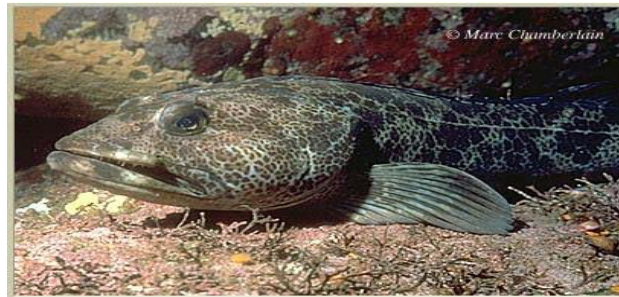


# Conversion of Open Access Fishery to Limited Entry Management



**California Department of Fish and Game with assistance from  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon  
Department of Fish and Wildlife, Council Staff, and National  
Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region**

**June 12, 2007**

# Purpose and Need

(see pages 18-19 of report for exact wording)

## Purpose

- **Meet the Council's Strategic Plan goal and commitment to OA permitting.**
- **Achieve a level of harvest capacity in the fishery that is diverse, stable, and profitable.**
- **Ensure that federal management of OA fisheries is compatible with state license limitation programs for state-managed fisheries**

## Need

- **OA fleet size reduction is needed to better match harvest capacity with resource availability.**
- **State regulations in nearshore fisheries have pushed vessels into federal waters.**
- **Salmon regulations have shifted vessels to OA groundfish fisheries.**
- **Enforceability of measures to protect overfished groundfish species would be improved by vessel ID.**

# Schedule

(Attachment 1)

Step	Dates
<b><i>Overview and Council direction re: OA permitting alternatives</i></b>	<b><i>June 2007</i></b>
<b>Evaluation of alternatives and preparation of first preliminary draft environmental assessment</b>	<b>June-September 2007</b>
<b>Council meeting: adopt preliminary range of alternatives and preliminary preferred alternative for public review</b>	<b>November 2007</b>
<b>Council meeting: final adoption of preferred alternative</b>	<b>April 2008</b>
<b>Implementation phase and initial permit issuance</b>	<b>April 2008 thru April 2009</b>
<b>B and C permits required</b>	<b>May 2009</b>

## Process notes:

The CDFG will have the lead role in this process with assistance provided by WDFW, ODFW, Council staff, and NMFS. Tribal input will be welcomed.

Advisory body and public input will be received at regularly scheduled Council meetings.

# Review OA Fishery Management and OA Permitting Issue (Page 1)

- **OA has existed since 1994 when A permits were issued.**
- **OA regulations and allocations have been implemented since that time.**
- **The OA sectors include incidental fisheries (primarily exempted trawl) and directed fisheries (non-trawl gear types).**
- **The states have commercial fishery limited entry programs that interact with the federal groundfish FMP (see Appendix A, which is still under construction)**
- **WA, OR and CA have each taken added measures to protect nearshore groundfish species (described in Appendix B).**
- **The Council's strategic plan (2000) calls for reduction in all groundfish fisheries and consideration for deferral of nearshore management to the states.**



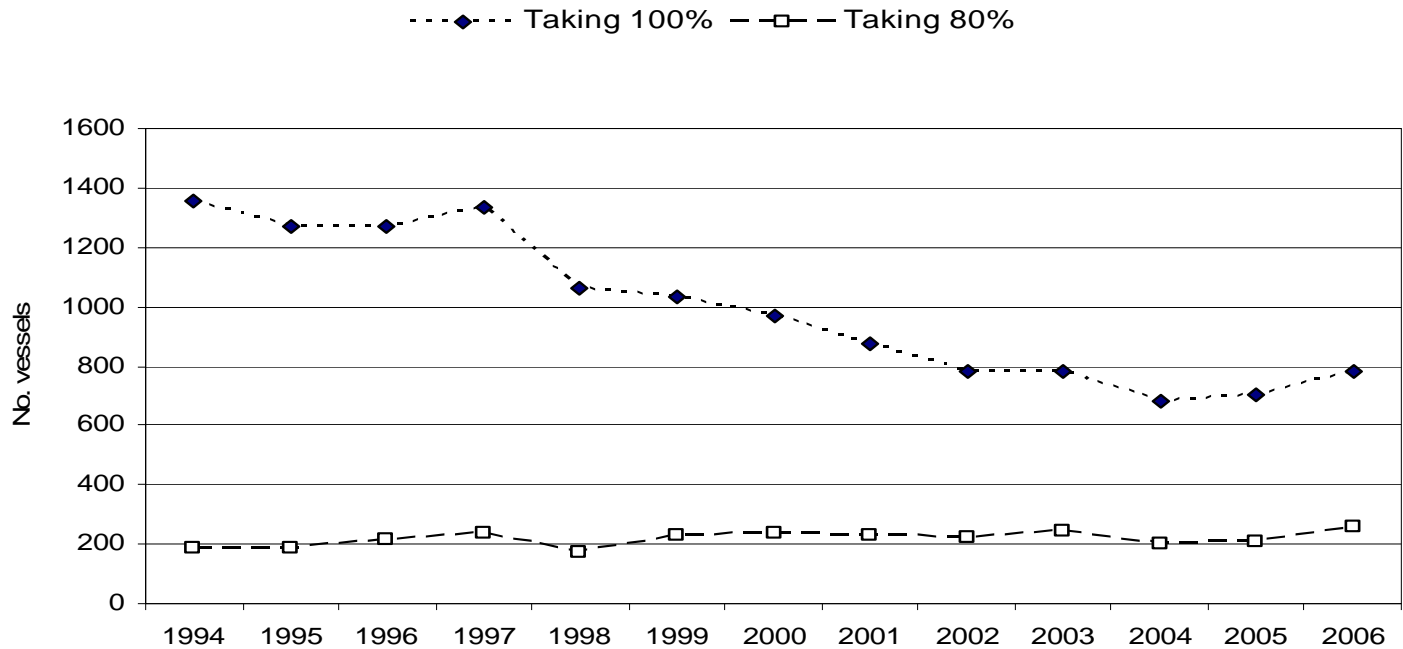
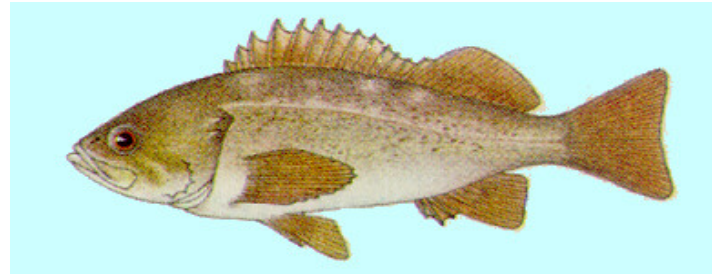
# Review OA Fishery Management and OA Permitting Issue (Page 2)



- **OA data analyzed for 1994-2001 and 2000-2006 showed low total groundfish impact in incidental fisheries.**
- **The OA directed fishery landed rockfish mostly in dead condition during 1994-2001. The other important directed fisheries were sablefish, live rockfish, cabezon and lingcod. Over 3,500 different vessels participated in the directed fishery during 1994-1999; 50% of vessels participated in only one year and only 155 vessels (4%) all six years.**
- **A diverse range of tonnage or revenue-based criteria was shown in the previous analysis to achieve similar fleet size objectives for issuance of directed fishery permits (Table 4, pg 10).**
- **OA data for 2000-2006 showed that incidental and directed fisheries landed an average of 5% and 95%, respectively, of OA landings based revenues (Table 5, pg 14).**
- **Sablefish and nearshore species accounted for an average of 87% of the total directed fishery revenues during 2000-2006. Shelf and slope rockfish were minor species during these recent years (Table 6, pg 16).**

# Data Update

## Directed Fishery Vessel Trends



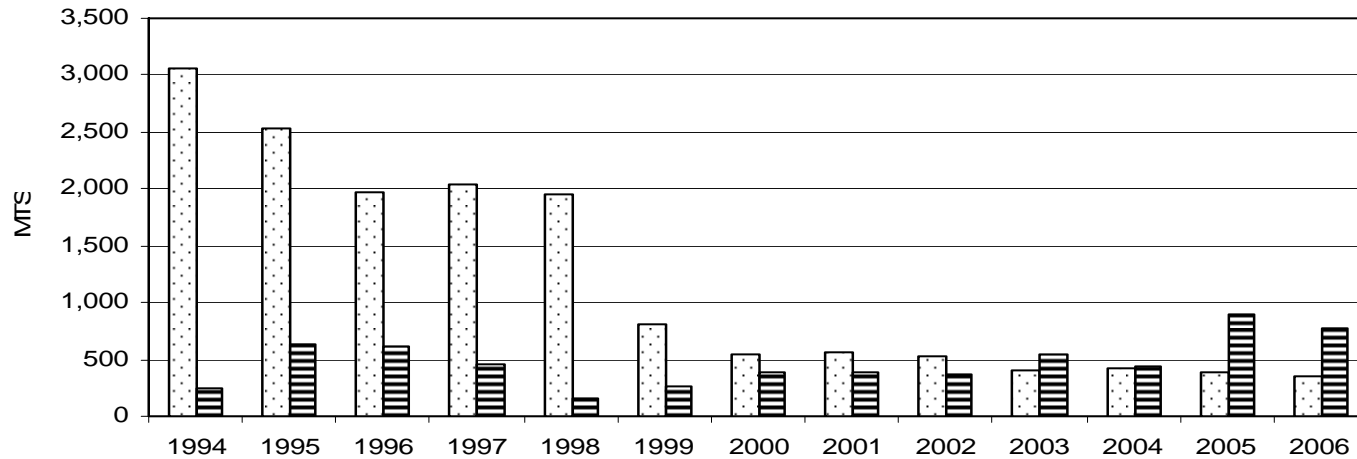
Directed OA fleet size including number of vessels taking 100% and 80% of catch, 1994-2006 (Hastie 2001 and current report)

# Data Update

## Rockfish and Sablefish Trends



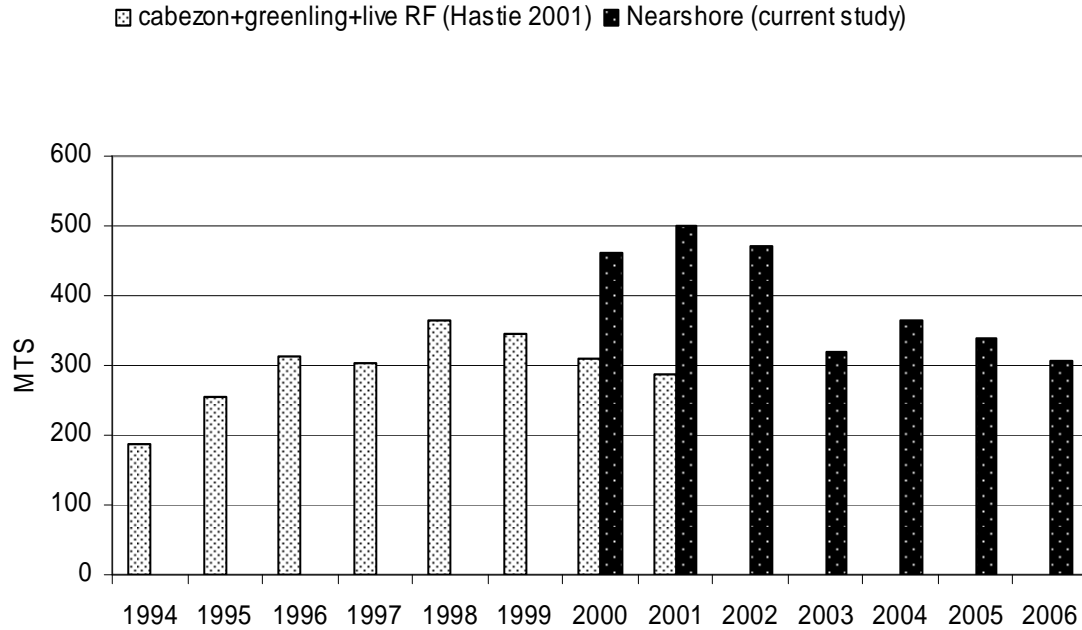
□ Rockfish (94-99) and RF+nearshore (00-06)   ■ Sablefish



Directed OA landings of selected groundfish groups, 1994-2006

# Data Update

## Nearshore Species Group Trends



OA landings of selected nearshore groundfish groups, 1994-2006





# Assumptions

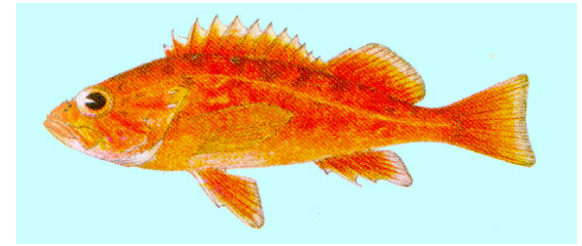
(see page 19)



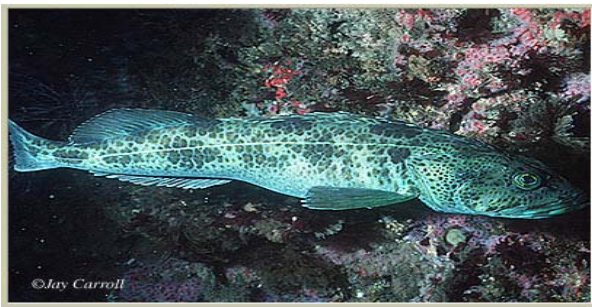
- 
- (1) B permits will be assigned to vessels.
  - (2) B permits will be issued to *current vessel owners*.
  - (3) B permits will apply to the directed taking and landing of all federal groundfish *not including nearshore rockfish, cabezon, kelp greenling and California scorpionfish*, which are protected or managed under state regulations. There would be no federal permit requirement to take this particular group of nearshore groundfish in federal waters. The Council would continue to set biennial catch limits until which time management authority is transferred to the states. Exclusion of this nearshore species group is expected to affect about 72% of the recent open access groundfish vessels.
  - (4) A major aim of the B permit program is to match fishing fleet capacity with resource availability.
  - (5) Possession of a C permit will be required of all vessels that do not have an A or B permit to land incidental amounts of federal groundfish, excluding nearshore species.
  - (6) B and C permits will be valid for fishing and landing of permitted species in the entire California, Oregon, and Washington EEZ.
  - (7) Permits must be renewed annually and will be revocable by the NMFS; expired permits will not be renewed.

# Recommended Alternatives

(see pages 21-22)



Issue	Alternative 1 – Status Quo	Alternative 2 – B permit required for directed (B) fisheries; liberal initial fleet size goal		Alternative 3 – Same as Alternative 2, but more restrictive initial fleet size goal.
(1) Initial B fleet size	N/A	1000 vessels; about 340 with nearshore removed		430 vessels; about 150 (34%) with nearshore removed
(2) B fleet capacity goal	N/A	500 vessels; about 170 with nearshore removed	200 vessels about 70 with nearshore removed	200 vessels; about 70 with nearshore removed
(3) B fleet qualifying window	N/A	(1) April 1998 – September 2006 or (2) January 1994 – September 2006		
(4) B fleet consolidation requirements (monitored annually)	N/A	Permit re-issuance based on previous year participation. Vessel owners must combine two permits after 5 <sup>th</sup> year (387 vessels in yr 6)	Permit re-issuance based on previous year participation. Vessel owners must combine two permits after 1 <sup>st</sup> and 5th years (153 vessels in yr 6)	Permit re-issuance based on previous year participation (333 vessels in yr 6)
(5) B permit endorsements	N/A	B permits would be length and gear endorsed. Permits would be endorsed for all the gear types used to qualify for permit.		
(6) C permit requirements	N/A	C permits would be available to any vessel with a state fishery permit, would be applied for and issued on an annual basis, and would not be transferable.		
(7) Integration of A & B programs	N/A	A and B permit holders may obtain the other permit type but may only use one type per year except if vessel is inoperable.	A and B permit holders may not obtain the other permit type except if vessel is inoperable.	



# Possible Additional Plan Elements

(see page 24)

Issue	Added Workload	Comment
(1) Grounds for permit appeals	Moderate	Mostly administrative/policy in nature
(2) Permit stacking alternatives (within or between A and B permit holders) in order to increase trip limit allowances	Very Heavy	Considerable additional analysis required
(3) Sablefish tiering and possible integration with A permit sablefish program	Very heavy	Considerable additional analysis required
(4) Permit transferability conditions prior to attainment of B permit capacity goal	Moderate	Mostly administrative/policy in nature
(5) Fish allocations between B permit gear types (as there is for A permit sablefish between trawl and fixed gear)	Heavy	Considerable additional analysis required
(6) Specific fish allocations between B and C permit fisheries	Very Heavy	Considerable additional analysis required
(7) Sub-area endorsements; e.g., 36 ° N. Lat for sablefish and 40 ° 10 ' N. Lat for other species	Heavy	Considerable additional analysis required
(8) Consistency of State with Federal regulations	Moderate	Mostly administrative/policy in nature, but may be important

# Photo Credits

- **Lingcod: Mark Chamberlain and Jay Carroll**
- **Bocaccio: Mark Conlin**
- **Rockfish drawings: CDFG files**
- **Cabazon trap fishing: CDFG files**

QUESTIONS?



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