Pacific Council News

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Council Adopts Preferred Alternative for Trawl Rationalization

At its June meeting, the Council took a major step toward implementing trawl rationalization, adopting a preliminary preferred alternative that includes both individual fishing quotas (IFQs) and co-ops. A preliminary draft environmental impact statement (EIS) describing all the alternatives will be released in September. Hearings on rationalization will be held in late October, prior to the Council's final action in November to adopt a final preferred alternative. In its final action the Council may adopt the options that make up the preliminary preferred alternative or it may adopt any of the other options covered in the EIS.

Council staffers Merrick Burden and Heather Brandon provide analysis of trawl rationalization options.

The preliminary preferred alternative includes the following central elements, by sector:

Shoreside Whiting and Nonwhiting Fisheries: manage under an IFQ system, as a single combined sector, or manage the shoreside nonwhiting sector with IFQs and the shoreside whiting sectors as co-ops. The alternative of managing with co-ops could only move forward if Congress provides the needed legislation.

Whiting Mothership Sector: manage as a co-op fishery.

Catcher-processor Sector: modify the limited entry system to facilitate continuation of the current voluntary co-op system, and put in place individual quota provisions that would be triggered if the voluntary co-op system fails.

IFQ would be issued as quota shares. Each year, shareholders would be issued quota pounds to be used during that fishing year. An initial allocation of quota shares may go to processors; the Council

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Council Adopts Criteria to End Klamath Fall Chinook Overfishing Concern

In welcome news for Klamath fisheries, natural adult spawning Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) exceeded their escapement floor by a wide margin in the fall of 2007. Council action at its June meeting could help ensure that future escapement goals are met.

In June, the Council adopted criteria to identify the end of the KRFC overfishing concern, which was triggered in 2007 when KRFC failed to achieve the conservation objective of no fewer than 35,000 natural area adult spawners in three consecutive years (2004-2006). A review of the status of KRFC and the causes of the overfishing concern was completed in February by the Council's Salmon Technical Team (STT), with input by the Habitat Committee and tribal and agency biologists. The report included recommended criteria for determining an end to this specific overfishing concern, as well as a suite of recommendations for meeting the criteria. After reviewing the STT report, the Council agreed that steps should be taken to assure that KRFC remain a productive stock.

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Coastal Pelagic Species News

Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guideline, Management Measures Adopted

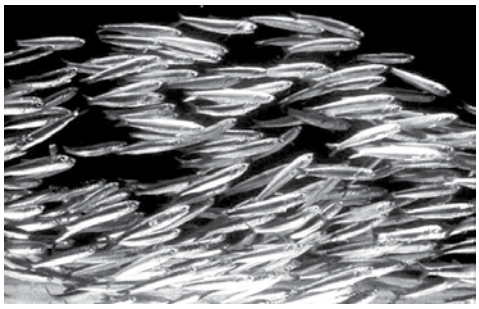
In June, the Council adopted the most recent Pacific mackerel assessment update, which estimates the stock's current biomass to be 264,732 metric tons (mt). Based on this new assessment, and the Pacific mackerel harvest control rule in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), the Council recommends an acceptable biological catch of 51,772 mt and a harvest guideline for the Pacific mackerel directed fishery of 40,000 mt for the fishery season from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Setting the harvest guideline for the directed fishery substantially below the acceptable biological catch (ABC) was recommended as a precautionary measure due to modeling uncertainty and the fact that the market for the domestic fishery appears to be limited to roughly 40,000 mt. The buffer is also intended to prevent a reoccurrence of the 2000/2001 Pacific mackerel season, where early attainment of the entire ABC in the directed fishery curtailed the Pacific sardine fishery, which lands mackerel incidentally.

NMFS will close the directed fishery if the harvest guideline of 40,000 mt is attained. In addition, NMFS will allow a 45% incidental catch allowance for Pacific mackerel landed with other CPS, except that up to 1 mt of Pacific mackerel could be landed without landing any other CPS. Any incidental harvest of Pacific mackerel should be applied against the remaining ABC of 11,772 mt. The Council may review the Pacific mackerel fishery inseason to consider releasing a portion of the buffer to the directed fishery, or to constrain incidental landings to ensure that total harvest remains below the ABC.

Review of Sardine Allocation Postponed

Full assessments for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel typically occur every third year, necessitating a three-year cycle for the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process. The last STAR process for Pacific mackerel occurred in 2007. New modeling efforts were a major focus of the 2007 STAR process, but unresolved technical issues led the Council to recommend no changes to Pacific mackerel assessment methodology for this year's assessment update. The next full assessment and STAR process for both Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel was advanced by one year and is scheduled for 2009.



Sardines (NOAA)

The Council has postponed the scheduled review of Amendment 11 to the CPS Fishery Management Plan regarding allocation of the Pacific sardine harvest guideline from the November 2008 Council meeting to the June 2009 Council meeting. The postponement occurs because 2008 is the first year in which the directed Pacific sardine fishery has been closed under the Amendment 11 allocation formula. Although the lack of inseason fishery restrictions in 2006 and 2007 demonstrates successful attainment of some Amendment 11 objectives, such as equitable harvest opportunity with no geographic fishery closures, the analysis of Amendment 11 would benefit from inclusion of the results from the restricted 2008 fishery in its entirety. Additionally, an ongoing economic survey of the Pacific sardine industry could result in new economic data in 2009 that would prove valuable during the review.

Highly Migratory Species News

Council Makes Recommendations to Regional Fishery Management Organizations

In April 2008, the Council developed recommendations on bigeye and yellowfin tuna for the U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). (The IATTC met June 23-27 but was unable to adopt new conservation measures for the two tuna stocks, which are subject to overfishing.)

The Council recommended that the IATTC require an annual report from each member describing their compliance with current conservation and management resolutions, including the provision of fishery data and a description of management activities. The Council also recommended that the IATTC work with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to resolve the question of striped marlin stock structure in the North Pacific. A 2007 stock assessment indicated that the North Pacific striped marlin stock is depleted, but the last IATTC assessment, conducted in 2003, found that the Eastern Pacific stock was in good shape. These conflicting findings make it difficult to reach consensus on management measures for the striped marlin stock. Finally, the Council recommended that the IATTC improve coordination with the WCPFC on the management of stocks co-occurring in each organization's management area. This would include timing the release of stock assessments so that the results can be used in a timely manner by both organizations.

Bigeye tuna (NOAA)

The Council also discussed recommendations for the U.S. delegation to the Northern Committee, a subsidiary body of the WCPFC that makes recommendations for the North Pacific stocks of albacore tuna, bluefin tuna, and swordfish. The WCPFC will consider the Northern Committee's recommendations in December.

The Council recommended that the Northern Committee include the North Pacific striped marlin stock under its jurisdiction so that management measures can be coordinated across the North Pacific; facilitate gathering and disseminating catch and other data on North Pacific albacore; and review the latest North Pacific albacore stock assessment and identify scientifically-based reference points to facilitate management.

Council Considers Management Measures for Recreational Thresher Shark Fishery

In June, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) briefed the Council on the recent development of a recreational fishery for thresher sharks. This fishery principally occurs in the Southern California Bight, south of Point Conception to the U.S.-Mexico border. Thresher sharks migrate to this area during spring and summer to feed and, like many shark species, give birth to live young. Past overexploitation led to restrictions on commercial fisheries targeting thresher sharks in the Southern California Bight. More recently, the recreational fishery has targeted thresher sharks in the spring and fall. Although only limited data are available, recreational fishing mortality may be comparable to the approximately 100 mt caught by the commercial fishery in 2006. As a result, catch in both recreational and commercial fisheries may be approaching, or exceeding, the 340 mt annual harvest guideline established in Federal regulations. Capture of pregnant and pupping females adds to concerns that the growing recreational fishery, along with current commercial catches, could again lead to regional overexploitation of the stock.

In June, the Council started the second biennial management cycle since the implementation of the highly migratory species fishery management plan. Any regulations proposed by the Council will become effective on or after April 1, 2009. After hearing reports from its advisors, the Council directed the HMSMT to begin developing a range of management options to address concerns about the recreational thresher shark fishery. The HMSMT will present these to the Council at their September meeting in Boise, Idaho. Once the Council adopts a range of potential management measures, they will be circulated for public review.

Groundfish News

Inseason Adjustments to 2008 Groundfish Fisheries

Limited Entry Non-Whiting Trawl Fishery

In June, the Council's Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the most recent information on the status of the 2008 limited entry non-whiting trawl fishery and found that one target species, Petrale sole, was tracking higher than originally projected through May. Much of the unexpected Petrale sole catch came from vessels operating north of 40° 10' N lat. Without an adjustment to Petrale sole catch limits, the GMT estimated that the catch would exceed the optimum yield (OY) by the end of the year. Other target species and overfished species did not appear to be at risk of exceeding an acceptable biological catch (ABC) or OY. In particular, sablefish and Other Flatfish were tracking several hundred tons below expectations at the end of May, and the catch of Dover sole was expected to be several thousand tons below the OY at the end of the year without inseason adjustments.

The Council heard from the GMT and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) on two possible methods for reducing the catch rate of Petrale sole while providing opportunities for under-utilized target species and staying within acceptable catch levels of overfished species. Based on analysis and advice from the GMT and the GAP, the Council voted to reduce the catch rate of Petrale sole by reducing catch limits in areas north of 40° 10' N lat. To provide fishing opportunity and to help offset the reduction in Petrale sole opportunities in the north, the Council voted to increase limits on Other Flatfish, Dover sole, and sablefish. In the south, the Council recommended an increase in the catch limits of sablefish to provide fishing opportunity on that species while staying within the OY.

Sablefish. Photo: Wade Smith, OSU

The adopted cumulative limits are shown in the table on page 5.

Open Access Sablefish Daily Trip Limit Fishery South of 36° N. Latitude

The GMT reviewed the most recent information on the status of the sablefish fishery south of 36° N latitude and found that the catch of sablefish in the open access portion of the fishery was tracking ahead of expectations. Sablefish catch in the open access sector was approximately double the amount of catch during the same period in the previous year. Without an adjustment to slow the catch of sablefish, the GMT estimated that the OY would be attained in October.

The Council heard from the GAP and the GMT on ways to slow the catch rate of sablefish in this fishery. Based on analysis and advice from both advisory bodies, the Council voted to establish a monthly catch limit in the open access daily-trip-limit (DTL) portion of the fishery of 1,000 lbs for the month of August, and a two-month catch limit in the open access DTL portion of the fishery of 2,100 lbs for Periods 5 and 6.

Limited Entry Sablefish Daily Trip Limit Fishery North of 36° N latitude

The Council heard from the GMT and the GAP on the status of the limited entry sablefish DTL fishery. The catch of sablefish in this fishery has been less than the allocation for the last several years, and without an adjustment to catch limits, the GMT estimated that the fishery would not reach the allocation again this year. In order to provide fishing opportunity, the GMT and GAP considered an increase in the daily limit from 300 lbs to 500 lbs. The GMT estimated that the take of sablefish would not exceed the allocation with a 500 lb daily limit and therefore the Council voted to increase the daily limit in this fishery to 500 lbs beginning in Period 4 through the remainder of the year.

California Recreational Groundfish Fishery

The GMT, GAP, and the Council heard from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on a revised plan for managing the California recreational groundfish fishery. In March, the Council and its advisory bodies were informed of a plan to manage the California recreational groundfish fishery with several tools, including five Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCAs) which would be established through state regulation. In June, the Council heard from CDFG staff that those five YRCAs would not in fact be implemented. Instead, CDFG staff had developed an inseason catch estimation tool and state process that would allow California to close its recreational fishery if a harvest guideline was expected to be met. The Council voted to request that if California takes an action that is necessary to limit the California recreational fishery, National Marine Fisheries Service should review California's action and, if appropriate, take conforming regulatory action in federal waters before the September Council meeting.

Groundfish News

Stock Assessments Adoped for 2011-2012 Groundfish Managment Decisions

In June, the Council adopted the following full and updated groundfish stock assessments to be done next year to inform management decisions for the 2011 and 2012 seasons.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) intends to review the data informing both the bronzespotted and greenspotted assessments, and may recommend one of them go forward as a full assessment next year depending on whether there is enough data to do a full assessment. The Council scheduled resolution of this for September, tasking the SSC to review the bronzespotted and greenspotted rockfish data availability information by the September Council meeting briefing book deadline. The ten full assessments will be reviewed in five stock assessment review (STAR) panels next year, with two assessment reviews scheduled for each STAR panel. The STAR panel schedule will be decided at the September Council meeting.

The Council also adopted a new terms of reference for groundfish rebuilding analysis, but deferred a decision on a final terms of reference for stock assessments and stock assessment reviews until September to allow for their discussion of the number of reviewers at STAR panels next year, scheduling, and other planning matters.

	Full Assessments	Updated Assessments
1	Bocaccio rockfish	Pacific ocean perch
2	Widow rockfish	Canary rockfish
3	Yelloweye rockfish	Cowcod rockfish
4	Petrale sole	Darkblotched rockfish
5	Cabezon	
6	Lingcod	
7	Spiny dogfish	
8	Splitnose rockfish	
9	Greenstriped rockfish	
10	Bronzespotted or Greenspotted rockfish	

Cumulative limits for 2008 groundfish fisheries (see story on page 4)

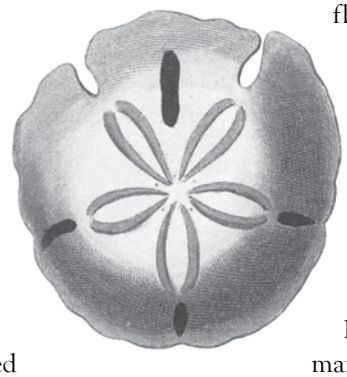
Subarea	Period	RCA Boundaries Inline Outline	Sablefish	Longspine	Shortspine	Dover	Otr Flatfish	Petrale	Arrowt'th	Slope Rk
N 40 10 Large Footrope	1	No Change from Status Quo	14,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	40,000	150,000	1,500
	2		14,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	3		19,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	20,000	150,000	1,500
	4		*24,000*	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	20,000	150,000	1,500
	5		*24,000*	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	20,000	150,000	1,500
	6		*19,000*	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	*30,000*	150,000	1,500
North SFFT	1	No Change from Status Quo	5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	70,000	10,000	10,000	1,500
	2		5,000	3,000	3,000	50,000	70,000	18,000	10,000	1,500
	3		5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	50,000	18,000	10,000	1,500
	4		*7,000*	3,000	3,000	*50,000*	*80,000*	18,000	10,000	1,500
	5		*7,000*	3,000	3,000	*50,000*	*80,000*	*16,000*	10,000	1,500
	6		*7,000*	3,000	3,000	*50,000*	*80,000*	10,000	10,000	1,500
38 - 40 10	1	No Change from Status Quo	14,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	15,000
	2		14,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	3		19,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	4		*24,000*	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	5		*24,000*	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	6		*19,000*	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	15,000
S 38	1	No Change from Status Quo	14,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	55,000
	2		14,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	3		19,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	4		*24,000*	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	5		*24,000*	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	6		*19,000*	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	55,000

Groundfish News

Preliminary Adoption of 2009 Groundfish Exempted Fishing Permits

In June, the Council selected five 2009 exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for public review and possible adoption in September. EFPs provide a process for testing innovative fishing gears and methods to pursue sustainable, risk-averse fishing opportunities. While six EFP applications were submitted for Council consideration in June, one concerning commercial fixed gear targeting of yellowtail rockfish off Oregon was rejected due to lack of a proper scientific study design and other shortcomings. The Council did state that the concept for this EFP was potentially useful and encouraged the applicant to refine the application and re-submit it next year for consideration in 2010.

Three of the five EFP applications still under consideration for next year are repeat efforts of approved 2008 EFPs. The first EFP is one sponsored by Steve Fosmark, which seeks to test trolled vertical longline gear to selectively harvest abundant chilipepper rockfish in waters off central California. A secondary objective of this EFP is to test potential Groundfish Fishing Areas, or areas with high densities of chilipepper rockfish and low densities of overfished species within the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA). Third, the EFP may also test electronic camera monitoring of fixed gear efforts, although the Council requested 100% observer coverage for the 2008 and 2009 EFPs to test the efficacy of electronic monitoring. This EFP is not expected to be implemented this year.



An EFP sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense, the California Department of Fish and Game, and a consortium of fishing interests in the Morro Bay area seeks to test the feasibility of managing groundfish harvest under a Regional Fishery Association. The Council has previously stated that results from this EFP will be useful in deciding criteria for defining regional fishery associations, a mandate in the re-authorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. This EFP will use six limited entry trawl permits purchased by The Nature Conservancy to selectively harvest sablefish and other target groundfish species in the Conception area between 34°27' and 36° N latitude using fixed gears. This EFP will also test electronic monitoring of fixed gear fishing efforts. It is expected that the 2008 EFP will be implemented in early July under a 30 metric ton (mt) sablefish cap. If approved for 2009, results for this effort will add to those gained in 2008.

The third EFP recommended by the Council was one sponsored by the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the Golden Gate Fisherman's Association, which seeks to test the use of recreational hook-and-line gear to catch underutilized chilipepper and slope rockfish on Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFVs) in waters off California seaward of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) between Pt. Conception and the California-Oregon border. This EFP was also approved for 2008, but is not expected to start until early July.

The fourth EFP considered for 2009 is one sponsored by the Oregon Chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance designed to target yellowtail rockfish in waters off Oregon at depths seaward of those closed by regulation. The EFP will test the use of long leaders of 30, 40, and 60 feet that are floated off the bottom to avoid yelloweye rockfish and to selectively harvest abundant yellowtail rockfish. This EFP, if approved, would be conducted on ten Oregon charter boats at different times of the year and at different locations along the Oregon coast, and would have 100% observer coverage.

The fifth EFP preliminarily approved for next year is also sponsored by the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the Golden Gate Fisherman's Association, and seeks to selectively harvest Federally-managed flatfish on CPFVs within and seaward of the non-trawl RCA in waters off California north of Pt. Conception.

The Council did not recommend bycatch caps for these EFPs, but they did set aside yields for some species to accommodate 2009 EFPs. These set-asides are as follows and, if not used, would be available for directed fisheries in 2009.

Yield Set-Asides for 2009 EFPs (metric tons)	
Canary	2.7 mt
Yelloweye	0.3 mt
Widow	5.3 mt
Darkblotched	1.266 mt
Pacific Ocean perch	0.6 mt
Cowcod	0.266 mt
Bocaccio	13.7 mt

The Council also scheduled their final decision on 2009 EFPs for the September Council meeting in Boise, Idaho. Normally, the Council decides EFPs at their November meeting; however, the EFP decision was advanced to September to make more room on the Council's November agenda for a lengthy three-day session on trawl rationalization. The Council requested preliminary reports of results of the two ongoing 2008 EFPs in September to aid their decision on repeating these two EFPs next year.

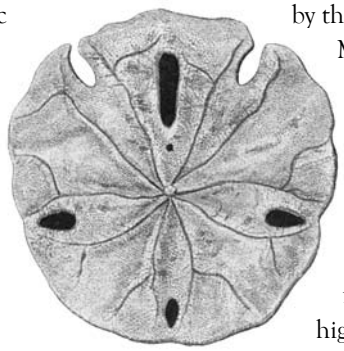
Groundfish News

Harvest Specifications, Management Measures for 2009-2010 Fisheries Adopted

The Council adopted final groundfish harvest specifications (acceptable biological catches or ABCs and optimum yields or OYs) and management measures for the 2009 and 2010 fishing seasons at their June meeting. Four rebuilding plans for overfished rockfish species (i.e., those for canary rockfish, cowcod, darkblotched rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish) were formally revised by this decision, and hook-and-line fisheries were further constrained by the need to ramp down the harvest rate for yelloweye rockfish.

The ABCs and OYs recommended by the Council for 2009 and 2010 fisheries are shown in Tables 2-1a and 2-1b (pages 16-19). The Council adopted the ABCs recommended by the SSC and confirmed most of the OYs decided as preliminary preferred alternatives in April (see the Council's Spring 2008 newsletter) with some exceptions. The Council did not change the preliminary preferred OY or rebuilding plan for canary rockfish decided in April. In June, the Council confirmed its decision to revise the target rebuilding year for canary from 2063 to 2021 and to lower the harvest rate in the harvest control rule from a spawning potential ratio (SPR) harvest rate of F88.7% to F92.2% based on the latest understanding of the stock's status and biology from the 2007 stock assessment.

The Council ultimately decided to adopt the alternative yelloweye ramp-down strategy, which specifies an OY of 17 mt for the next two years before assuming a constant harvest rate strategy in 2011. The Council opted for this alternative strategy to allow more time to explore areas of high density of yelloweye that may potentially be closed to fishing in the future and to avoid significant negative economic impacts to fishing communities. The alternative ramp-down strategy also was projected to rebuild in the same year with a negligible change in probability relative to the status quo ramp-down strategy that would have specified OYs of 17 mt and 14 mt in 2009 and 2010, respectively. While the Council did not revise the target rebuilding year in the yelloweye rebuilding plan nor the harvest control rule starting in 2011, the change in the 2010 OY does represent a slightly higher harvest rate in the last year of the ramp-down strategy than what was prescribed in the rebuilding plan.



The cowcod rebuilding plan was also formally revised by the Council's June decision. A technical error in the 2005 assessment was corrected in the 2007 assessment, leading to the need to revise the rebuilding plan. The Council adopted an OY of 4 mt for 2009 and 2010 and revised the target rebuilding year in the rebuilding plan from 2039 to 2072 and the SPR harvest rate from F90.0% to F82.1%.

The Council also adopted higher OYs for widow rockfish of 522 mt and 509 mt in 2009 and 2010, respectively and lower OYs of 285 mt and 291 mt in 2009 and 2010, respectively for darkblotched rockfish. This tradeoff was recommended by the Groundfish Management Team because there would be no projected difference in the time to rebuild widow rockfish with higher OYs, and lower darkblotched OYs would result in faster rebuilding of that stock. Further, there was a direct trade-off in the whiting trawl fishery, because a higher bycatch allowance for widow rockfish would allow the whiting fishermen to adjust their fishing strategy to further reduce their bycatch of darkblotched rockfish. This decision does not change the rebuilding plan for widow rockfish since the harvest control rule and target rebuilding plan are not changed. However, the Council did revise the darkblotched rebuilding plan with this decision based on a fundamental change in best available information about the stock's status and biology. The darkblotched target rebuilding year is now 2028 and the harvest control rule is F62.1%.

A new blue rockfish assessment for the portion of the population occurring in waters off California was used to decide how to manage that stock. Based on a California Department of Fish and Game proposal, the Council elected to continue to manage blue rockfish within the minor nearshore rockfish complexes north and south of 40°10' N latitude at Cape Mendocino. However, 2009 and 2010 nearshore fisheries in California will be managed to a 220 mt blue rockfish harvest guideline, which is less than the ABC predicted in the base model of the assessment.

Likewise, a new longnose skate assessment was done last year and used to decide how to manage that stock. The Council elected to remove longnose skate from the Other Fish complex and manage the stock with ABCs of 3,428 mt and 3,269 mt in 2009 and 2010, respectively and OYs of 1,349 mt in both years. The Other Fish complex specifications were revised by removing 3,400 mt from the complex ABC of 14,600 mt to derive a 2009-10 ABC of 11,200 mt. The Other Fish OY was set at 5,600 mt, which comports to the 50% precautionary reduction called for in the Groundfish FMP for unassessed stocks.

Management measures for 2009 and 2010 were largely based on the need to reduce the yelloweye rockfish bycatch to adhere to the ramped down OY, but also to optimize fishing opportunities under the

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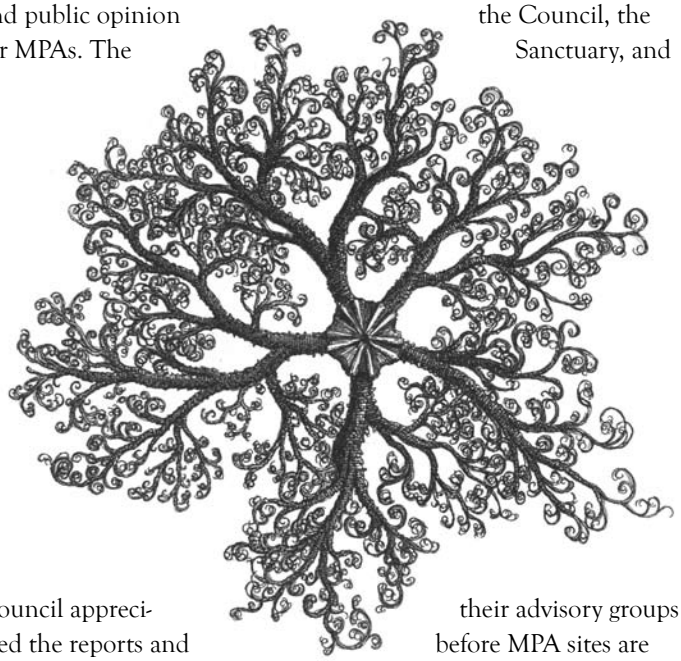
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Considers Additional MPAs

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is evaluating the costs and benefits of further protecting Sanctuary resources through the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Federal waters of the Sanctuary. At the June Council meeting Dr. Lisa Wooninck, Sanctuary Research Protection Specialist, presented three principal needs for Sanctuary MPAs that address ecosystem objectives: a need for areas where natural ecosystem components are maintained and/or restored; a need for research areas to differentiate between natural variation versus human impacts to ecological processes and components; and a need to preserve unique and rare areas in their natural state for the benefit of future generations. Dr. Wooninck also provided a proposed timeline for a process to move ahead with evaluation of Sanctuary MPAs.

Generally, MPAs are designed to protect ecologically important and/or environmentally sensitive habitat areas from human impacts. The term "marine protected area" can imply various types of area protections, including some that allow fishing, or fishing with certain types of gear (such as pelagic trolling and longlining), inside MPAs. Currently, the Sanctuary does not have the authority to regulate fisheries and has proposed a collaborative process with the Council as the evaluation of MPAs gets underway.

The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries, a Monterey, California-based group which advocates for the heritage and economic value of fishing to California coastal communities, has asked the Council to review a variety of reports and analyses on the subject of legal authority to regulate fisheries within National Marine Sanctuaries as well as the science, rationale, and public opinion for MPAs. The Council appreciated the reports and recommended their review during the evaluation of MPAs.



During discussions on this subject, the Council maintained its position that the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Council process represent the appropriate authority and forum for developing fishing regulations in Federal waters within and outside of National Marine Sanctuaries. The Council expressed support for collaboration early in the evaluation process for MPAs, but noted that this does not imply Council support for additional MPAs. Any determination on the need for additional MPAs can only be made following a thorough analysis of a sufficiently wide range of alternatives.

The Council made the following recommendations:

• Criteria for determining the location, size, and regulatory protections for proposed MPAs need to be developed cooperatively between the Council, the Sanctuary, and their advisory groups before MPA sites are considered.

• Proposed MPA plans should be contrasted with protections afforded by current state and Federal regulations, including existing area closures and fishery prohibitions at the Davidson Seamount. The added value of MPAs to Sanctuary management goals should be evaluated relative to current and potential future regulatory strategies.

• Consolidation of existing spatial management measures should be considered as one of the alternatives for evaluation.

• Responding to the Sanctuary's request for input on the formation of advisory groups, the Council said that the roles of Sanctuary MPA Working Group and Science Advisory Panel members should be clarified at the beginning of the process. MPA Working Group members should function as stakeholders or institutional representatives, and Science Advisory Panel members should serve as independent scientists. Additionally, the Science Advisory Panel should include experts from a variety of fields within the social sciences.

• Interaction and coordination between the Council and the Sanctuary should be formalized to ensure that communication is efficient and timely, with a Council staff member acting as a liaison. Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) members, if on the Sanctuary Science Advisory Group, should serve as independent scientists and not as representatives of the SSC or the Council. Documents, analyses, and criteria that are scientific in nature, including research plans, models, and synthesis documents should be brought before the SSC for review and comment.

• The Sanctuary, along with its partners, should develop monitoring plans to go along with each of the alternative proposed actions.

• The potential loss of sampling and surveying opportunities within Sanctuaries could have a significant effect on data series used for stock assessments. Replacement of these surveying opportuni-

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New Provisions to End Overfishing Under Review as MSA is Reauthorized

The Council, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the other seven regional fishery management councils have made progress implementing the new provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA). The Council has revised its Council Operating Procedures regarding research and data needs and the function of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), has revised and updated financial disclosures for Council and SSC members, and has provided scoping comments on key MSRA provisions.

Recently, NMFS published proposed regulations on provisions to end overfishing and to streamline the environmental review process associated with fishery management actions. The new environmental review process includes new ways to document and streamline environmental analyses, and seeks to better align public review periods with the Council process. Under the new system, environmental impact statements would be replaced by integrated fishery and environmental management statements (IFEMS). IFEMS aim to improve consideration of fishery management impacts under the MSA while meeting the goals of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Additionally, a new procedure is proposed for "framework" or routine and cyclical fishery actions such as annual specifications. Under this proposal, a "Framework Implementation Procedure" would be analyzed and implemented within a fishery management plan. Subsequent actions within the scope of previous environmental reviews would require no further analyses so long as verification of supporting documentation and analyses is provided in a brief Memorandum of Framework Compliance. Environmental assessments and categorical exclusions for insignificant new impacts would not change.

The Council plans to respond to NMFS by the end of the comment period on August 12th. In addition, all eight regional fishery management councils plan to develop a joint letter on this issue.

Annual catch limits and accountability measures to prevent overfishing are an important aspect of the MSRA and must be implemented by 2010 for species subject to overfishing and by 2011 for most other species. New fishery management tools such as annual catch limits and annual catch targets will be used to incorporate scientific and management uncertainty to conservatively manage harvests at levels that prevent overfishing, while accountability measures (such as in-season tracking of fishery landings) will be used to ensure that catch targets are not exceeded, and to respond with corrective measures if catch limits are exceeded frequently.

For many stocks, implementation of these new management tools is not expected to significantly change the Council's management process because the proposed tools are already being used. However, their use may be more problematic for data-poor stocks, stocks that are internationally managed, and for salmon stocks that are, by necessity, typically managed for spawning escapements to freshwater rather than numeric catch targets such as annual catch limits.

On June 9th – the same day the Council discussed this issue during its June meeting – NMFS published proposed revisions to the National Standard 1 Guidelines to include guidance on annual catch limits and accountability measures. This untimely release precluded a detailed review of the materials by the Council or its advisory bodies at the June meeting, and kicked off a 90-day public comment period that ends on September 8, the first day of the September Council meeting. The Council Executive Director has requested an extension of the comment period to allow the Council to fully deliberate the matter in September and respond in writing shortly thereafter.

Research and Data Needs Under Review

At its June meeting, the Council adopted a public review draft of its Research and Data Needs document. The Council continually identifies research and data needs through a variety of processes, including the stock assessment and fishery management cycles. Council Operating Procedure 12 outlines the Council's process for documenting research and data needs and the schedule for completing and communicating these needs to organizations which may be able to support additional research.

Council staff and advisory bodies have been revising the current draft Research and Data Needs document throughout the winter and spring of 2008. The draft adopted in June can be found on the Council web page at http://www.pcouncil.org/research/research. Comments from the public and Council advisory bodies will be accepted up to and at the September 2008 Council meeting in Boise, Idaho, when the Council is scheduled to adopt a final document (see briefing book deadlines for the September meeting on page 12). The January 2007 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) added several new provisions and programs specific to research, data collection, and reporting, including a requirement that the Council shall develop five-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes. The Research and Data Needs document, when adopted in its final form by the Council in September, is intended to record and communicate the Council's research and data needs through 2014 to ensure continued well-informed Council decision-making into the future and to fulfill the Council's responsibilities under the reauthorized MSA.

Habitat Committee Prepares, Council Approves Letter Wave Energy Impacts

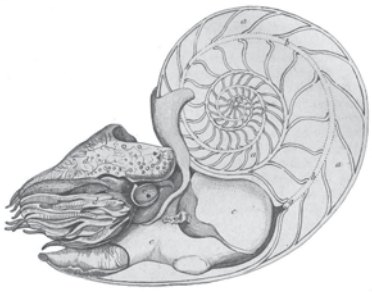
In June, the Council approved a letter on wave energy, developed by the Habitat Committee (HC), and directed to the Minerals Management Service (MMS).

The MMS is involved in a process to designate certain areas of the outer continental shelf in Federal waters for alternative energy testing sites, including wave energy. MMS is the permitting agency for such projects in Federal waters, as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is for projects in state waters. MMS is seeking comments on their process.

The letter to MMS is online at http://www.pcouncil.org/habitat/habdocs.html. It is similar to a letter sent by the Council to FERC in November 2007.

The HC also updated the Council on recent wave energy developments.

The State of Washington has taken FERC to court over the conditional five-year license it issued for Finavera's Makah Bay Offshore Wave pilot project. The license was the first FERC has issued for a hydrokinetic project. Washington's Department of Ecology argued the agency overstepped its authority by failing to demonstrate compliance with state environmental laws.



While FERC's pilot license policy may expedite wave energy projects, project developers are now caught between FERC's policy and Washington's argument that the developer must first comply with Department of Environmental Quality water quality certification and coastal zone management laws. Over a dozen hydrokinetic projects on the west coast are currently obtaining state environmental permits, or are about to begin this process. This issue has been brought to the forefront by the Washington lawsuit, and both developers and regulators have a substantial stake in the outcome.

Elsewhere in wave energy, a project proposed for Douglas County, Oregon would use a different type of technology that might help to address some environmental concerns associated with wave energy. The "oscillating water column" technology would be built on or near a jetty, rather than further out to sea. From both a habitat and fisheries perspective, placing wave energy projects on human-made structures seems preferable to placing them in a more natural ocean environment, although it may have impacts on fisheries close to the shore that will need to be better understood. In addition, such in-jetty projects would build advocacy for jetty maintenance, which would benefit coastal communities and fisheries. The HC will learn more about this project and report back to the Council in the future.

Coming Up at the September 2008 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Boise, Idaho on September 7-12, 2008. The advance Briefing Book will be posted on the Council website in late August. The Council made several changes to the proposed agenda reviewed at the June Council meeting; a revised draft agenda can be found on the Council website before the end of July, 2008. The agenda below reflects the changes made in June.

Groundfish

- Consider Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee recommendations
- Inseason adjustments
- Open Access limitation (Amendment 22)
- Finalize STAR terms of reference and panel meeting schedule
- Adopt final recommendations for 2009 exempted fishing permits

Salmon

- 2008 Methodology Review; select final review priorities
- Workgroup status report on causes of 2008 salmon failure
- Central Valley Recovery Plan: review and comment

Pacific Halibut

- Halibut bycatch estimate
- Halibut abundance estimatimation method for 2009: review issues
- Changes to 2009 catch sharing plan: adopt for public review

Highly Migratory Species

- Routine management measures: adopt changes for public review
- High Seas shallow-set longline amendment: refine alternatives

Other

- Process for Council review of regulations prior to implementation ("deeming process")
- Current habitat issues
- Research and data needs: adopt final
- NMFS enforcement activity report
- Legislative matters
- Implement Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (annual catch limits, etc.)
- Appointments

Council Members Reappointed; EFH Review Committee, Other Committee Appointments Made

Mr. Mark Cedergreen and Mr. Rod Moore were reappointed to the Council in June. Mr Cedergreen fills the Council's obligatory Washington position and Mr. Moore fills the west coast at-large position.

Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team

The Council appointed Ms. Cyreis Schmitt to the Oregon position, replacing Mr. Brett Wiedhoff.

Highly Migratory Species Management Team

The Council confirmed the reappointment of Mr. Brian Hallman to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission position and Mr. Ricardo Belmontes as his alternate.

Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC)

The Council reviewed the nominations for the initial groundfish EFHRC and the following recommendations emerged for consideration by the Council Chair: 1) add a second NMFS Northwest Region position; 2) remove the designation of "scientist" from the "scientist affiliated with a conservation organization" positions and refer to them simply as "conservation organization" positions; 3) include an Enforcement Consultant position in the membership; and 4) do not create an additional position for fishing ports, on the basis of the committee's charge to screen and review proposals for changes to the EFH for their technical sufficiency and biological significance.

In view of those comments, the Council chair announced the following appointments as members, and where specified, as designated alternates:

- NMFS Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers—2 Positions: Dr. Waldo Wakefield, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and Ms. Mary Yoklavich, Southwest Fisheries Science Center.
- NMFS Northwest Region—2 positions: Mr. Steve Copps, Senior Policy Analyst, and Mr. John Stadler, Habitat Conservation Division Regional EFH Coordinator.
- Office of National Marine Sanctuaries—1 position: Mr. Ed Bowlby, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (Member); and Ms. Karen Reyna, Gulf of Farrallones National Marine Sanctuary (Alternate).
- Scientists At-large—2 positions: Dr. H. Gary Greene, Professor Emeritus at Moss Landing Marine Labs; and Dr. Chris Goldfinger, Associate Professor of Marine Geology at the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University.
- Fishing Industry—2 positions, bottom trawl and non-trawl bottom gear Bottom Trawl: Mr. Brad Pettinger, Brookings, OR (Member), and Mr. Scott McMullen, Astoria, OR (Alternate). For non-trawl bottom gear, Mr. Robert Eder, Newport, OR (Member), and Mr. Bernie Bjork, Astoria, OR (Alternate).
- Enforcement Consultant—1 position: Mr. Dayna Mathews.
- Conservation Organization—2 positions: Mr. Santi Roberts, Oceana, Monterey, CA; and Ms. Megan Mackey, Pacific Marine Conservation Council, Portland, OR.

The newly formed EFHRC is expected to meet to provide recommendations to the Council at its September 2008 meeting regarding EFHRC officers, operating procedures, charge, and review criteria and scheduling.

Recipe: Halibut with Capers, Olives and Tomatoes

4 6- to 7-ounce halibut fillets (another firm white fish like lingcod, rockfish or swordfish may be substituted)
All purpose flour
4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
2 large shallots, chopped
1/4 teaspoon dried crushed red pepper
4 plum tomatoes, seeded, chopped
1/2 cup chopped pitted Kalamata olives
1/2 cup chopped fresh basil, divided
1 tablespoon drained capers
1/3 cup bottled clam juice
1/4 cup dry white wine

Sprinkle fish with salt and pepper. Dredge in flour. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in heavy large skillet over medium-high heat. Add fish and sauté until lightly browned and just opaque in center, about 4 minutes per side. Transfer fish to platter. Heat remaining 2 tablespoons oil in same skillet. Add shallots and crushed red pepper; sauté 1 minute. Mix in tomatoes, olives, 1/4 cup basil, and capers. Add clam juice and wine. Boil until sauce thickens slightly, about 4 minutes. Mix in 1/4 cup basil. Season sauce with salt and pepper. Spoon sauce over fish.

Source: Epicurious.com

Enforcement Corner

West Coast Commercial Halibut Opener

Officers and special agents from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Oregon State Police and the U.S. Coast Guard worked together this year to ensure compliance in the coastal commercial halibut fishery. After a Coast Guard helicopter flight located and identified vessels participating in the halibut fishery, officers, troopers and agents moved to the docks in order to monitor offloads.

While total commercial catch accounting is crucial, some fishermen tried to duck this requirement by sneaking fish away. In one case, officers tracked down two subjects who were smuggling fish filets in duffle bags. The fish turned out to be blackcod taken in excess of limits, as well as rockfish—possibly yelloweye rockfish, which are designated as overfished.

WDFW Officer Hopkins then went to a boat in an adjacent mooring slip where four people were gutting halibut. He identified himself, climbed onboard, and noticed that some of the halibut looked small. He measured the first fish and found that it was 29 inches (the legal limit is 32"). The skipper told him that they hadn't had a chance to throw that one back yet, but the officer reminded him that all undersize halibut must be returned to the water immediately unharmed, not hours later at the dock after they are dead. The skipper said that he had a crew of "greenhorns" who didn't do a good job of sorting fish. Officer Hopkins continued searching and found 43 undersize halibut on board. The fish were seized by NMFS Special Agents. WDFW officers arrived and helped remove the hundreds of pounds of illegal fish.

Marketplace Inspections

Officers frequently monitor landings of fish and shellfish, but due to staffing shortages, only a small percentage are actually observed. When violations are missed at the dock, inspections at the marketplace provide another opportunity to discover illegally harvested product. These activities are very successful in ferreting out illegal competition with legitimate commercial businesses.

A recent tri-state operation involved multiple Federal and state natural resource agencies. WDFW Officer Olson designed the plan. Officers and Agents were assigned to two- and three-person groups throughout Washington, Oregon and California. In all, 58 state officers, NOAA agents, USFWS agents and Canadian agents participated in the operation. Approximately 250 inspections were conducted in the three states, and approximately 48 violations were observed for fish and wildlife laws. The violations included no paperwork for fish or shellfish in the marketplace, no wholesale dealer's license, no health certification tag for shellfish, failure to report harvest on fish receiving tickets, no live fish import permit, product harvested by an unlicensed fisherman, commercially sold sport-caught fish, multiple tribal fishing violations, and possession of aquatic invasive species.

Oregon and California issued 11 citations on the spot for violations observed; Washington found 23 violations. Approximately 25 unlicensed wholesale dealers were discovered, with other unlicensed dealers found during followup investigations. The legitimacy of the product being harvested, packaged, sold, and shipped by these companies needs to be confirmed. In California and Washington, large amounts of abalone, sea cucumbers, fish, crab, geoduck and manila clams were found to be undocumented during this event.

Forgotten Fish

WDFW officers checked three fishermen in Griffin Bay in the San Juan Islands who stated that they lost one of their three lingcod overboard just before being checked. When they asked for permission to try and find the lost lingcod, officers insisted they open their fish hold, where they found four lingcod and 18 rockfish. The violators were cited for over limit lingcod and over limit rockfish. The fish were seized and donated to the Anacortes Food Bank.

Upcoming Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held September 7-12, 2008, in Boise, Idaho. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on **August 20, 2008** will be included in the briefing books mailed to Council members prior to the June meeting. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on **September 2, 2008** will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the June meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see www.pcouncil.org/bb/bb.html.

Groundfish annual specifications, continued from page 13

constraints imposed by specified OYs for other groundfish species. The limited entry non-whiting trawl fishery will be largely constrained by yelloweye and darkblotched in the north and cowcod in the south. To avoid a petrale sole market glut, the time period that the petrale sole areas are in effect will be extended by one month to occur January through March.

The non-tribal whiting trawl fishery will have sector-specific bycatch limits for canary, darkblotched and widow that are apportioned according to the pro-rata allocation of whiting. There will also be the ability to impose sector-specific depth restrictions on the fishery to minimize bycatch. All whiting catcher vessels fishing in the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) will be monitored and those vessels sorting their catch at sea will be required to pay for observers for 100% of their efforts while fishing in the RCA. The Council also adopted an exemption to the at-sea processing rules to allow vessels ≤75 ft. in length fishing whiting in the shoreside sector to tail and freeze whiting to allow for value-added product delivery.

Limited entry and open access fixed gear fisheries will have more area restrictions in 2009 and 2010 to decrease yelloweye impacts. The seaward boundary of the non-trawl RCA between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head will be extended out to the 125 fm from 100 fm, except on days when the directed halibut fishery is open, and the shoreward boundary of the non-trawl RCA north of 40°10' N latitude to Cape Blanco will be brought inshore from 30 fm to 20 fm. Further RCA boundary changes can be considered inseason during the next management cycle for four subareas north of 40°10' N latitude. The Council also adopted a new Federal logbook requirement for all fixed gear groundfish fisheries to enable better catch, effort, and spatial modeling of these fisheries.

West coast salmon trollers will be allowed to keep incidentally caught lingcod with a ratio limit of 1 lingcod per 15 Chinook plus 1 lingcod up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod.

Tribal fisheries will change in the next management cycle with the anticipation that the Quileute Tribe will participate in the whiting fishery beginning in 2009 and the Quinault Tribe will enter the whiting fishery in 2010. The Council recommended a 2009 tribal set-aside of whiting of 50,000 mt. The Council also set aside increased yields of canary, darkblotched, Pacific ocean perch, and widow to accommodate the expected bycatch in these new tribal whiting fisheries. The Council also asked NMFS to convene the co-managers, including the states of Oregon and Washington and the Washington coastal treaty tribes, in government to government discussions to develop a proposal for 2010 and subsequent years for tribal set-asides of Pacific whiting.

Recreational fisheries in northern California and Washington were also further constrained by the need to reduce yelloweye impacts. The Council also adopted a new yelloweye RCA (YRCA) off Westport, Washington that will be implemented on January 1, 2009 and adopted new YRCAs off northern California that could be implemented inseason in the next two years if needed to reduce yelloweye impacts. The Council also adopted the status quo 42:58 catch sharing plan between California and Oregon for the southern black rockfish OY. Other season and bag limit changes were adopted for West Coast recreational fisheries.

Council and NMFS staff, in collaboration with the GMT, will analyze all the preferred 2009 and 2010 harvest specifications and management measures in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will be posted at www.pcouncil.org and announced in the *Federal Register* at the end of July. Further details of 2009 and 2010 management measures will be available then.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, continued from page 8

ties with alternative methods should be a high priority if MPAs are implemented.

The Council expressed the belief that increased collaboration would benefit the Sanctuary and the Council, noting that the Sanctuary would benefit from using the Council's transparent public process and scientific and fishery expertise in evaluating fishery regulations and existing MPAs. The Council would benefit because the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) provides authority over non-fishing activities, allowing the Sanctuary to comment on laws and regulate activities that are separate from the Council process but have benefits for fishery resources.

At the June meeting there was much interest in MPAs and in the authority of the MBNMS to regulate fishing activities. Environmental organizations such as the Ocean Conservancy, the Otter Project, Monterey Coastkeeper, Save Our Shores, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium generally spoke in favor of the MPA process and additional Sanctuary protections. Representatives from the City of Monterey, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries, a local charter fishing operation, and the Recreational Fishing Alliance were supportive of a transparent and public MPA review process, but did not support changes to the Sanctuary's Designation Document giving the Sanctuary the authority to regulate fishing.

Council staff will coordinate with the Sanctuary as advisory groups are formed and criteria and alternative actions are developed and analyzed between now and the end of the year. This matter is not expected to be on the Council agenda again until 2009, when the Council will receive an update in the spring, and specific MPA proposals in the fall.

Acronyms and Definitions

ABC	acceptable biological catch. A scientific calculation of the sustainable harvest level of a fishery, used to set the upper limit of the annual total allowable catch. It is calculated by applying the estimated (or proxy) harvest rate that produces maximum sustainable yield to the estimated exploitable stock biomass (the portion of the fish population that can be harvested).
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CPFV	commercial passenger fishing vessel. Commonly known as a charterboat.
CPS	coastal pelagic species. Schooling fish, not associated with the ocean bottom, that migrate in coastal waters. They usually eat plankton and are the main food source for higher level predators such as tuna, salmon, most groundfish, and humans. Examples are herring, squid, anchovy, sardine, and mackerel.
DTL	daily-trip-limit groundfish fishery
EIS	environmental impact statement. Required by NEPA (below), an EIS is an analysis of the expected impacts resulting from the implementation of a fisheries management action (or some other proposed action) on the environment.
EFH	essential fish habitat. Those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.
EFHRC	Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee
EFP	exempted fishing permit. A permit issued by NMFS that allows exemptions from some regulations in order to study the effectiveness, bycatch rate, or other aspects of an experimental fishing gear.
GAP	Groundfish Advisory Subpanel
GMT	Groundfish Management Team
HC	Habitat Committee
HG	harvest guideline. A numerical harvest level that is a general objective, but not a quota. Attainment of a harvest guideline does not require a management response, but it does prompt review of the fishery.
HMS	highly migratory species. Species managed under the HMS Fishery Management Plan: tunas, sharks, billfish/swordfish, and dorado or dolphinfish.
HMSMT	Highly Migratory Species Management Team
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
IFEMS	integrated fishery and environmental management statement. A new form of environmental review document proposed by NMFS under the MSRA (see below); would replace the environmental impact statements required by NEPA (see below).
IFQ	individual fishing quota. A type of quota (a part of a total allowable catch) allocated to individual fishermen or vessel owners and which can be transferred (sold, leased) to others.
KRFC	Klamath River fall Chinook
MBNMS	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
MPA	marine protected area
MSRA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006
mt	metric ton
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act. Passed by Congress in 1969, NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider the environment when making decisions regarding their programs. Federal agencies must prepare an EIS (see above) before taking major actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
OY	optimum yield. The amount of fish that will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems. The OY is developed on the basis of the Maximum Sustained Yield from the fishery, taking into account relevant economic, social, and ecological factors.
RCA	Rockfish Conservation Area
SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
SPR	spawning potential ratio. The ratio of spawning potential per recruit under a given fishing regime relative to the spawning potential per recruit with no fishing.
STAR	Stock Assessment Review (Panel)
STT	Salmon Technical Team
USFWS	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
YRCA	Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area(s)

Trawl rationalization, continued from page 1

specified a preferred alternative of 20%. Under a sub-option, processors would receive 20% of initial shares for whiting, but not for whiting bycatch.

To control geographic redistribution, the preferred alternative includes a geographic component structured around catch or landing areas. If structured solely around catch areas, the quota shares for any target species for which there is not already a geographic division would be divided north and south of 40° 10' N latitude. If the geographic component is structured around landing areas, every recipient would receive zone-specific quota shares specifically for landing in a particular area, and zone-free quota shares for which there would not be a landing area restriction. Zone-specific quota shares could be caught anywhere. Over time, the Council could vary the amount of zone-specific and zone-free shares. While the initial allocation would still be determined based on a person's 1994-2003 harvest history, the zone for which a person receives an allocation will be based on 2005-2007 harvest history. There would be a maximum of 10 zones for the coast.

For permit holders, the allocation formula would include an equal allocation of quota shares associated with buyback permits. Overfished species quota would be allocated based on target species quota shares, permit catch areas as recorded in vessel logbooks, and area-specific bycatch rates. However, for whiting trips, all bycatch species would be allocated in proportion to the amount of whiting a person received. There would be no grandfather clause for permit owners or processors; no one would be allowed to receive an initial allocation of quota share in excess of the accumulation limits.

The tracking and monitoring provisions of the preferred alternative include 100% observer coverage on vessels (in addition to or as a replacement for camera monitoring) and 100% monitoring of all offloading. Discards would be allowed but would still count against a vessel's quota pounds.

The preferred alternative also includes individual bycatch quota for Pacific halibut, and the use of up to 10% of the trawl allocation to provide incentives as part of an adaptive management program for all trawl sectors. The preferred alternative does not include options for fixed-term quota shares combined with auctions.

For the mothership co-op program, the preferred alternative specifies that catch history be allocated to catcher-vessel permits based on the permit's highest catch history for eight out of 10 years between 1994 and 2003. Additionally, 90% of the allocations to co-ops would be tied to a particular mothership (10% could be delivered to any mothership) and no mothership would be allowed to process more than 40% of the total mothership sector allocation. The catcher vessel ties to motherships would be determined based on the licensed mothership to which the permit made a majority of its whiting deliveries in 2009.

The preferred alternative for catcher-processors specifies that if the current voluntary co-op system fails, quota would be allocated equally among the catcher-processor permits.

Hearings on trawl rationalization will be held in late October. The Council will also receive public comment at the San Diego, California meeting on November 3-7, 2008.

For more information on the Council's June action, trawl rationalization alternatives and schedule, please see the Council website at http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/gffmp/gfa20.html or email Jim.Seger@noaa.gov.

Klamath rebuilding, continued from page 1

The Council considered two options for determining when the Overfishing Concern would end: 1) achieving 35,000 natural area adult spawners in three of four consecutive years, with at least 40,700 natural area adult spawners for one of those years; and 2) achieving at least 35,000 natural area adults in three of four consecutive years, or two consecutive years of at least 40,700 natural area adult spawners. The 40,700 natural area adult spawner level is considered the best estimate of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for KRFC.

The STT analyzed the relative risks and benefits of the two options, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed the analysis. Although the analysis indicated Option 1 might be slightly more risk-averse, the Council chose Option II, which the analysis showed might lead to a slight increase in available harvest. Given the KRFC's history of limiting access to healthier salmon stocks in the ocean fishery, the Council believed the small increase in risk was worth the possibility of avoiding potentially substantial costs to the fishery.

The Council also adopted recommendations to guide management and help restore the stock during the recovery period and to help restore the stock to a more productive level. The most notable management recommendation calls for an escapement of 40,700 natural area spawners until the criteria are satisfied. There were about 59,000 natural area adult spawners in 2007, and the Council is managing for 40,700 in 2008. Other recommendations included support of research, monitoring, hatchery reform, and habitat enhancement activities.

TABLE 2-1a. PFMC-recommended alternatives for acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yields (OYs) (mt) for 2009, including final preferred alternatives. (Overfished stocks in CAPS; Stocks with new assessments in bold).

Stock	No Action Alternative			2009 Action Alternatives								
	2007 ABC a/	2008 ABC a/	2008 OY a/	2009 ABC	2010 ABC	Alt 1 OY	Alt 2 OY	Alt 3 OY	Alt 4 OY	Alt 5 OY	Alt 6 OY	Final preferred OY alternative
Lingcod - coastwide b/	6,706	5,853		5,278	4,829	5,205	5,278					5,278
N of 42º (OR & WA)			5,558			4,593	4,593					4,593
S of 42º (CA)			612			612	685					685
Pacific Cod	3,200	3,200	1,600	3,200	3,200	1,600						1,600
Pacific Whiting (U.S.)	612,068 (2007 U.S. & Can.)	400,000 (2008 U.S. & Can.)	269,545 (2008)	To be determined in March 2009	To be determined in March 2010	134,773	269,545	404,318				To be determined in March 2009
Sablefish (Coastwide)	6,210	6,058	5,934	9,914	9,217	9,795	8,423	6,250				8,423
N of 36º (Monterey north)			5,723			9,452	7,052	5,233				7,052
S of 36º (Conception area)			210			343	1,371	1,018				1,371
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	900	911	150	1,160	1,173	0	130	164	189			189
Shortbelly Rockfish	13,900	13,900	13,900	6,950	6,950	3,475	6,950	-				6,950
WIDOW ROCKFISH	5,334	5,144	368	7,728	6,937	0	371	522				522
CANARY ROCKFISH	172	179	44	937	940	0	35	44	85	105	155	105
Chilipepper Rockfish	2,700	2,700	2,000	3,037	2,576	2,000	2,099	3,037				2,885
BOCACCIO	602	618	218	793	793	0	218	288				288
Splitnose Rockfish	615	615	461	615	615	461						461
Yellowtail Rockfish	4,585	4,510	4,548	4,562	4,562	4,562						4,562
Shortspine Thornyhead - coastwide	2,488	2,463		2,437	2,411							
Shortspine Thornyhead - N of 34º27'			1,634			1,608						1,608
Shortspine Thornyhead - S of 34º27'			421			414						414
Longspine Thornyhead - coastwide	3,953	3,860		3,766	3,671							
Longspine Thornyhead - N of 34º27'			2,220			2,231						2,231
Longspine Thornyhead - S of 34º27'			476			395						395
COWCOD	36	36	4	13	14	0	2	4				4
DARKBLOTCHED	456	487	290 (2007) 330 (2008)	437	440	0	159	229	300			285
YELLOWEYE	47	47	Ramp-down c/	31	32	0	13	17	15	17		17 d/
Black Rockfish (WA)	540	540	540	490	464	490						490
Black Rockfish (OR-CA)	725	719	722	1,469	1,317	920	1,000	1,469				1,000

TABLE 2-1a (continued). PFMC-recommended alternatives for acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yields (OYs) (mt) for 2009, including final preferred alternatives. (Overfished stocks in CAPS; Stocks with new assessments in bold).

Stock	No Action Alternative			2009 Action Alternatives								
	2007 ABC a/	2008 ABC a/	2007-08 OY a/	2009 ABC	2010 ABC	Alt 1 OY	Alt 2 OY	Alt 3 OY	Alt 4 OY	Alt 5 OY	Alt 6 OY	Final preferred OY alternative
Blue Rockfish (CA)	Managed under the Minor Nearshore Rockfish complexes			241	**239**	Managed under minor nearshore rockfish complexes		207	230			Managed under minor nearshore rockfish complexes with a 220 mt statewide HG
Minor Rockfish North	3,680	3,680	2,270	3,678	3,678	2,280	2,283	2,255				2,283
Nearshore Species			142			152	155	127				155
Blue rockfish contribution				28	28	25	28					
Shelf Species			968			968						968
Slope Species			1,160			1,160						1,160
Minor Rockfish South	3,403	3,403	1,904	3,384	3,382	1,970	1,990	1,788				1,990
Nearshore Species			564			630	650	448				650
Blue rockfish contribution				213	211	182	202					
Shelf Species			714			714						714
Slope Species			626			626						626
California scorpionfish	236	202	175	175	155	111	175					175
Cabezon (off CA only)	94	94	69	106	111	69	74	69				69
Dover Sole	28,522	28,442	16,500	29,453	28,582	16,500						16,500
English Sole	6,773	5,701	6,237	14,326	9,745	14,326						14,326
Petrale Sole (coastwide) b/	2,917	2,919	2,499	2,811	2,751	2,433						2,433
Arrowtooth Flounder	5,800	5,800	5,800	11,267	10,112	5,245	11,267					11,267
Starry Flounder	1,221	1,221	890	1,509	1,578	1,004						1,004
Other Flatfish	6,731	6,731	4,884	6,731	6,731	4,884						4,884
Other Fish	14,600	14,600	7,300	11,200	11,200	6,399	5,951	3,872				5,600
Longnose Skate	Managed under the Other Fish complex			3,428	3,269	901	1,349	3,428				1,349
Kelp Greenling HG (OR)			OR HG			OR HG						OR HG

a/ The Council elected to average OY projections for 2007 and 2008. ABCs were year-specific.

b/ Area OYs/HGs are stratified according to the assessment areas and alternatively adjusted by management areas for lingcod and petrale sole.

c/ The yelloweye ramp-down strategy ramps the harvest rate down from the status quo harvest rate and assumes a constant harvest rate strategy in 2011. The 2009-2010 OYs are 17 mt and 14 mt, respectively under the status quo ramp-down strategy.

d/ The alternative yelloweye ramp-down strategy ramps the harvest rate down from the status quo harvest rate and assumes a constant harvest rate strategy in 2011. The 2009 and 2010 OYs are 17 mt.

TABLE 2-1b. PFMC-recommended alternatives for acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yields (OYs) (mt) for 2010, including final preferred alternatives. (Overfished stocks in CAPS; Stocks with new assessments in bold).

Stock	No Action Alternative			2010 Action Alternatives								
	2007 ABC a/	2008 ABC a/	2007-08 OY a/	2009 ABC	2010 ABC	Alt 1 OY	Alt 2 OY	Alt 3 OY	Alt 4 OY	Alt 5 OY	Alt 6 OY	Final preferred OY alternative
Lingcod - coastwide b/	6,706	5,853		5,278	4,829	4,785	4,829					4,829
N of 42º (OR & WA)			5,558			4,173	4,173					4,173
S of 42º (CA)			612			612	656					656
Pacific Cod	3,200	3,200	1,600	3,200	3,200	1,600						1,600
Pacific Whiting (U.S.)	612,068 (2007 U.S. & Can.)	400,000 (2008 U.S. & Can.)	269,545 (2008)	To be determined in March 2009	To be determined in March 2010	134,773	269,545	404,318				To be determined in March 2010
Sablefish (Coastwide)	6,210	6,058	5,934	9,914	9,217	8,988	7,729	5,777				7,729
N of 36º (Monterey north)			5,723			8,673	6,471	4,837				6,471
S of 36º (Conception area)			210			315	1,258	941				1,258
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	900	911	150	1,160	1,173	0	137	173	200			200
Shortbelly Rockfish	13,900	13,900	13,900	6,950	6,950	3,475	6,950	-				6,950
WIDOW ROCKFISH	5,334	5,144	368	7,728	6,937	0	362	509				509
CANARY ROCKFISH	172	179	44	937	940	0	35	44	85	105	155	105
Chilipepper Rockfish	2,700	2,700	2,000	3,037	2,576	2,000	2,099	2,576				2,447
BOCACCIO	602	618	218	793	793	0	227	302				288
Splitnose Rockfish	615	615	461	615	615	461						461
Yellowtail Rockfish	4,585	4,510	4,548	4,562	4,562	4,562						4,562
Shortspine Thornyhead - coastwide	2,488	2,463		2,437	2,411							
Shortspine Thornyhead - N of 34º27'			1,634			1,591						1,591
Shortspine Thornyhead - S of 34º27'			421			410						410
Longspine Thornyhead - coastwide	3,953	3,860		3,766	3,671							
Longspine Thornyhead - N of 34º27'			2,220			2,175						2,175
Longspine Thornyhead - S of 34º27'			476			385						385
COWCOD	36	36	4	13	14	0	2	4				4
DARKBLOTCHED	456	487	290 (2007) 330 (2008)	437	440	0	165	235	306			291
YELLOWEYE	47	47	Ramp-down c/	31	32	0	14	14	15	17		17 d/
Black Rockfish (WA)	540	540	540	490	464	464						464
Black Rockfish (OR-CA)	725	719	722	1,469	1,317	831	1,000	1,317				1,000

TABLE 2-1b (continued). PFMC-recommended alternatives for acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yields (OYs) (mt) for 2010, including final preferred alternatives. (Overfished stocks in CAPS; Stocks with new assessments in bold).

Stock	No Action Alternative			2010 Action Alternatives								
	2007 ABC a/	2008 ABC a/	2007-08 OY a/	2009 ABC	2010 ABC	Alt 1 OY	Alt 2 OY	Alt 3 OY	Alt 4 OY	Alt 5 OY	Alt 6 OY	Final preferred OY alternative
Blue Rockfish (CA)	Managed under the Minor Nearshore Rockfish complexes			**241**	**239**	Managed under minor nearshore rockfish complexes		207	230			Managed under minor nearshore rockfish complexes with a 220 mt statewide HG
Minor Rockfish North	3,680	3,680	2,270	3,678	3,678	2,280	2,283	2,255				2,283
Nearshore Species			142			152	155	127				155
Blue rockfish contribution				28	28	25	28					
Shelf Species			968			968						968
Slope Species			1,160			1,160						1,160
Minor Rockfish South	3,403	3,403	1,904	3,384	3,382	1,970	1,990	1,788				1,990
Nearshore Species			564			630	650	448				650
Blue rockfish contribution				213	211	182	202					
Shelf Species			714			714						714
Slope Species			626			626						626
California scorpionfish	236	202	175	175	155	99	155					155
Cabezon (off CA only)	94	94	69	106	111	69	74	79				79
Dover Sole	28,522	28,442	16,500	29,453	28,582	16,500						16,500
English Sole	6,773	5,701	6,237	14,326	9,745	9,745						9,745
Petrale Sole (coastwide) b/	2,917	2,919	2,499	2,811	2,751	2,393						2,393
Arrowtooth Flounder	5,800	5,800	5,800	11,267	10,112	5,245	10,112					10,112
Starry Flounder	1,221	1,221	890	1,509	1,578	1,077						1,077
Other Flatfish	6,731	6,731	4,884	6,731	6,731	4,884						4,884
Other Fish	14,600	14,600	7,300	11,200	11,200	6,398	5,951	4,031				5,600
Longnose Skate	Managed under the Other Fish complex			3,428	3,269	902	1,349	3,269				1,349
Kelp Greenling HG (OR)			OR HG			OR HG						OR HG

a/ The Council elected to average OY projections for 2007 and 2008. ABCs were year-specific.

b/ Area OYs/HGs are stratified according to the assessment areas and alternatively adjusted by management areas for lingcod and petrale sole.

c/ The yelloweye ramp-down strategy ramps the harvest rate down from the status quo harvest rate and assumes a constant harvest rate strategy in 2011. The 2009-2010 OYs are 17 mt and 14 mt, respectively under the status quo ramp-down strategy.

d/ The alternative yelloweye ramp-down strategy ramps the harvest rate down from the status quo harvest rate and assumes a constant harvest rate strategy in 2011. The 2009 and 2010 OYs are 17 mt.

Schedule of Events

For more information on these meetings, please see our website (www.pcouncil.org/events/csevents.html) or call toll-free (866) 806-7204.

NMFS Public Hearing

Dates: July 24, 2008
Purpose: To solicit comments on proposed changes to National Standard 1 (annual catch limits).
Location: Hilton Seattle Airport, Seattle, WA
Contact: Deb Lambert (deb.lambert@noaa.gov, 301-713-2341)

Highly Migratory Species Management Team

Dates: July 31-August 1
Purpose: To discuss limited entry for the shallow-set longline swordfish fishery; management of the recreational thresher shark fishery; preparation of the HMS stock assessment and evaluation report; management of the albacore troll fishery; and interactions between the swordfish fishery and leatherback sea turtles.
Location: NMFS SW Fishery Science Center, La Jolla, CA
Contact: Kit Dahl (kit.dahl@noaa.gov, 503-820-2280)

Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting

Dates: September 7-12, 2008
Location: Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside, Boise, ID
Contact: Don McIsaac (donald.mcisaac@noaa.gov)

The public comment deadline for the September Council meeting is August 20!

(See page 12 for details)

Pacific Council News
Pacific Fishery Management Council
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