



Pacific Council News

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Council Votes to Rationalize Groundfish Trawl Fishery

In November, the Council voted to recommend a system of individual fishing quotas (IFQs) for the shore-side trawl fishery, and a system of structured harvest co-operatives for the at-sea whiting trawl fishery, in order to rationalize the trawl fleet. Combined, these two groundfish trawl fisheries are among the largest on the West Coast, with an annual dockside value of about \$61 million in recent years, and regional personal income impacts of approximately double that.

"The Council's rationalization of the groundfish trawl fishery is the greatest leap in fishery management sophistication since the inception of the

Federal license system," said Council Chairman Don Hansen of Dana Point, California.



Council economist Jim Seger fields a question from the Council Chair as Council staffer Sandra Krause documents the proceedings.

The Council also recommended the creation of individual bycatch quotas for Pacific halibut (trawlers would continue to be required to

discard any Pacific halibut bycatch). A description of the Council's actions, together with the supporting analysis, will be provided in a report to Congress due January 12, 2009.

The sweeping changes were made to achieve conservation goals and improve the economic status of these fisheries. The IFQ and co-op programs will provide individual vessels a certain amount of fish to catch (quota), and will hold them responsible for not exceeding their allocation. At the same time, harvesters will have more flexibility in determining how and when they will harvest their fish. Under current management conditions, vessels are restrict-

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Agencies Sign "Agreement in Principle" to Remove Klamath Dams

Four dams on the Klamath River that have blocked salmon runs upstream to their spawning areas may be removed in the year 2020 under an historic agreement among Federal, state and corporate parties.

Removal of the J.C. Boyle, Copco 1, Copco 2, and Iron Gate dams would re-open over 300 miles of habitat for the Klamath's salmon and steelhead populations and help eliminate water quality problems such as toxic algae blooms caused by the reservoirs.

The Federal government, the state of California, the state of Oregon and PacifiCorp announced on November 13 an Agreement in Principle to remove the four dams as part of a broader effort to restore the river and revive its ailing salmon and steelhead runs and aid fishing, tribal and farming communities.

The agreement is intended to guide the development of a final settlement agreement scheduled to be signed in June 2009.

"This is a historic announcement and the culmination of years of hard work from the numerous negotiators from the Federal government and the states of California and Oregon, and PacifiCorp representatives who have worked toward a common goal of how best to protect the uniqueness of this region," said Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne.

The U.S. Department of Interior will determine by March 31, 2012 whether the

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Fishery Priorities May Shift Under Obama Administration

How will fisheries management be affected by the transition from a Bush administration to an Obama administration? Interviews with President-Elect Obama in *Sport Fishing Magazine* (SF), *Outdoor Life* (OL), and by the Sea Action Fund (SAF) provide some insights into the future direction of fisheries management.

On marine protected areas (SF): “My administration would place the emphasis in fishery management where it belongs: in ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of stocks through the use of effective and appropriate conservation measures. Such an approach would not provide a preference for one management tool, such as a marine reserve, over another. Given sufficient management controls and data, a fishery can meet conservation objectives through a variety of catch controls and habitat-protection measures, including gear restrictions, bag limits or closures.”

On flexibility in rebuilding plans (SF): “The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires Federal fishery managers to end overfishing and rebuild fish stocks as soon as possible, considering broad societal benefits – to ecosystems, communities and the nation. ... In some fisheries, conservation goals have conflicted with community goals and economic sustainability needs. ... I would work with managers, scientists, conservation groups, the industry and Congress to ensure any management and approach taken adheres strongly to these fundamental conservation goals

but also embraces innovative means of preventing or mitigating unduly harsh economic consequences.”

On the regional fishery management councils (SF): “The regional fishery-management councils were established as a unique test of Federal-stakeholder co-management. As such, they serve a critical role in designing fishery-management plans that are regionally and fishery appropriate, as well as fair to the various industry participants. However, many stakeholders have stated they have lost confidence in the council appointments and decision-making process, and that is not good for the future of fishery management. I would take a very hard look at council system membership, staffing, structure and rules to ensure that ethics and other legal requirements are being met – and exceeded – and seek expert recommendations on reforms that could help the council system work better to meet the needs of today’s fishery conservation and management. That would include looking at funding, as well as the training and preparation of council members and staff to meet future needs.”

On funding for fisheries research and management (SF): “Even prior to the passage of the new requirements of the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Act, research and management funding for marine-fisheries programs were proving insufficient to meet the demands placed on the system. Congress and NOAA worked to address these shortfalls, but the requirements have only increased ... My administration will charter

a fisheries-needs assessment, in consultation with Congress, designed to identify critical resource-management needs that can be targeted for funding by federal agencies with the goal of getting ahead of the curve.”

On salmon recovery (OL): “Implementing a meaningful salmon population recovery plan will be a key environmental priority of my administration, and I support efforts to create a salmon recovery plan that balances all of the important environmental, agricultural and renewable energy interests.”

On balancing conservation with socioeconomic benefits in fisheries management (OL): “Clearly our current fisheries management is not working. Many of our fish stocks are depleted and in fact this year salmon fishing was closed on parts of the West Coast. Sport and commercial fisherman need a greater say in land and water management decisions. I am concerned that the recreational, social and economic benefits of fishing are not being given adequate representation and weight in many of our nation’s land and water management decisions. As President, I will work to give fishermen a greater voice in order to improve fisheries management.”

On marine fish health (OL): “...Overharvest, pollution and development are causing many of our fish stocks to become severely depleted. We’ve had major new coastal development in recent decades, along with significant ocean

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Groundfish News

Inseason Adjustments to 2008 and 2009 Groundfish Fisheries

Management measures for the 2008 groundfish season were set by the Council with the understanding that they would likely need to be adjusted throughout the year to attain, but not exceed, optimum yields (OYs). Additionally, last June the Council recommended 2009 groundfish management measures with the intent of considering inseason adjustments if they are needed to stay within specified OYs. In November, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) told the Council there would be a delay in implementing 2009 harvest specifications and management measures. Therefore, the Council considered inseason adjustments to ongoing 2008 fisheries, and January and February 2009 fisheries, at their November meeting.

Inseason Adjustments to 2008 Groundfish Fisheries

Catches of petrale sole in the limited entry trawl fishery had been tracking behind projections. Therefore, the Council adopted an increase in petrale sole cumulative landing limits beginning December 1 as follows:

- Large footrope trawl gear north of 40°10' N latitude: increase the limit from 45,000 lb/2 months to 60,000 lb/2 months;
- All trawl gears south of 40°10' N latitude: increase the limit from 65,000 lb/2 months to 75,000 lb/2 months.

Inseason Adjustments to 2009 Groundfish Fisheries

The Council was told by NMFS there would be a delay in implementing 2009 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures until March 1, 2009. Until new specifications are implemented, the default harvest specifications are the 2008 acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and OYs. The default management measures for Period 1 (January and February) fisheries are those that were in place at the beginning of 2008, unless changed through an inseason adjustment. Any adjustments to 2009 management measures need to stay within the 2008 ABCs and OYs until new harvest specifications are implemented.

The Council considered the most recently available catch information and evaluated performance of the 2008 fisheries relative to specifications and management measures in place throughout the year. Based on these considerations, the Council adopted the following adjustments to Period 1 management measures.

Limited Entry Trawl

The Council noted that catches of sablefish north of 38° N latitude, shortspine thornyhead coastwide, and Dover sole coastwide in the limited entry trawl fishery are tracking well behind projections this year. Therefore, the Council adopted increased limited entry trawl cumulative landing limits (relative to Period 1 2008 limits) for Period 1 in 2009 as follows:

- Increase the 2009 Period 1 limited entry trawl cumulative landing limits of sablefish from 14,000 lbs/2 months to

18,000 lbs/2 months north of 40°10' N latitude using large footrope trawls and from 14,000 lbs/2 months to 20,000 lbs/2 months between 40°10' N latitude and 38° N latitude for all trawl gears;

- Increase the 2009 Period 1 coastwide shortspine thornyhead limits from 12,000 lbs/2 months to 17,000 lbs/2 months for all trawl gears except the northern selective flatfish trawl gear;
- Increase the 2009 Period 1 limited entry trawl cumulative landing limit of Dover sole coastwide using large footrope trawls from 80,000 lbs/2 months to 110,000 lbs/2 months.

The Council also adopted a reduced 2009 Period 1 limited entry trawl cumulative landing limit of petrale sole north of 40°10' N latitude in order to minimize the risk of more severe reductions of the petrale sole limits later in the year.

- Reduce the 2009 Period 1 limited entry trawl cumulative landing limit north of 40°10' N latitude of petrale sole using large and small footrope trawls from 40,000 lbs/2 months to 25,000 lbs/2 months.

Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear

The Council also considered adjustments to Period 1 2009 management measures for the limited entry and open access fixed gear fisheries to reduce impacts on yelloweye rockfish. Although the 2008 yelloweye rockfish OY is 20 mt, the status quo rebuilding plan adopted under FMP Amendment 16-4 specifies a harvest rate ramp-down strategy that would decrease the OY to 17 mt in 2009. Limited entry and open access fixed gear fisheries have the biggest commercial yelloweye rockfish impacts. Adjusting the configuration of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) represents the most effective way to reduce those impacts and to minimize the risk of more severe restrictions later in 2009. Observer data from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program analyzed during the 2009-10 specifications process indicated higher bycatch rates of yelloweye rockfish in limited entry and open access fixed gear fisheries in some offshore and nearshore areas north of 40°10' N latitude. The Council adopted adjustments to the non-trawl RCA in some of these areas as follows to reduce yelloweye rockfish impacts.

- Extend the seaward boundary of the non-trawl RCA between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head to 125 fathoms (fm) in Period 1 next year;
- Extend the shoreward boundary of the non-trawl RCA between 40°10' N latitude and Cape Blanco to 20 fm in Period 1 next year.

These inseason adjustments are not considered final until published in the *Federal Register*. 

Salmon News

Preseason Salmon Management Schedule for 2009

The Council will sponsor season option hearings at the following locations and dates: Westport, Washington - March 30; Coos Bay, Oregon - March 30; Eureka, California - March 31. Other state-sponsored meetings will be considered at the March 2009 Council meeting. The Council schedule and process for developing 2009 ocean salmon management measures is described below.

Nov. 1-7, 2008	The Council and advisory entities meet at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego, California to consider any changes to methodologies used in the development of abundance projections or regulatory options.
Jan. 20-23, 2009	The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) economist meet in Portland, Oregon to draft Review of 2008 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. This report summarizes seasons, quotas, harvest, escapement, socio-economic statistics, achievement of management goals, and impacts on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. (February 10 print date, available on-line February 13.)
Feb. 17-20	STT meets in Portland, Oregon to complete Preseason Report I Stock Abundance Analysis for 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. This report provides key salmon stock abundance estimates and level of precision, harvest and escapement estimates when recent regulatory regimes are projected on 2009 abundance, and other pertinent information to aid development of management options. (February 25 print date, available on-line and mailed to the Council February 26.)
Feb. 23 - Mar. 6	State and tribal agencies hold constituent meetings to review preseason abundance projections and range of probable fishery options.
Feb. 26	Council reports summarizing the 2008 salmon season and salmon stock abundance projections for 2009 are available to the public from the Council office.
Mar. 7-13	Council and advisory entities meet at the Seattle Marriott Hotel Sea Tac, Seattle, Washington, to adopt 2009 regulatory options for public review. The Council addresses inseason action for fisheries opening prior to May 1 and adopts preliminary options on March 9, adopts tentative options for STT analysis on March 10, and final options for public review on March 12.
Mar. 16-20	The STT completes Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. (March 19 print date, mailed to the Council and available to the public March 23)
Mar. 17 - Apr. 2	Management agencies, tribes, and public develop their final recommendations for the regulatory options. North of Cape Falcon Forum meetings are scheduled for March 17-18 in Lacy and March 31-April 2 in Lynwood.
Mar. 22	Council staff distributes Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries to the public. The report includes the public hearing schedule, comment instructions, option highlights, and tables summarizing the biological and economic impacts of the proposed management options.
Mar. 30-31	Sites and dates of public hearings to review the Council's proposed regulatory options are: Westport, Washington (March 30); Coos Bay, Oregon (March 31); and Eureka, California (March 31). Comments on the options will also be taken during the Council meeting in Millbrae, California.
Apr. 4-9	Council and advisory entities meet to adopt final regulatory measures at the Westin San Francisco Airport, Millbrae, CA. Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries and information developed at the Council meeting is considered during the course of the week. The Council will tentatively adopt final regulatory measures for analysis by the STT on April 6. Final adoption of recommendations to NMFS are tentatively scheduled to be completed on April 8.
Apr. 8-16	The STT and Council staff completes Preseason Report III: Analysis of Council-Adopted Regulatory Measures for 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. (April 16 print date, mailed to the Council and available to the public April 24)
Apr. 16-23	Council and NMFS staff completes required National Environmental Policy Act documents for submission.
Apr. 24	Council staff distributes adopted ocean salmon fishing management recommendations, and Preseason Report III is made available to the public.
May 1	NMFS implements Federal ocean salmon fishing regulations.

Salmon News

Methodology Review Results in New Index, Model for Sacramento Fall Chinook

Prior to 2008, Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) escapement projections were derived from forecasts of the Central Valley Index, which indicated abundance of the combined stocks of Central Valley Chinook, including SRFC, Sacramento River winter Chinook, Sacramento River late-fall Chinook, Central Valley spring Chinook, and San Joaquin River fall Chinook.

The Central Valley Index is an annual index defined as the calendar year sum of Central Valley Chinook adult escapement and the ocean catch of Chinook (all stocks, including non-Central Valley) between Point Arena, California, and the U.S./Mexico border.

There are several problems with using the Central Valley Index to forecast SRFC escapement. First, the index itself is not SRFC-specific; last year the escapement of SRFC plummeted to a record low while winter Chinook improved significantly. Second, the index is based on the calendar year rather than the biological year (between annual spawning events). Third, ocean harvest north of Point Arena is not accounted

for; and, finally, river harvest is not accounted for. These shortcomings, coupled with the critical status of SRFC in 2008, hastened the development of a new SRFC-specific abundance index (the Sacramento Index, or SI) and a new SRFC-specific

escapement of 122,000 to 180,000 adults annually. However, at that time, there was insufficient data to include freshwater harvest in the index and model.

Further analysis of existing SRFC river harvest estimates,

more straightforward formulation of SRFC river harvest and escapement within the SHM. Based on the review by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and the STT, the Council approved addition of the river harvest term to the

SI and SHM for use in 2009 salmon management.

The Council also approved use of the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) for use in modeling 2009 fisheries, including the possibility of low-intensity mark-selective Chinook fisheries. The Council based their approval on recommendation of the Scientific and Statistical Committee and STT and a sensitivity analysis conducted by the

Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW). The Council also directed the MEW to continue more comprehensive sensitivity analyses of the Chinook and Coho FRAM, and to investigate appropriate threshold levels for mark-selective fisheries relative to model performance. 



Sacramento River delta (NASA)

harvest model, the Sacramento Harvest Model (SHM).

In March 2008, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) introduced the new index and model to better forecast and assess SRFC management, relative to the Council's conservation objective of a spawning

derived from California Department of Fish and Game angler creel surveys, allowed for the hindcasting of river harvest for years in which data were unavailable. In turn, this allows for a re-definition of the SI to explicitly include SRFC adult river harvest, and permits a

Upcoming Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held March 8-13, 2009, in Seattle, Washington. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on **February 18** will be included in the briefing books mailed to Council members prior to the March meeting. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on **March 3** will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the March meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see www.pcouncil.org/bb/bb.html.

Halibut News

Changes to Catch Sharing Plan and 2009 Annual Regulations

The Council adopted the following changes to the Area 2A Pacific halibut catch sharing plan affecting Oregon and Washington sport fisheries.

Washington North Coast Subarea

- Remove the provision to divide the subarea quota between May and June;
- Restructure the season from three staggered days per week (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) to two days per week (Thursday and Saturday), and;
- Change the re-opening date in June from the first Tuesday after June 16 to the first Thursday in June.

Removing the quota split between May and June is intended to provide stability and reduce the number of inseason actions to close and reopen the fishery. Reducing the number of days open from three to two is intended to stretch out the season in order to preserve fishing days in the latter part of June. Reopening in early June should allow a more continuous flow of the season and maximize the time available prior to the opening of the salmon season, which typically occurs around July 1.

Washington South Coast Subarea

- Specify that the nearshore set-aside would be 10 percent of the subquota, or 2,000 pounds, whichever is less;
- Open the first Sunday in May and continue to be open on Sundays and Tuesdays in May, except open on Sunday only beginning the third week in May until the quota for the offshore season is reached;
- Specify that the season will be open in the nearshore areas on Thursday through Saturday during the primary season (in addition to the offshore days) and Thursday through Sunday after the primary season, and;
- Specify that, in addition to the South Coast Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA), recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited in the Westport

Offshore YRCA.

Setting a cap on the nearshore set aside ensures that the majority of the quota is reserved for the primary offshore fishery. The Sunday-only opening beginning the third week in May provides a catch accounting opportunity after the initial days at the beginning of the season and the ability to provide sufficient notice of additional openings at the end of May. In addition, reducing the number of days open from two to one is intended to stretch out the season while continuing to provide one weekend day of fishing per week. Increasing the number of days that the nearshore fishery is open during the primary season and after the offshore quota is reached will allow better access to the set aside quota and reduce the amount of incidentally caught halibut that would otherwise be discarded. The 2009-2010 groundfish regulations include a new YRCA in the South Coast subarea that will be closed to recreational halibut fishing effective January 1, 2009.

Columbia River Subarea

- Change the structuring of the spring fishery from seven days per week to every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The purpose of the change is to extend the duration of the spring season. Open days on Thursday, Friday and Saturday were suggested by the public as salmon seasons are often closed on Fridays and Saturdays.

Central Coast Subarea

- Allow the retention of Pacific cod with a halibut on the vessel during all-depth openings.

Although Pacific cod are rarely encountered south of Cape Falcon, allowing retention in the Oregon central coast fishery helps to simplify regulations as the groundfish species allowed in the all-depth halibut fishery north and south of Cape Falcon would be the same. Pacific cod and sablefish are currently allowed in the Columbia River subarea when a halibut is on the vessel.

Pacific Halibut Biomass Apportionment Methodology

The Council heard a report about a meeting between the Halibut Managers Workgroup (HMW) and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) staff on apportionment issues affecting Area 2A. The report identified three factors as potentially biasing the IPHC proposed apportionment in Area 2A: differences in hook competition among regulatory areas in the setline survey, effects of depth distribution of survey stations vs. bottom depth, and timing of the survey relative to fishery removals. At the meeting between the HMW and IPHC staff, the staff agreed to examine the effects of those factors on the estimated distribution of halibut biomass for the IPHC Interim Meeting on November 19-20.

The Council recommended additional coordination and discussion among the HMW and the Council representative to the IPHC subsequent to the IPHC Interim Meeting and prior to the IPHC Annual Meeting in January, 2009.

Highly Migratory Species News

2009-2011 HMS Management Measures: No New Regulations at This Time

At their November meeting, the Council recommended harvest specifications and management measures for highly migratory species (HMS). Such specifications and management measures are recommended biennially, in this case for the period beginning April 1, 2009, and ending March 31, 2011.

As reported in the Fall 2008 *Pacific Council News*, the Council was considering measures to control the recreational and commercial harvest of thresher sharks off of California. The Council considered several potential measures, including closed areas, bag and season limits, gear restrictions, and mandatory reporting by fishing tournaments. After considering the best available information on recreational and commercial thresher shark harvests in recent years, and comparing that to the current harvest guideline of 340 metric tons, the Council decided additional management measures were not necessary at this time.

The Council identified several non-regulatory measures for National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and others to pursue in order to gather more information for future management. These are:

- Continuing outreach with fishermen on best practices for increased survival of released sharks;
- Continuing research on potential gear modifications to improve survival of released sharks (e.g., gear switch from j-hook to circle hook);
- Completing an updated thresher shark stock assessment using data from both the United States and Mexico fisheries;
- Identifying the spatial and temporal extent of thresher shark pupping grounds and nursery areas;
- Improving collection of recreational data, including catch-and-effort estimates from vessels departing from private access marinas;
- Improving monitoring of the number and condition of sharks released in order to improve estimates of the survival of released sharks;
- Improving monitoring and data collection for the commercial hook-and-line shark fishery and for non-HMS fisheries such as bottom set net and small-mesh drift gillnet;
- Obtaining available Marine Recreational Information Program funding for enhanced west coast HMS data collection; and
- Supporting California Recreational Fisheries Survey efforts to improved data collection from the private boat fishery, specifically for trips originating from private access locations.

Although the Council did not adopt any new regulatory measures for this management cycle, improved understanding of thresher shark status and fisheries will allow the Council to manage more effectively in the future. 

Council Forwards Recommendations to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

In November, the Council adopted recommendations to the U.S. Commissioners to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), a regional fishery management organization concerned with highly migratory species fisheries west of 150° W longitude. The WCPFC is scheduled to meet December 8-12, 2008 in Busan, South Korea. The Council's recommendations generally align with those of the WCPFC's Northern Committee, which develops conservation recommendations for North Pacific albacore tuna, bluefin tuna, and swordfish. As discussed below, the Council is also concerned with stock status for North Pacific striped

marlin, which is not currently a Northern Committee stock.

For North Pacific albacore, the Council supported the Northern Committee's recommendation to establish an interim reference point for albacore equal to the average of the 10 historically lowest values for spawning stock biomass. If the fishing mortality rate is likely to cause spawning stock biomass to fall below the interim reference point, it is expected that the WCPFC would adopt a resolution on conservation and management measures to reduce fishing mortality.

This Council also supported a proposal put forth by the U.S. delegation to amend the current Conservation and

Management Measure (CMM) 2005-03. CMM 2005-03 called on member countries and entities to not increase fishing effort on albacore beyond current levels, with 2005 selected as the year defining current effort. The proposed addition would incorporate more specific language into the CMM so that the WCPFC may assess whether fishing mortality levels have increased. These changes may lead to more transparency and better reporting by member countries, and thus greater accountability. The Council also requested information on how a report characterizing U.S. fishing effort on North Pacific albacore, prepared by the Council's Highly Migratory Species

Management Team, in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center, has been used at the international level.

At the Northern Committee meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, Japan proposed a similar fishing effort stabilizing resolution for bluefin tuna, calling on nations not to increase fishing effort on that stock. The Council generally supported the draft language of the CMM while noting that U.S. purse seine catches of bluefin tuna are not a big contributor to current over-exploitation of the stock. Therefore, as with albacore, the

Coastal Pelagic Species News

Council Adopts Reduced Pacific Sardine Fishery Specifications for 2009

In November, the Council adopted an acceptable biological catch (ABC) or maximum harvest guideline of 66,932 metric tons (mt) for the 2009 Pacific sardine fishery. The ABC is based on a biomass estimate of 662,886 mt and the environmentally-based harvest control rule in the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan, which set aside 150,000 mt to avoid overfishing and provide sardines for forage. The 2008 updated assessment suggests a decline in Pacific sardine biomass; the harvest guideline recommended for 2009 is approximately 75 percent of 2008 harvest levels.

The Council recommended that 1,200 mt of the allowable Pacific sardine harvest be set aside for dedicated research activities during the second allocation period in 2009. The Council also recommended an adjusted allocation of 59,232 mt as the harvest guideline for the directed fishery to be allocated seasonally per the existing allocation framework. To allow for incidental landings of Pacific sardines in other CPS fisheries, and to help ensure the fishery does not exceed the total harvest guideline or the ABC, the Council adopted a set-aside of 6,500 mt allocated across seasonal periods (see table).

The seasonal incidental set-asides are intended to allow CPS fisheries targeting species other than Pacific sardine to continue if a seasonal allocation to the directed fishery is reached or exceeded in any period. Under these circumstances, the Council anticipates the directed

sardine fishery would revert to an incidental fishery with an incidental landing allowance of no more than 20 percent Pacific sardine by weight. The larger set-aside in Period 3 is intended to protect the winter market squid fishery and to minimize the chance of exceeding the total harvest guideline.

Under this proposal, the Council anticipates that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will take the following inseason automatic actions:

- Any unused seasonal allocation to the directed fishery from Period 1 or Period 2 rolls into the next period's directed fishery.
- Any overage of a seasonal allocation to the directed fishery from Period 1 or Period 2 is deducted from the next period's directed fishery.
- Any unused seasonal incidental set-aside from Period 1 or Period 2 rolls into the next period's directed fishery.
- If both the seasonal allocation to the directed fishery and the seasonal incidental set-aside are reached or

exceeded in any period, the retention of Pacific sardine will be prohibited, and the overage will be deducted from the next period's directed fishery.

- Any of the research set-aside that is not used in Period 2 rolls into the third seasonal period's directed fishery harvest guideline.

Assessing the status of Pacific sardine is difficult due to limited coastwide monitoring, variability of the stock, and its vulnerability to environmental conditions. As an updated assessment, this year's effort adhered to the existing assessment configuration (approved in 2007) while introducing recent data. The assessment results were inconsistent with those from the 2007 assessment, due in part to unexpected and substantial changes in historic sardine biomass levels. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) concluded that "this volatility in reconstruction of past dynamics affects interpretation of stock status and is unexpected for an assessment update." Understanding why this occurred and how best

to use the recent data would have required more modeling flexibility and peer review than is possible under the Council's adopted terms of reference for assessment updates.

The Council's CPS advisory groups were mixed in their recommendations to the Council. Ultimately, the SSC determined that the competing assessment results (66,932 mt or 56,946 mt) were within the assessment's scientific uncertainty, that there was no scientific basis for choosing one over the other, and that the choice was a policy determination best made by the Council. Citing a desire to use the most recent data, and concerns about the economic impacts of the reduction in harvest guidelines, the Council recommended the higher of the two assessment results. Additionally, the Council is seeking ways to improve the 2009 assessment process (see "CPS Stock Assessment Process" article, page 9) and, beginning in March 2009, plans to begin reviewing research proposals aimed at bolstering our understanding of the Pacific sardine resource. 

Total HG/ABC = 66,932 mt Research set aside = 1,200 mt Adjusted HG = 65,732 mt				
	Period 1 Jan. 1- Jun. 30	Period 2 Jul. 1- Sep 14	Period 3 Sept. 15 - Dec. 31	Total
Seasonal Allocation (mt)	23,006	26,293	16,433	65,732
Incidental Set Aside (mt)	1,000	1,000	4,500	6,500
Adjusted Allocation (mt)	22,006	25,293	11,933	59,232

Coastal Pelagic Species News

Council Seeks Comments on 2009 CPS Stock Assessment Process

The Council is seeking public input on the Terms of Reference for the 2009 coastal pelagic species (CPS) assessment process. Following the difficulties of this year's updated stock assessment for Pacific sardine (see article, previous page) the Council directed Council staff to work with the Scientific and Statistical Committee and CPS Management Team to incorporate a variety of recommendations on how to provide greater flexibility in how updated assessments are conducted and reviewed. The revisions are currently underway and the revised draft CPS Terms of Reference

will be posted to the Council web site in December. The Council is scheduled to adopt final Terms of Reference at its March 2009 meeting in Seattle. The Council also tasked Council staff with scheduling two stock assessment review (STAR) Panels for 2009: one in May 2009 focused on review of a full Pacific mackerel assessment and the methodology used to obtain fishery-independent survey estimates of abundance, and a second STAR Panel in September 2009 that focuses on the review of a full Pacific sardine assessment. 

Council Advisory Body Appointments

The Council made the following advisory body appointments at its November meeting:

- Melodie Palmer-Zwahlen, to fill the California Department of Fish and Game position on the Salmon Technical Team (replacing Mr. Allen Grover)
- Dr. Thomas Helser, to fill the NMFS Northwest Region position on the Salmon Technical Team (replacing Mr. Dell Simmons)
- Ms. Laura Pagano, Natural Resources Defense Council, to fill the vacant non-voting conservation position on the

Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC)

- Dr. Louis Botsford, Professor, Department of Fish and Wildlife, University of California Davis, to fill the at-large position on the Scientific and Statistical Committee

The Council is soliciting nominees for the processor positions on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and GAC to fill the vacancies that will be left by the resignation of Ms. Heather Mann. The Council Chair will make interim appointments to ensure a processor representative attends the January GAC meeting and March GAP meeting. 

Acronyms

ABC	acceptable biological catch	MPA	marine protected area
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure (for highly migratory species)	mt	metric ton
CPS	coastal pelagic species: northern anchovy, market squid, Pacific bonito, Pacific saury, Pacific herring, Pacific sardine, Pacific (chub or blue) mackerel, and jack (Spanish) mackerel	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	NWR	Northwest Region (of NMFS)
FMP	fishery management plan	OL	Outdoor Life (magazine)
FRAM	Fishery Regulation Assessment Model	OPT	Ocean Power Technologies (wave energy company)
GAC	Groundfish Allocation Committee	OSU	Oregon State University
GAP	Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	OY	optimum yield
HMS	highly migratory species: tunas, sharks, billfish/swordfish, and dorado or dolphinfish.	RCA	rockfish conservation area
HMW	Halibut Managers' Workgroup	SAF	Sea Action Fund
IFQ	individual fishing quota	SF	Sport Fishing (magazine)
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission	SHM	Sacramento Harvest Model
MEW	(Salmon) Model Evaluation Workgroup	SI	Sacramento Index
MMS	Minerals Management Service	SRFC	Sacramento River fall Chinook
		SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
		STAR	Stock Assessment Review (Panel)
		STT	Salmon Technical Team
		WPFMC	Western Pacific Fishery Management Council
		YRCA	Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area(s)

West Coast Wave, Wind, and Tidal Energy Development Continues

Wave energy development off the West Coast continues to move forward.

Recent activity: Since October, two new pilot projects have been proposed off California. The San Francisco Ocean Energy Project, proposed by Grays Harbor Ocean Energy Co., would be sited on the outer continental shelf, in Federal waters. The applicants hope to eventually place 100 wave energy converters (buoys or other technology) 20-30 miles west of San Francisco, where they would not be visible from shore.

Grays Harbor Ocean Energy is also proposing a similar project on the outer continental shelf off the coast of Ventura, California. The applicants are interested in using both projects' infrastructure to create artificial reefs. Neither project has yet received a preliminary permit. Also in October, Golden Gate Energy submitted a draft license application for a pilot project to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a tidal energy project in the San Francisco Bay near the Golden Gate Bridge.

In total, about 26 projects are currently proposed for the West Coast (some projects may only be "placeholders," allowing local governments to control development in nearby waters). Of these, three are in very early stages and have not yet applied for a preliminary permit from FERC. (A preliminary permit does not allow any actual technology to be put in place, but allows the applicant to conduct studies in support of developing a project). Five projects are waiting for preliminary permits to be granted; nine have received preliminary permits; eight have submitted preliminary application documents (the next step in applying for a 50-year license), and one, the Makah Bay project, is licensed as a five-year pilot project.

The two projects that are farthest along in development are the one-megawatt Makah Bay pilot project (Finavera) and the Reedsport Ocean Power Technologies (OPT) Wave Park.

Finavera plans to install four test buoys in Makah Bay, in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The one megawatt project, 1.9 miles off the coast, will be in place for five years. The license is conditioned on Finavera obtaining all necessary Federal permits. To retain its license, Finavera must start construction within two years and must complete construction within three years of the license date. Finavera and the Makah Nation will use the project as an opportunity to study environmental impacts.

The Reedsport project calls for 10 buoys about 2.5 miles off the coast of Reedsport, Oregon. The project could become commercial in the next year or two, according to an *Oregonian* article. However, Nick Furman of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission notes that it's " smack dab in the middle of crabbing grounds." OPT recently received a \$200,000 grant from the Oregon Wave Energy Trust and a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The OPT project will use PowerBuoys that will be partially

fabricated in Oregon.

The first PowerBuoy is expected to be ready for deployment in late 2009. Nine others will be manufactured and installed starting in 2010, following FERC permitting. The development is expected to provide operational and environmental data for the future development of wave energy off the west coast.

Jurisdiction of the outer continental shelf:

Projects within state waters are moving more quickly than projects on the outer

continental shelf, which generally begins three miles beyond the U.S. shoreline. In part, this is due to jurisdictional disagreements between FERC and the Minerals Management Service (MMS). FERC regulates hydroelectric development, while MMS regulates activities on the outer continental shelf. Companies interested in developing projects on the outer continental shelf need approval from both agencies. MMS has developed a set of proposed permitting rules, including environmental regulations, which it expects to have in place this year. MMS says its two main responsibilities are "securing the nation's energy resources and protecting the environment," according to a *Wall Street Journal* article. However, FERC believes MMS's process is too long and costly. On October 16, FERC issued a ruling claiming that FERC should regulate hydroelectric energy on the entire outer continental shelf, not just within the three-mile territorial sea. Meanwhile, MMS is granting interim leases that allow companies to test the energy potential of various sites in the ocean.

Research activities: Research efforts are also moving forward. In September, Oregon State University (OSU) received a five-



An offshore wind farm off Denmark.

Enforcement Corner

WDFW and NOAA Officers Inspect Cold Storage Facilities

In August, 25 officers from Washington department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA teamed up to conduct inspections of cold storage facilities from Bellingham to Tacoma. Twelve facilities were checked to ensure compliance with state and Federal laws and rules pertaining to harvesting, shipping and marketing fish and shellfish.

Officers track the origin of products in cold storage to determine if they were harvested during an open season, with the proper licenses and permits, and in the amounts authorized under fisheries management

regulations.

In Snohomish County, three cold storage units were inspected and found to contain large amounts of fish and shellfish. Records were reviewed with 145 different owners of the seafood. Of those, approximately thirty have been scheduled for follow-up investigations to check for unlicensed wholesale dealers.

Two fish plants were found to be processing and storing fish and shellfish. Both possessed wholesale dealer licenses. One dealer will be contacted later regarding halibut and its origin. One plant was holding bycatch from a coastal harvest-er. Confirmation that the fish

were documented will be made. They were also found with a few undersized crab from British Columbia and were given a verbal warning and direction on how to address the violation in the future.

In King County, seven facilities were checked. Most were in compliance. Follow-ups will be conducted to check for unlicensed dealers. Vietnamese catfish were discovered at one location with a connection to a Seattle restaurant that has been investigated before for marketing violations. NOAA will take the lead on this investigation. Another facility was found without records in English and incomplete records. The of-

ficers were able to eventually account for all the product at the site and gave a verbal warning for the lack of proper record keeping.

In Pierce County, fresh salmon and frozen urchins were discovered at a plant where the owner is also a licensed wholesale dealer. There were no mandatory fish receiving tickets for the product. Urchin was also being imported from Oregon without fish receiving tickets. A search warrant was requested, granted, and served. Six boxes of paperwork were seized for analysis to determine the extent of non-reporting. 

Recipe: Rosemary and Garlic Baked Fish & Potatoes

An easy weeknight dish for four.

Ingredients

- 1 pound new potatoes, peeled (if desired), washed, and cut into wedges
- An oven-to-table baking dish that can accommodate both the fish and the potatoes in one layer
- 4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 4 or 5 fresh (not dried) rosemary sprigs
- 4 whole garlic cloves, peeled
- Fine sea salt
- Black pepper ground fresh from the mill
- A two-pound fillet (or fillets adding up to two pounds) from a firm-fleshed fish, such as Pacific cod, lingcod, or rockfish
- 2 tablespoons fine, dry, unflavored bread crumbs

Preparation

1. Turn on the oven to 400°F.
2. Place the potato wedges in the baking dish, pour 2 tablespoons of the olive oil over them, add 2 sprigs of rosemary, all the garlic cloves, and salt, and pepper (may also mince garlic, if desired). Toss thoroughly. Put the dish in the preheated oven.
3. After 15 minutes, remove the dish to turn the potatoes over, then put it back in the oven. Cook until the potatoes feel tender when tested with a fork, another 10 minutes or so.
4. Remove the dish from the oven. Push the potatoes to the sides, making room in the center for the fish fillet to lie flat.
5. Wash the fish fillet, pat it dry with paper towels, and lay it flat in the dish, skin side down. Strip the leaves from the remaining rosemary sprigs, scatter them over the fish, add salt and pepper, and sprinkle the bread crumbs and the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil over the fillet. Return the dish to the oven and bake for 14 minutes. Let the dish settle out of the oven for 3 to 4 minutes before bringing it to the table.

“Clean Diesel” Tax Credits and Grants Available for Fishing Vessels

Oregon and California are offering tax credits (in Oregon) and grants (in California) to upgrade diesel engines to use less polluting technologies.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is offering \$3 million in tax credits designed to stimulate projects to improve air quality and reduce the risk to public health from diesel pollution. Projects eligible for the tax credits retrofitting a diesel engine, or replacing a non-road diesel engine (including fishing vessel engines). These types of projects all reduce harmful particulate matter in diesel exhaust.

Tax credits are available for up to 25% of the cost to scrap an older, more polluting diesel engine and repower with a new engine, a used engine or a remanufactured engine, or with electric motors, drives or fuel cells, with a minimum useful life of seven years. The project must be used in Oregon at least 50% of the time during the next three years.

All projects must meet criteria specified in the guidelines

at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/msd/taxcredits/txcp.htm>.

Currently diesel exhaust ranks among the top air toxics in Oregon. It is linked to a number of significant public health and environmental issues: asthma, cardiovascular disease, cancer, regional haze and climate change. In 2007, the Oregon Legislature adopted House Bills 2172 and 3201 that outlined the incentive program. Information on Oregon’s “Clean Diesel” program can be viewed at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/diesel>.

All tax credits and grants for engine replacement must use a certified Clean Diesel Service Provider to perform the installation of the replacement or retrofit technology. A list of providers is available on DEQ’s website. For more information, contact Maggie Vandehey of DEQ’s Tax Credits Coordinator, Portland, at vandehey.maggie@deq.state.or.us, 503-229-6878, or toll-free in

Oregon at 800-452-4011, ext. 6878.

In California, grants to

repower marine engines are available through the Carl Moyer Program. The Carl Moyer Program provides grant funding to encourage the voluntary purchase of cleaner-than-required engines, equipment, and emission reduction technologies. Over its first seven years, the Carl Moyer Program provided \$170 million to clean up approximately 7,500 engines throughout California. Legislative changes in 2004 provided continued funding for the Carl Moyer Program up to \$141 million per year Statewide through 2015. The Carl Moyer Program is implemented through the cooperative efforts of the California Air Resources Board (ARB) and local California air pollution control/air quality management districts (districts). Every year, ARB distributes State funds to participating districts. Such districts follow ARB Carl Moyer Program Guidelines to select, fund, and monitor specific clean air projects in their areas. The Carl Moyer Program continues to be immensely

popular, with the demand for grants typically outstripping available funds in spite of a large expansion in funding in recent years.

Carl Moyer grants are available to fishing vessels. For more information, see http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/moyer/guidelines/cmp_guidelines_part1_2.pdf, Chapter 9. The grants are implemented by local Air Districts; California residents should contact their own local Air District for details on how to apply (for a map of air districts, see <http://www.arb.ca.gov/capcoa/dismap.htm>).

The state of Washington provides grant funds to repower diesel vessels, but priorities to date have been school buses and municipal fleets. The Washington Department of Ecology does list grants for “privately owned diesel fleets operating mainly in the state of Washington.” For more information, see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/DieselGrantPage.htm>, or call Mike Boyer, 360-407-6863 or Carrol Johnston, 360-407-6568.

Coming Up at the March 2009 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Seattle on March 7-13, 2009. The advance Briefing Book will be posted on the Council website in late February.

Groundfish

- ⊗ Open Access limitation: adopt final
- ⊗ Trawl rationalization accumulation limits and preliminary ownership issues
- ⊗ Inseason adjustments
- ⊗ Pacific whiting: 2009 management measures
- ⊗ National Environ-

mental Policy Act and Annual Catch Limits fishery management plan amendments

- ⊗ Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee terms of reference

Salmon

- ⊗ Adopt 2009 management options for public review

- ⊗ Review 2008 fisheries and 2009 abundance estimates
- ⊗ Identification of stocks not meeting conservation objectives

Pacific Halibut

- ⊗ IPHC meeting report
- ⊗ Incidental catch regulations

Habitat & Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

- ⊗ Habitat report
- ⊗ MPA report

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

- ⊗ Stock Assessment Review Panel terms of reference for 2009

Klamath dam removal, continued from page 1

benefits of dam removal justify the costs, informed by scientific and engineering studies conducted in the interim, and in consultation with state, local, and tribal governments and other stakeholders.

The Klamath River was once the third most productive salmon river system in the United States. Today, due to the dams and other factors, Klamath salmon runs are a small fraction of their historic size. Some species, such as coho salmon, are now in such low numbers in the Klamath River that they are listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger called

the agreement “the largest dam removal project ever in history that California, Oregon and our Federal and private partners are undertaking to improve water quality, water supply and fish populations in the Klamath region.”

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski said, “While many months of work lay ahead, this historic agreement provides a path forward to achieve the largest river and salmon restoration effort ever undertaken in a way that’s good for fish, PacifiCorp customers, and local communities and our sovereign tribes.”

The Hoopa, Yurok, Karuk and Klamath tribes have sought

removal of the dams for years.

If a final agreement is reached next year and pending congressional approval, PacifiCorp will set aside millions of dollars for immediate environmental improvements. The funds would be used to enhance habitat, improve water quality, increase fish populations, and benefit fisheries management in the basin.

“We will continue to work diligently with everyone at the table, including the irrigators, environmentalists, the tribes and all local elected officials with the goal of reaching a final dam removal agreement that is in the economic interests of PacifiCorp customers,” said

Greg Abel, PacifiCorp chairman and chief executive.

PacifiCorp agrees to contribute as much as \$200 million to cover the cost of removing its four dams and restoring the river. Dam removal funds would be obtained from ratepayers in Oregon and California before removal begins.

If dam removal costs exceed PacifiCorp’s contribution, California and Oregon together would contribute up to \$250 million. Current estimates of dam removal costs range between \$75 million and \$200 million. (Sources: *Environment News Service, Indian Country Today, Columbia Basin Bulletin*) 

HMS recommendations, continued from page 7

effort characterization should delineate a band of historical U.S. fishing effort, in order to recognize variability and not hold the U.S. strictly to a “current” level that may represent

a historically low level of fleet activity.

Finally, the Council reiterated their concern about the current status of the North Pacific striped marlin stock,

which is believed to be depleted but whose stock structure is still unclear. The Council called on the WCPFC to add striped marlin to the list of Northern Committee species. In the

meantime, the Council recommended that the WCPFC develop conservation measures for the stock, rather than waiting another year for the Northern Committee to take this up. 

Wave energy, continued from page 10

year, \$6.25-million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, along with approximately equal state matching funds, to establish an ocean energy research station in Newport. OSU will focus on wave energy and its environmental effects, while its partner the University of Washington will focus on tidal and current energy. The universities will use the grant, along with other funds, to create a Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center that will include a floating test berth about 1.5 miles off the coast of Newport. The berth will be

used to conduct research on marine renewable energy technologies, as well as on impacts on marine life, habitat, and the shoreline. Private companies may also conduct research using the berth. Also in September, a prototype device being developed by OSU was successfully tested off Newport.

A scientific meeting last year at OSU’s Hatfield Marine Science Center concluded that the environmental effects of wave and tidal energy are largely unknown and require more studies. Scientists are concerned about the impacts of electro-

magnetic fields, interference with whale and fish migration, the effects of buoys acting as “fish aggregating devices” and attracting predators, impacts on currents and sediment, removal of wave energy from shorelines, and other factors. Fishermen are concerned that wave and tidal projects could negatively affect fisheries and reduce access to fishing grounds.

The Oregon coast is considered one of the most promising sites for wave energy generation in North America, according to the Oregon Wave Energy Trust.

Although there are a few

wave energy projects operating in Europe, there are none in the United States. Hundreds of projects have been proposed in the U.S., however, ranging from offshore tidal and wind energy on the East Coast to in-stream projects in the Mississippi River.

For more information and links to relevant studies, see the Council’s hydrokinetic energy page at <http://www.pcouncil.org/wave/wave.html>.

Developed from FERC, *Oregonian*, *Seattle Times*, *Coos Bay World*, *Hydrovolts and Energy Currents* blogs, and *Wall Street Journal* reports. 

Obama administration, continued from page 2

pollution. I plan to crack down on polluters and improve the water quality in our oceans. My goal will be to maintain and enhance healthy habitats and fish populations to sustain and increase fishing opportunities.”

On ocean health and climate change (SAF): “Oceans are crucial to the earth’s ecosystem and to all Americans because they drive global weather patterns, feed our people and are a major source of employment for fisheries and recreation. As president, I will commit my administration to develop the kind of strong, integrated, well-managed program of ocean stewardship that is essential to sustain a healthy marine environment.

“Global climate change could have catastrophic effects on ocean ecologies. Protection of the oceans is one of the many reasons I have developed an ambitious plan to reduce U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases 80 percent below 1990 by 2050. We need to enhance our understanding of the effect of climate change on oceans and the effect of acidification on marine life through expanded research programs at NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). I will propel the U.S. into a leadership position in marine stewardship and climate change

research. Stronger collaboration across U.S. scientific agencies and internationally is needed in basic research and for designing mitigation strategies to reverse or offset the damage being done to oceans and coastal areas.

“The oceans are a global resource and a global responsibility for which the U.S. can and should take a more active role. I will work actively to ensure that the U.S. ratifies the Law of the Sea Convention – an agreement supported by more than 150 countries that will protect our economic and security interests while providing an important international collaboration to protect the oceans and its resources. My administration will

also strengthen regional and bilateral research and oceans preservation efforts with other Gulf Coast nations.

“Our coastal areas and beaches are American treasures and are among our favorite places to live and visit. I will work to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act in ways that strengthen the collaboration between federal agencies and state and local organizations. The National Marine Sanctuaries and the Oceans and Human Health Acts provide essential protection for ocean resources and support the research needed to implement a comprehensive ocean policy. These programs will be strengthened and reauthorized.” 

Trawl rationalization, continued from page 1

ed to two-month landing limits in the nonwhiting fishery, and to quota-constrained fishing seasons in the whiting fishery.

The new provisions mandate 100 percent observer coverage, provide for safer fishing at sea, improve the overall economic benefit of the fishery, allow commercial fishermen to switch to more environmentally benign gear types, and will reduce wasteful harvest practices. Better catch accounting will improve fishery managers’ ability to limit fishing mortality and assess the condition of the stocks. Currently, 20 percent of the trawl fleet is covered by observers.

The Council action for each trawl sector is described in general below:

Whiting Catcher Processor Sector: A new endorsement for whiting catcher-pro-

cessor permits will be required. This endorsement will limit the number of vessels in this fishery. The limit on the number of vessels will replace the Amendment 15 vessel endorsements and support continuation of the co-op system that participants in that sector have developed and implemented on their own. If the current voluntary co-op system fails at some time in the future, the sector will automatically revert to an IFQ program with IFQ divided equally among all holders of catcher-processor permits.

Whiting Mothership Sector: Qualifying catcher-vessel permits will be given an endorsement and assigned a percent of the whiting sector catch. If the vessels choose to join together in a co-op, that co-op will receive an allocation based on the catch shares of

its members, and will manage the catch of its members to ensure the co-op allocation is not exceeded. Any vessel that chooses not to participate in a co-op will participate in a non-co-op fishery. The shares associated with the permit for such a vessel will be put into a non-co-op fishery pool. All vessels that choose to participate in the non-co-op fishery will fish against the same pool (no amount of fish will be reserved for any particular vessel, i.e. they will race against each other to harvest the non-co-op pool). There will be limited entry permits for motherships. There will be ties between the catcher-vessels participating in co-ops and motherships, but those ties will be limited to a single year. By September 1 of each year, catcher-vessels will indicate to National Marine

Fisheries Service (NMFS) whether they intend to fish in a co-op and, if so, the mothership to which they will deliver in the following year. Their obligation to that mothership will last only for the following year and the catcher-vessel may deliver to another mothership of its choosing in a subsequent year.

Shoreside Sector: The shoreside whiting and nonwhiting sectors will be managed together as a single sector under an IFQ program. Twenty percent of the whiting IFQ will be allocated to processors, and 10 percent of the nonwhiting groundfish IFQ will be allocated for use in an adaptive management program. The remaining IFQ will be allocated to holders of groundfish

Continued on page 15

2008 Ocean Salmon Season Update

Preliminary data through October 31, 2008

Fishery and Area	Season Dates	Effort Days Fished	CHINOOK			COHO ^{a/}		
			Catch	Quota	Percent	Catch	Quota	Percent
COMMERCIAL								
Treaty Indian ^{b/}	5/1-6/30	160	9,424	20,000	47%	Non-Retention		
	7/1-9/15	402	11,173	17,500	64%	13,469	20,000	67%
Non-Indian North of Cape Falcon ^{c/}	5/3-6/30	1,287	11,114	11,700	95%	Non-Retention		
	7/1-9/16	606	3,147	8,800	36%	2,069	3,000	69%
Cape Falcon - U.S./Mexico Border	Closed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RECREATIONAL								
U.S./Canada Border- Leadbetter Point ^{c/}	6/1-28	4,183	1,498	8,200	18%	Non-Retention		
U.S./Canada Border - Cape Alava ^{c/} Area 4B only	7/1-8/24	5,695	1,063	1,435 ^{d/}	75%	2,060	2,060	100%
	8/25-9/13	760	11	remainder		130	4,000	3%
Cape Alava-Queets River ^{c/} La Push Bubble Only	7/1-9/13	1,397	566	395 ^{d/}	143%	456	540	84%
	9/20-10/5	396	91	100	91%	86	134	64%
Queets River - Leadbetter Pt. ^{c/}	6/29-9/13	16,709	8,637	10,270 ^{d/}	84%	7,485	7,520	100%
Leadbetter Pt.-Cape Falcon ^{c/}	6/1-28	837	344	4,800	7%	Non-Retention		
	6/29-8/24	13,575	3,341	remainder	70%	10,845	11,380	95%
Cape Falcon - OR/CA Border	6/22-8/14	19,736	Non-Retention			9,883	9,000	110%
OR/CA Border - Horse Mt.	Closed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horse Mt. - Pt. Arena	2/17-3/31	391	6	-	-	-	-	-
Pt. Arena - U.S./Mexico Border	Closed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		43,552	15,551			21,062		

TOTALS TO DATE	Effort			Chinook Catch			Coho Catch ^{g/}		
	2008	2007	2006	2008	2007	2006	2008	2007	2006
TROLL									
Treaty Indian	563	615	802	20,584	23,038	30,055	13,469	39,996	31,706
Washington Non-Indian	1,212	1,274	1,438	8,636	14,268	16,769	1,693	5,886	1,265
Oregon	681	5,225	4,502	5,625	35,462	34,834	376	17,080	1,414
California	-	10,577	8,259	-	113,406	69,728	-	-	-
Total Troll	2,456	17,691	15,001	34,845	186,174	151,386	15,538	62,962	34,385
RECREATIONAL									
Washington Non-Indian	39,899	72,683	65,263	14,737	8,944	10,667	18,870	83,788	36,087
Oregon	23,389	88,101	62,221	815	6,881	11,539	12,075	60,655	15,577
California	391	104,261	126,058	6	47,310	96,225	-	746	1,626
Total Recreational	63,679	265,045	253,542	15,558	63,135	118,431	30,945	145,189	53,290
PFMC Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	50,403	249,309	269,817	46,483	208,151	87,675

a/ All non-Indian coho fisheries are mark-selective.

b/ Treaty Indian effort is reported as landings.

c/ Numbers shown as Chinook quotas for non-Indian troll and recreational fisheries North of Falcon are guidelines rather than quotas; only the total Chinook allowable catch is a quota.

d/ Includes rollover of unharvested Chinook in the areas north of Leadbetter Point during June.

Trawl rationalization, continued from page 14

limited entry permits. The 10 percent IFQ set aside for the adaptive management program may be used to encourage harvesters to stay with the same ports and processors, to aid community and regional development, to create incentives

for gear switching, to mitigate unforeseen circumstances of rationalization, to promote sustainable fishing practices, or to facilitate new entrants to the fishery.

Three follow-on actions by the Council will be required

to complete the alternatives. In the first part of 2009, the Council will continue its work by developing 1) accumulation limits (ownership and vessel caps); 2) provisions that may restrict IFQ trading to those who participate in the fishery;

and 3) details of the adaptive management program. The completed package will be submitted to NMFS for approval in the latter part of 2009. Fishing under the IFQ program would start in 2011 at the earliest. 

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.

Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review Committee

Dates: December 9-10, 2008

Purpose: To develop terms of reference for proposed changes to areas closed to bottom contact gear and modifications to EFH and habitat areas of particular concern.

Location: PFMC Large Conference Room, Portland, OR

Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov, 503-820-2280)

Salmon Technical Team

Dates: January 20-23, 2009

Location: Portland, OR (location TBA)

Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov, 503-820-2280)

Salmon Technical Team

Dates: February 17-20, 2009

Location: Portland, OR (location TBA)

Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov, 503-820-2280)

Advisory Body Vacancies

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is seeking qualified candidates to serve on the

Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

One Processing Sector Representative
(Deadline: February 11, 2009)

Groundfish Allocation Committee

One Processing Sector Representative
(Deadline: February 11, 2009)

Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting

Dates: March 6-13, 2009

Location: Seattle Airport Marriott, Seattle, WA

Contact: Don McIsaac (donald.mcisaac@noaa.gov)

The public comment deadline for the March Council meeting is February 18! (See p. 15)



Pacific Council News
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