

Description of Amendment 22: Open Access (OA) from Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Website: <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/gffmp/gfa22.html>

Summary

The Council is considering the following changes to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (proposed Amendment 22): a limited entry program for the directed fishery sector of the groundfish OA fishery (this would create a new B permit program) a registration program for the incidental fishery sector (this would create a new C permit program).

The Council is considering a wide range of qualification criteria for the B permit program. Other issues include permit transferability, previous year landing requirement, coastal state permit endorsement, and use of A (current Limited Entry) and B permits on vessels in the same year. The Council is considering five alternatives related to these criteria. The program may begin as early as January 2010.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is intended to compliment the existing limited entry or A permit program. The proposed action has two parts:

- Conversion of the directed (target) fishery component to limited entry management. Vessels with valid registrations or permits would be allowed to directly fish for and land specified groundfish species. This is called the “B” permit program.
- Conversion of the incidental (non-target) fishery component of the OA groundfish fishery to a license registration program for all state-registered OA vessels that do not receive a B permit and that seek to retain incidental amounts of specified groundfish. This is called the “C” permit program.

PFMC
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