

Agenda Item G.3

Clarifications to November Action

1. Clarification on 3 trawl sectors and species covered with IFQ in shoreside sectors (attachment 6)
2. Species covered with bycatch caps in at sea sectors (attachment 6)
3. Clarification on the “bycatch rate” approach for initial allocation of overfished species south of 40 10 (attachment 7)
4. Clarification on the initial allocation of Pacific halibut south of 40 10 (attachment 8)

1) Species Covered with IFQ in Shoreside Sectors

- The November 2008 Council action specifies having three trawl sectors
- Within the shoreside sector, the action further states that SS whiting vessels will have IFQ for a different set of species than non-whiting vessels
 - SS whiting: Whiting, widow, canary, darkblotched, POP, sablefish
- This has the effect of creating 4 sectors
 - Staff is seeking a Council motion to clarify whether the intention is to have 3 or 4 trawl sectors
 - 3 sectors would require non-whiting and shoreside whiting having IFQ for same set of species

GAC Recommendations and Discussion

- At the January 2009 GAC meeting, the GAC unanimously voted to clarify that the intention is to have three trawl sectors.
 - This would be done by holding SS whiting vessels accountable for the same (larger number of) species as non-whiting
 - See attachment 6

2) Species Coverage in At Sea Sectors

- The November Council motion results in the at sea sectors having bycatch caps for widow, darkblotched, and canary
- January 2009 GAC discussion indicated that the motion applying to SS whiting was supposed to apply to at sea whiting.
 - First motion included IFQ for widow, darkblotched, canary, and POP
 - Subsequent motion included widow, darkblotched, canary, POP, and sablefish
 - This second motion to add sablefish appears to have been motivated by the understanding that the addition of sablefish applied to shoreside whiting, not at sea

Species	OY/ Allocation	Average portion of 2008 OY (2004 to 2006)	Substantially Caught in Non- trawl Sectors
WIDOW ROCKFISH	368	21.89%	No
CANARY ROCKFISH	44	4.85%	Yes
DARKBLOTCHED ROCKFISH	330	2.77%	No
SLOPE ROCKFISH (N)	1,160	2.48%	No
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	150	2.20%	No
YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH	4,548	1.69%	No
SABLEFISH	2,651	0.50%	NA
SHELF ROCKFISH (N)	958	0.47%	Yes
SHORTSPINE THORNYHEAD	1,634	0.38%	No
ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER	5,800	0.06%	No
LINGCOD	5,558	0.05%	Yes
OTHER FLATFISH	4,884	0.03%	No
LONGNOSE SKATE			No
PACIFIC HALIBUT			Yes
SPINY DOGFISH			Yes

This analysis suggested the original motion (POP, darkblotched, widow, canary) was more appropriate than the subsequent motion

3) Initial Allocation of Overfished Species Based on a Bycatch Rate (South of 40 10)

- The November Council motion specifies the use of “finer area rates” for use in making an initial allocation of OFS
- Two options exist in the “finer area rate” formula for the area south of 40 10
 - Staff is seeking a Council motion to clarify which approach to use

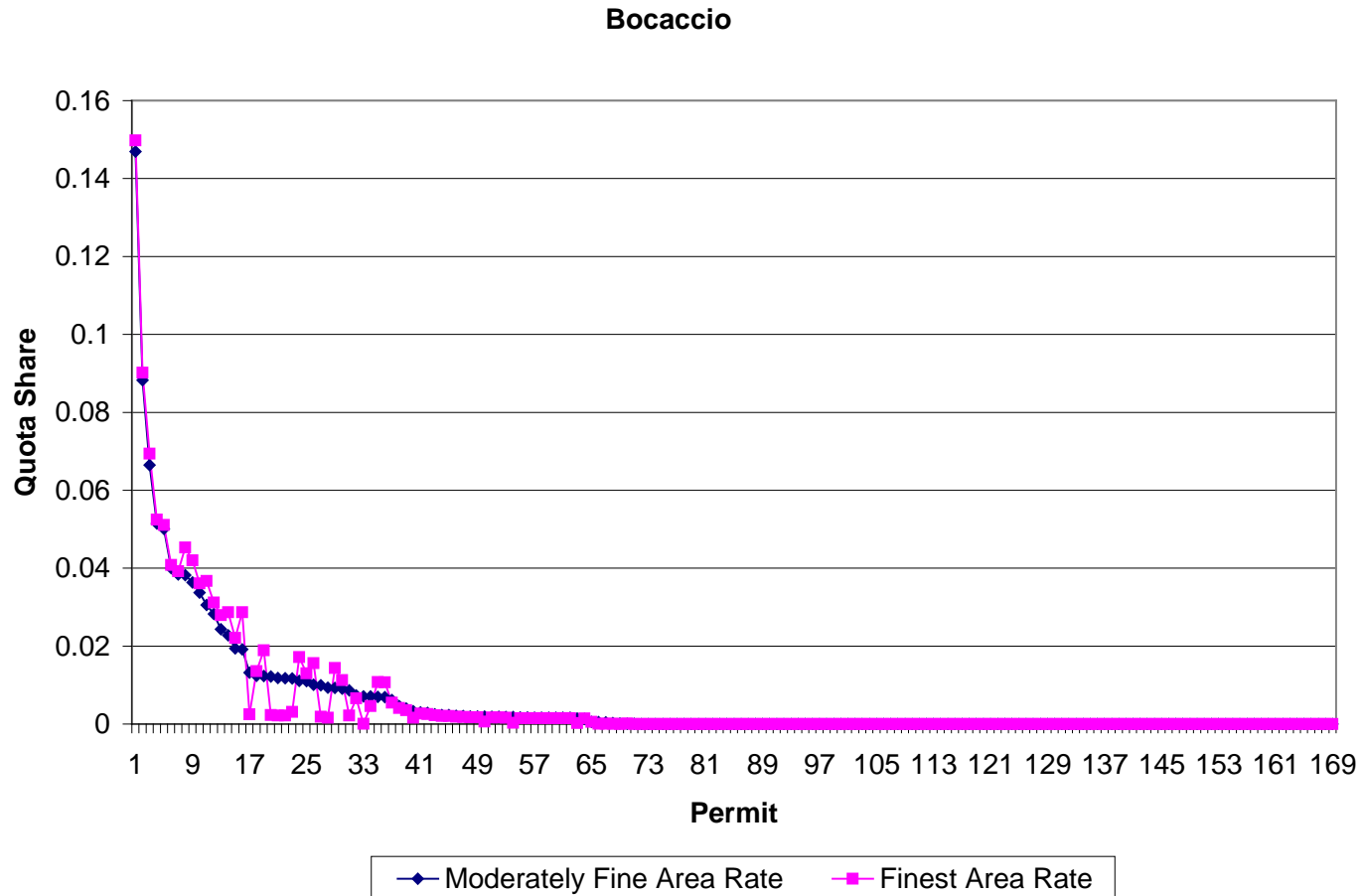
Two Options for a Bycatch Rate-Based Formula for Initial Allocation of Overfished Species in the South

1. One latitudinal area south of 40° 10'
2. Two latitudinal areas south of 40° 10'
 - Split at 38 degrees

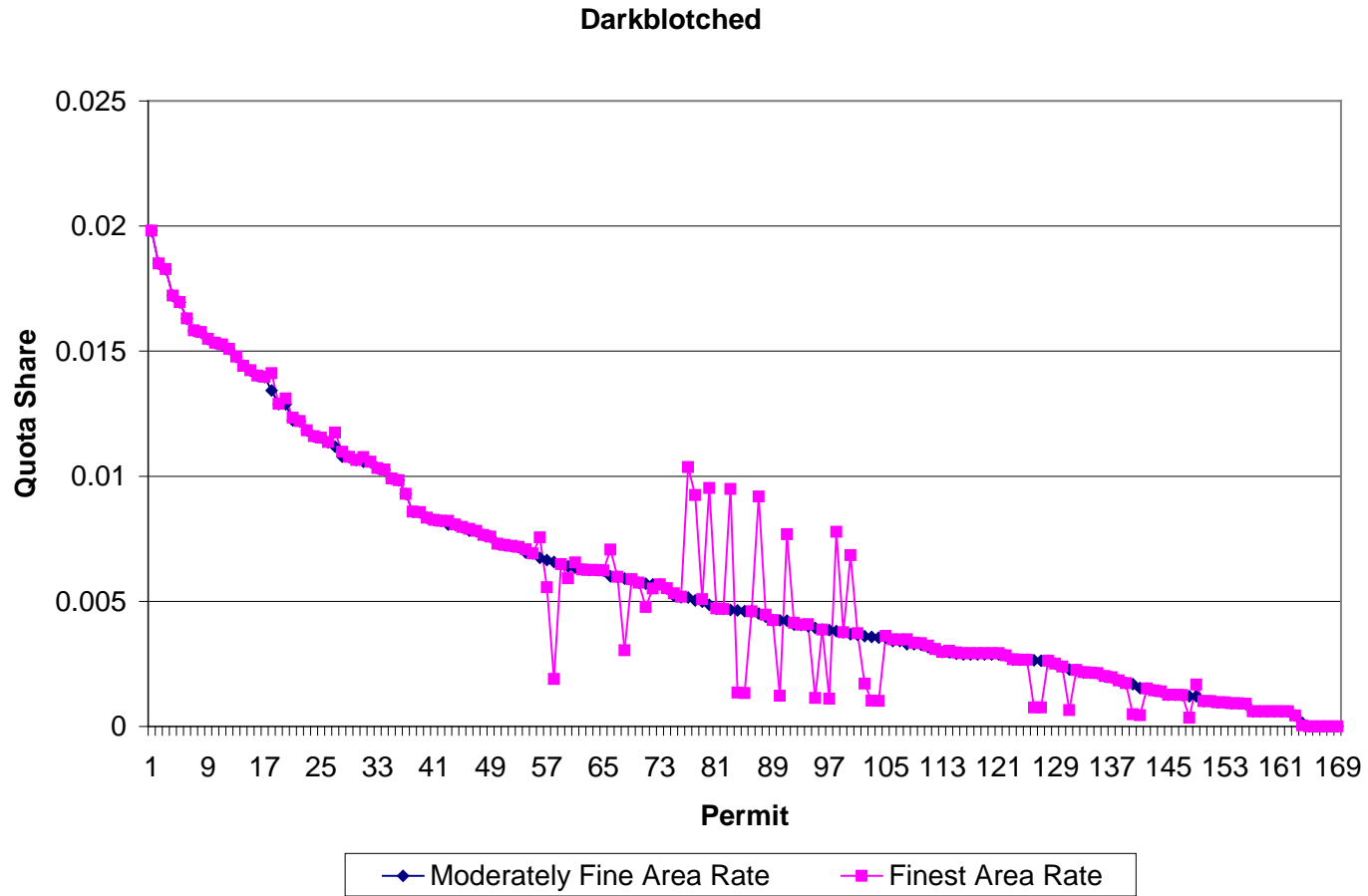
Reasons for having two options

- A relatively finer scale is intended to better match fishing practices with overfished species needs
- The relatively larger scale acknowledges the relative degree of uncertainty associated with predictions based on two latitudinal areas in the south
 - Observer data is more sparse in southern areas

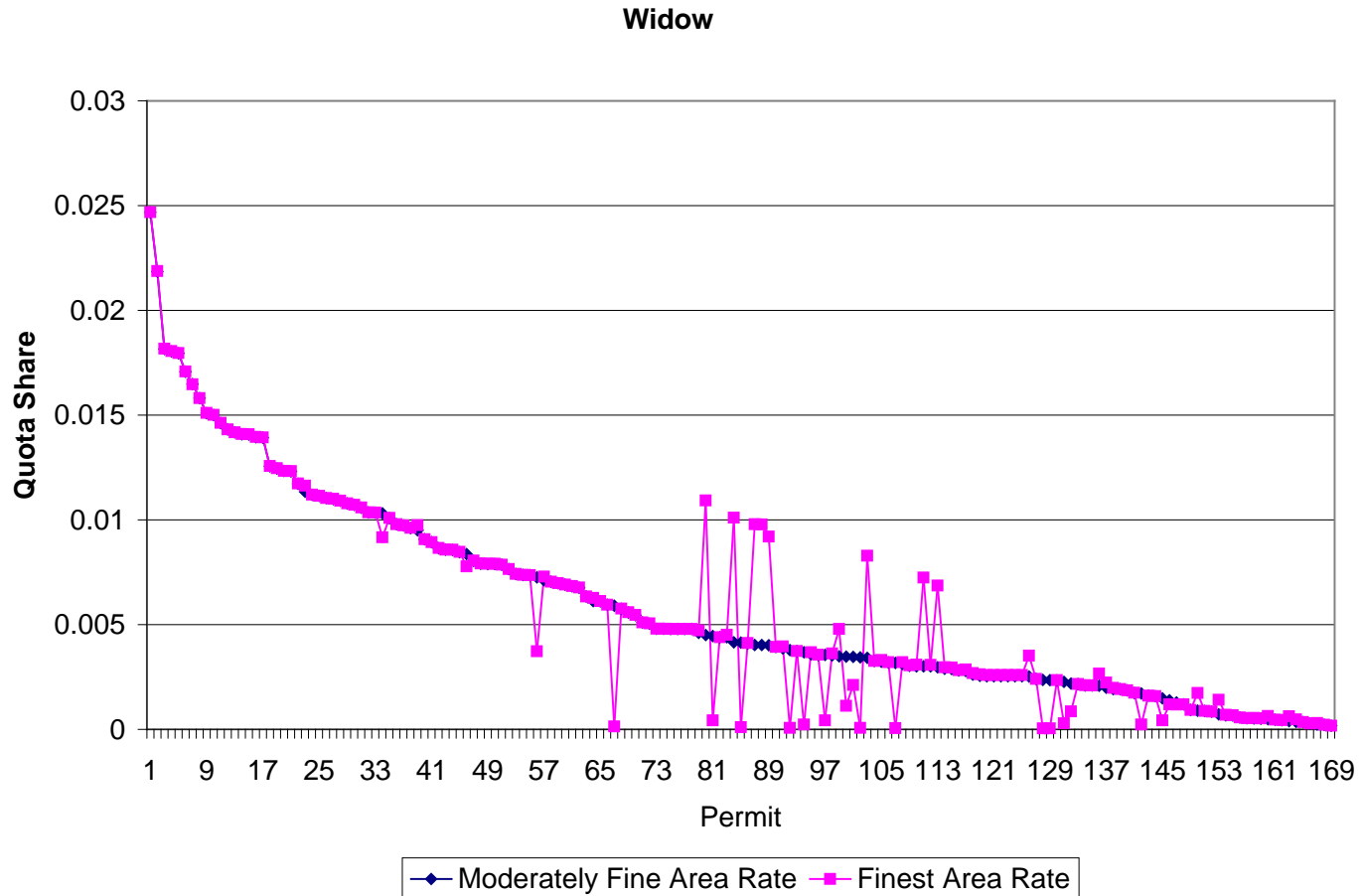
Comparison of both approaches (bocaccio)



Comparison of both approaches (darkblotched)



Comparison of both approaches (widow)



Summary considerations

- Finest area based formula is intended to most closely match OFS initial allocation to the needs of various permit holders
 - More aggregated area is intended to match OFS initial allocation to the needs of various permit holders, but distributes OFS more broadly
 - Tradeoffs:
 - Place entities on a more similar footing on day one, and rely more on quota trading after day one?
- Or
- Try to match OFS initial allocation as close as possible to potential needs, realizing that estimates are relatively uncertain?

4) Initial Allocation of Pacific Halibut South of 40 10

- The November 2008 motion specifies the use of a Pacific halibut bycatch rate formula for making an initial allocation of Pacific halibut quota.
- The formula specifies an approach for making an allocation north of 40 10, but no approach has been identified for the area south of 40 10
 - Staff is requesting a Council motion to specify how an initial allocation of Pacific halibut south of 40 10 should be done (if at all)

Three options for Pacific halibut south of 40 10

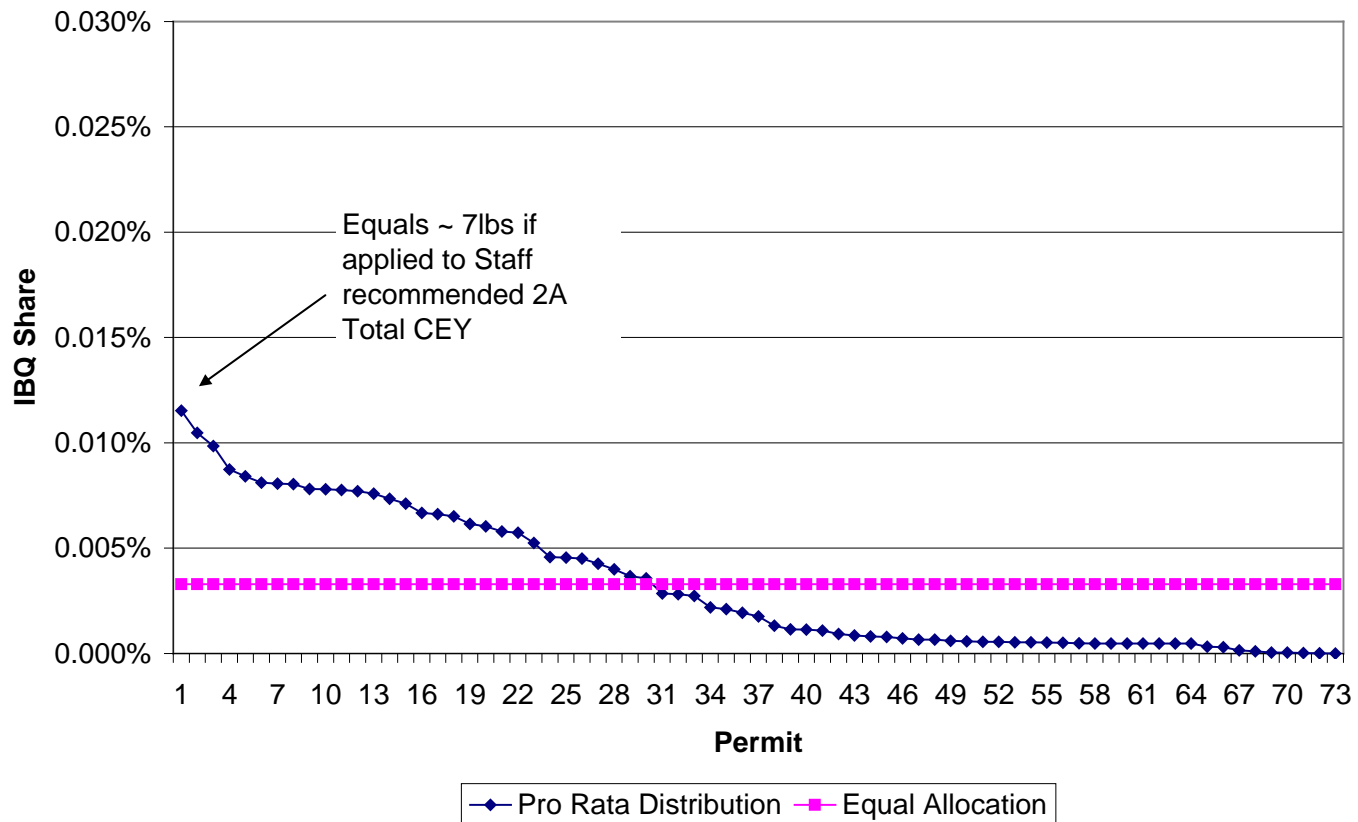
1. Equal allocation of that portion of Pacific halibut caught south of 40 10 among permits with history south of 40 10
2. Pro-rata distribution of that portion of Pacific halibut caught south of 40 10 among permits with history south of 40 10 (pro-rata to their target species QS)
3. Do not directly manage Pacific halibut south of 40 10. Instead, establish a set aside and monitor catch

Some Information

- Information from NWFSC indicates that, over the 2003 – 2006 period, approximately 0.24% of the trawl catch of Pacific halibut occurred south of 40 10
- The IPHC area 2A extends to the US/Mex border, meaning this catch needs to be managed or accounted for in some way
- Pacific halibut would need to be discarded if caught in the trawl fishery

Results of the two initial allocation approaches

Pacific Halibut South of 40 Deg 10 Min. N. Latitude



Implications of directly managing Pacific halibut vs establishing a set aside

- Trawl bycatch of Pacific halibut south of 40 10 is minimal, so managing through a set aside without IBQ does not appear to raise a conservation need
- Establishing a set aside may increase management complexity
 - Trips south of 40 10 would need to be monitored/tracked differently than trips north of 40 10
- If no direct management south of 40 10, need to prohibit retention when engaged in gear switching