

## EA Description and Analysis of Alternative 2<sup>1</sup>

### 2.0 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

From EA page 30:

Nearshore rockfish, cabezon, kelp greenling and California scorpionfish (nearshore species) are removed from any federal license or permit requirement in Alternatives 2 through 6. (underline added for emphasis) This was done because these species predominately occur in state waters, and because the states manage and regulate or affect the take of those species (see **Appendix D** for information on the states' nearshore management efforts). Therefore, removal of these nearshore species avoids duplicate licensing or permitting requirements between state and federal agencies for fishermen or vessels. The remaining groundfish species include species groups that are identified in Federal regulation at 50 CFR Part 660 as shelf and slope rockfish, roundfishes, flatfishes, sharks, and other species (**Table 2-2**).

From EA page 103:

#### 4.2 Alternative 2

This alternative is the same as the No-action Alternative, but establishes an annual licensing requirement in which vessel owners could submit a license application at any time during the year (**Table 2-3**). There would be no differentiation with regard to whether individual vessel owners intended to fish in a directed or incidental fishing mode or to combine the two modes. (underline added for emphasis). This alternative would be expected to have fishery and human impacts comparable to Alternative 1 because no change in current fishery management is proposed under this alternative.

A total of 1,103 different vessels participated in the directed open access fishery for B species groundfish during 2004-2006 window period years. The recent VMS requirement for vessels that fish in federal waters for federal groundfish will likely reduce the number of vessels that participate in the directed fishery in near term years to <713, which is the number that participated in the last year of the window period, 2006 (**Tables 4-1-1 and 4-1-2**).

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<sup>1</sup> see [http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2009/0309/G5a\\_ATT3\\_0309.pdf](http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2009/0309/G5a_ATT3_0309.pdf)