the following sector catch limits will be evaluated as part of the 2007-2008 harvest specifications EIS and rulemaking:

Sectors	Species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-whiting limited entry trawl vessels. • At-sea Pacific whiting catcher-processors. • Limited entry trawl vessels delivering to at-sea Pacific whiting motherships. • Limited entry trawl vessels delivering Pacific whiting to shore-based processing plants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canary rockfish • Darkblotched rockfish • Widow rockfish
Limited entry fixed gear vessels, including separately or in combination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sablefish-endorsed permit holders • Permit holders without the sablefish endorsement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canary rockfish • Yelloweye rockfish
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational subsectors as defined as part of the harvest specifications process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canary rockfish • Lingcod • Yelloweye rockfish

Note: Supplemental Tribal Comment from the March 2005 Council meeting states “treaty fisheries would not be an appropriate sector for total catch limits on overfished or other bycatch species.” Subject to further Council discussion, the tribal sector is not identified for the use of sector total catch limits at this time.

Similar to OYs, total catch limits would be established for each year in the two-year management period. Establishing catch limits is contingent on an accurate, sufficiently real-time catch accounting system for participating sectors. The projected status of catch accounting for the 2007-2008 period will be part of the evaluation. The risk of overages—total catch above projections—in sectors not assigned catch limits will also have to be evaluated. A policy for dealing with overages will have to be developed. Related to this, an evaluation would consider whether catch limits can be changed during the year (the limit period). The ability to change limits would anticipate inaccuracies in the catch projections upon which the limits were based, which would result in overages. On the other hand, if fishery participants thought the limit could be adjusted upward, such a policy could weaken the fishers’ incentive to adopt bycatch-reducing practices.