



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

October 25, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Pacific Fishery Management Council

FROM: Steve Freese, Acting Assistant Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS

SUBJECT: Draft Amendment 18

We have reviewed the draft amendment and offer the following suggestions. We believe it is important to make more explicit and highlight the consideration of bycatch mitigation during the development of the biennial specifications and management measures, and during the adjustment of these measures throughout the year. Therefore we suggest this edit to the draft FMP language.

Page 39, in section 6.5.3, add the following paragraph after the first partial paragraph on the page:

An important element of the Council's bycatch mitigation program occurs every two years when the Council develops its biennial specifications and management measures. During the development of the biennial specifications and management measures, and throughout the year when measures are adjusted, the Council will take into account the co-occurrence rates of target stocks with overfished stocks, and will select measures that will minimize, to the extent practicable, bycatch. The Council may select appropriate measures listed in the FMP and any others that may be developed in the future.