

Accountability for Species by Sector

At the November, 2008 Council meeting, the Council voted to establish a Trawl Rationalization program with three trawl sectors. This was achieved by merging the two shoreside sectors (SS whiting and non-whiting) into a single sector. In doing so, shoreside whiting entities and non-whiting entities would be allowed to trade quota with one another.

The language from the November 2008 decision on species accountability literally states that shoreside whiting vessels would be accountable for a smaller set of species than non-whiting vessels. In order to accomplish such a differentiation in species accountability within the different types of shoreside activity, it would be necessary to construct regulations that have the effect of creating four different trawl sectors. This creates an inconsistency with the motion to establish three trawl sectors. For reference, the set of species each sector would be held accountable for, based on a literal interpretation of the November 2008 decision, is included in the table below. Shaded cells represent species that a sector would not be held accountable for. The shoreside whiting sector includes “hashed” cells, and it is these sector-species combinations which create an inconsistency.

At the January 2009 Groundfish Allocation Committee meeting, members voted unanimously to clarify that the Council’s intent was to have three trawl sectors and to hold both types of shoreside activity accountable for the same set of species. This would effectively be done by holding shoreside whiting activity accountable for the set of species that are unshaded in the non-whiting column indicated in the table below.

During discussion of this matter, voting members of the GAC also suggested that the intent of the November Council motion on species coverage in the shoreside sector was meant to apply to the at sea sectors. During the process of the November 2008 motion on Trawl Rationalization, the original motion for species coverage on this item included canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, widow rockfish, and Pacific Ocean perch. Following a Council break, a revised motion was adopted which added sablefish to this list of species. The addition of sablefish appears to have been motivated by the understanding that the motion applied to the shoreside whiting fishery, not the at sea whiting fishery.

If the intention of the November 2008 Council motion was to hold the at sea fishery accountable for a different set of species than status quo (status quo includes canary, widow, and darkblotched) then it may be useful to revisit staff analysis presented at the November 2008 Council meeting (see November 2008 Briefing Book, Agenda Item F.3.c, Supplemental Additional Analysis 2, pages 9 – 13). This analysis suggests that the species with the highest priority for coverage in the at sea sector include: canary, widow,

and one or more of darkblotched, POP, and slope rockfish. By extension, the analysis suggests that sablefish is not be a high priority species for coverage in the at sea fisheries.

		SHORESIDE		MS	CP
		Non-whiting	whiting		
Sector Allocations Decided Through ISA Process	Lingcod - coastwide b/		█		
	Pacific Cod		█		
	Pacific Whiting (U.S.)				
	Sablefish (Coastwide)				
	N of 36° (Monterey north)				
	S of 36° (Conception area)		█		
	PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH				
	Shortbelly Rockfish				
	WIDOW ROCKFISH				
	Chilipepper Rockfish			█	
	Splitnose Rockfish				
	Yellowtail Rockfish				
	Shortspine Thornyhead - coastwide				
	Shortspine Thornyhead - N of 34°27'			█	
	Shortspine Thornyhead - S of 34°27'			█	
	Longspine Thornyhead - coastwide				
	Longspine Thornyhead - N of 34°27'			█	
	Longspine Thornyhead - S of 34°27'				
	DARKBLOTCHED				
	Black Rockfish				
	Blue Rockfish (CA)				
	Minor Rockfish North				
	Nearshore Species				
	Slope Species			█	
	Minor Rockfish South				
	Nearshore Species				
	Slope Species			█	
	California scorpionfish				
	Cabezon (off CA only)				
	Dover Sole			█	
	English Sole			█	
	Petrale Sole (coastwide) b/				
Arrowtooth Flounder			█		
Starry Flounder					
Other Flatfish			█		
Spiny Dogfish					
Kelp Greenling HG (OR)					
Sector Allocations Decided Through Spex	CANARY ROCKFISH				
	BOCACCIO		█		
	COWCOD		█		
	YELLOWEYE				
	Shelf Species				
	Shelf Species				
	Other Fish				
	Longnose Skate		█		

 Not covered
 Covered
 Seeking clarification