

## Groundfish Management Measures for 2002

### Shrimp Producers Marketing Cooperative

October 29<sup>th</sup> 2001

The Pacific Fishery Management Council gave the shrimp fleet a 5 1/2-ton canary rockfish quota for 2001. Oregon's share was 3.1 tons. The Oregon shrimp industry proposed a voluntary rockfish excluder program for the 2001 shrimp fishery to prevent the over harvest of canary rockfish and to ensure that other trawl fisheries would not be curtailed early.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission allowed a voluntary excluder program through July or until 2.4 tons of canary were landed with mandatory excluder use after August 1.

The Oregon shrimp fleet landed 4,780 pounds of canary rockfish during the 2001 season, which was under the 3.1 ton Oregon quota.

The Oregon voluntary excluder program was a success because we stayed under the Oregon canary rockfish allocation and we were allowed to harvest 450,000 pounds of groundfish which were worth \$590,000, or 9% of total value of the shrimp fishery.

We are being asked to manage a fishery with a total harvest of 27,000,000 pounds, having a total value of \$7,000,000 (on a poor price year) around a total canary rockfish harvest of 5.5 tons having a value of \$4500.

The Oregon shrimp producers are willing to continue a voluntary excluder program during 2002 based on the same allocations as in 2001. The 2001 groundfish limits of 500 pounds per day with 1,500 pounds per trip were responsible for \$590,000 ex-vessel value of groundfish landed by the Oregon shrimp fleet. By comparison, during the 2000 season, the Oregon shrimp fleet landed \$785,000 worth of groundfish. Additionally, the excluder causes a 10% loss in landed shrimp.

The Oregon shrimp fleet is doing its share in protecting canary rockfish through voluntary rockfish excluder use. Now the over harvest of canary rockfish needs to be addressed in other fisheries as well. Groundfish are an important part of the Oregon Shrimp industry's seasonal income and are part of our historical landings.

Mandatory rockfish excluder use reallocates all groundfish away from the shrimp fleet, failing to recognize our historical participation. Mandatory, season-long excluder use in the Oregon shrimp fishery will result in a nearly 20 % reduction in revenue to our fleet. (9% groundfish value plus 10% shrimp loss.)

Jeff Boardman, President  
Shrimp Producers Marketing Cooperative