

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON
AMENDMENT 20: TRAWL RATIONALIZATION ALTERNATIVES
(TRAWL INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS AND COOPERATIVES)

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) was asked by the Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) to evaluate the merits of a minimum individual fishing quota (IFQ) holding requirement. The EC worked with Council staff, and evaluated recent landings in the West Coast Groundfish Fishery. As you may imagine, the landings were wide ranging and provided little insight on the issue.

As currently proposed and supported by the EC in the trawl individual quota (TIQ) document, West Coast groundfish fishers operating under an IFQ system will be fully monitored at sea and at landing. A combination of cameras, electronic log books, and people will accomplish this monitoring effort. Fishers will have 30 days to cover any overage incurred in a landing. After 30 days, deficits will be treated as violations with ensuing investigations and penalties. Any fisher with a deficit in any IFQ account will be prohibited from fishing in any West Coast Federally managed fishery until that deficit is eliminated. Permits showing deficits will be frozen and prohibited from transferring to another vessel.

This suite of IFQ monitoring and landing regulations were originally developed by the EC in the early stages of IFQ deliberations and have been supported by the TIQC in their entirety since they were first introduced. These regulations were developed in response to the industries need for flexibility, considering the non selectivity of this gear type deployed in a fishery that contains 82 species.

The EC is pleased with the support this suite of regulations has received from the TIQC. As proposed, the EC believes these regulations are adequate for ensuring responsible industry behavior and do not believe that an additional minimum holding requirement is necessary, but would be in fact redundant.

The EC has not had the opportunity to fully evaluate the minimum holding requirement and area designation component of the GMT's statement, but at first blush, the proposal appears to add a layer of complexity to an already complex program.

PFMC
06/14/07