



Pacific Council News

A publication of the Pacific Fishery Management Council
 Summer 2009 • Volume 33, No. 2 • www.pcouncil.org

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New Council and Committee Members Appointed



Dorothy Lowman



David Crabbe



William "Buzz" Brizendine II

On June 25, the Commerce Department announced the appointment of new and returning regional fishery management council members. For the Pacific Council, the appointees are Dorothy Lowman (obligatory seat for Oregon); David Crabbe (obligatory seat for California); William L.

"Buzz" Brizendine II (at-large, from California) and Dale Myer (at-large reappointment from Washington). The appointees replace Frank Warrens (Oregon), Kathy Fosmark (California), and current Council Chairman Don Hansen (California).

Dorothy Lowman, of

Portland, has nearly 30 years of experiences working with fisheries issues. As a fisheries consultant, she works with both industry and environmental organizations on fishery management issues in both the Pacific and North Pacific regions. With an undergraduate degree

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Council Finalizes Decisions on Trawl Rationalization

At its June meeting, the Council finalized the fishery management plan (FMP) amendment language to implement the trawl rationalization program adopted last November, completed trailing actions on the program, made an adjustment to its April intersector allocation decision on Pacific halibut, and authorized the Council staff to forward its recommendations to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for approval. The Council also directed its staff to let each permit holder know

the amount of quota shares that analysts estimated may be associated with their permits.

Over the coming summer and fall, NMFS will begin drafting regulations and Council staff will finalize the draft amendment package, including the draft environmental impact statement (EIS). NMFS is expected to provide progress reports and draft regulations for Council review over the course of a number of Council meetings, starting this fall and running through next spring. A page has been created on the

Council website to allow the public to track progress in the submission and approval of the Council's trawl rationalization recommendations (see page 15).

The Council's trawl rationalization program will provide individual fishing quotas (IFQ) in the form of quota shares for the shoreside trawl fishery and provide for co-ops for the at-sea whiting fishery. Details of the program and previous Council deliberations on trawl rationalization can be found on

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The Pacific Council News is published by the Pacific Fishery Management Council pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award Number NA05NMF4410008.

Groundfish News

Council Preliminarily Adopts Groundfish Exempted Fishing Permits for 2010

The Council preliminarily adopted five of six proposals submitted for 2010 groundfish exempted fishing permits (EFPs). EFPs are designed to test innovative fishing gears, strategies, or activities that are otherwise prohibited in federal regulations. EFP results are considered in developing future management actions.

Four of the five approved EFP proposals are renewals of EFPs adopted for this year. The fifth EFP is a new one designed to collect biological information on yelloweye rockfish incidentally caught in the Oregon charterboat fishery. The five EFPs preliminarily adopted are:

1) A proposal sponsored by Steve Fosmark designed to test a trolled longline strategy to selectively harvest abundant chilipepper rockfish off central California;

2) A proposal sponsored by the communities of Morro Bay and Port San Luis, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, and California Department of Fish and Game that seeks to test hook-and-line and trap gears in central California using limited entry trawl permits purchased by The Nature Conservancy;

3) A proposal sponsored by the Oregon Chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) that seeks to test floated, long leader gear to selectively harvest yellowtail rockfish within the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) in waters off Oregon;

4) A proposal sponsored by the RFA and the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association that seeks to test the use of recreational hook-and-line gear to catch underutilized chilipepper rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and

slope rockfish on Commercial Party Fishing Vessels seaward of the non-trawl RCA in waters off California north of Pt. Conception; and

5) A proposal sponsored by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife that seeks to collect biological data from yelloweye rockfish encountered in the Oregon sport charter fishery. The Council recommended some modifications to these EFP proposals, which will be considered for final action in November.

The Council rejected one EFP proposal by the San Francisco Fishermen's Cooperative to modify vertical hook and line gear to avoid depressed rockfish species while fishing in certain parts of the RCA.

All of the proposals can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/1775pt>.

Council Develops Annual Catch Limit Requirements for Groundfish

In April, the Council decided to pursue a groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) amendment to incorporate new National Standard 1 guidelines to end overfishing, as mandated in the re-authorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. Amendment 23 contemplates revising the FMP to incorporate the following new harvest thresholds: an overfishing limit, which is the level of harvest corresponding to the fishing rate predicted to result in maximum sustainable yield; an acceptable biological catch (ABC), which is set below the overfishing limit and incorporates a scientific uncertainty buffer; and an annual catch limit, which is set equal to or below

the ABC and is analogous to the current optimum yield specification. Further catch buffers may be considered for other reasons.

In June, the Council provided guidance for further development of Amendment 23 alternatives. They tasked the Groundfish Management Team and Council staff to document and evaluate the performance of the inseason groundfish catch monitoring and adjustment mechanism, an accountability measure that helps ensure that catch limits are not exceeded. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council staff will also coordinate development of alternative ABC control rules to synchronize with

the 2011-2012 biennial specifications process. Development of ABC control rules and annual catch limit considerations for target and overfished species will be prioritized, with unassessed species as the next priority. The Council asked for ABC control rules that are based on relatively simple and understandable metrics.

The Council will consider further guidance on developing Amendment 23 alternatives at their September meeting, pending completion of the above-mentioned tasks and advancement of SSC thoughts on determining scientific uncertainty buffers for setting groundfish ABCs.

Groundfish News

Stock Assessments Approved for 2011-2012 Groundfish Fisheries; Provide Rebuilding Progress Report

At its June meeting, the Council adopted a new full assessment for splitnose rockfish, and updated assessments for canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and cowcod—overfished rockfish species that are currently under rebuilding plans—for management decision-making in the 2011-2012 biennial specifications process.

Splitnose Rockfish

Splitnose rockfish are a small rockfish species that are incidentally caught in bottom trawl fisheries. The stock is considered healthy with a spawning biomass estimated to be at 66 percent of its virgin abundance.

Canary Rockfish

The canary rockfish assessment indicates the stock is more depleted than the previous assessment had indicated in 2007, largely due to a revised California fishery catch history. A formal catch history reconstruction was recently conducted by the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center and the California Department of Fish and Game. The catch reconstruction project included a previously unavailable archive of fish ticket data, which included information on the area of

catch and a comprehensive evaluation of species compositions for recorded landing categories, by region. This effort will likely affect all assessments for stocks that were targeted in historical California fisheries, and may also affect discard assumptions for non-target species. The newly reconstructed historical landings of canary rockfish in California are 24 percent lower than estimates developed as part of the 2007 assessment. In part, this change resulted from an improved ability to identify the area of fishing effort/landings within California, since most of the early effort was in the southern part of the state where canary is less common. The lower historic removals resulted in lower estimates of historic and current spawning biomass, as well as depletion (23.7 percent of virgin), leading to a longer rebuilding period than previously estimated. A canary rebuilding analysis will be reviewed in late September/early October and considered for adoption in November. Results of the rebuilding analysis will be used to consider likely revisions to the rebuilding plan. The Council also may consider revisions to 2010 management measures to reduce canary rockfish impacts (see the article on inseason adjustments to



Canary rockfish. Photo: Stan Shebs.


groundfish fisheries on page 5).

Other Assessed Rockfish

The updated assessments for darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and cowcod indicate rebuilding of these stocks is progressing as expected in the adopted rebuilding plans for these species.

Petrale Sole

The Council delayed adoption of a new petrale sole assessment pending a further review by the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Groundfish Subcommittee this summer. The stock assessment should incorporate the SSC's recommendations for assessment improve-

ments and explorations (see the Supplemental SSC Report on groundfish stock assessments at <http://tinyurl.com/lus3pb>). The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will also discuss the scientific basis for considering a new target biomass (B_{MSY}) for petrale sole estimated in the revised assessment at their summer meeting. Considerations for this deterministic target biomass and a new overfished threshold may be considered for future management of the stock. The Council may also consider decreasing the petrale sole optimum yield in 2010 and further restricting 2009 and 2010 bottom trawl fisheries at their September meeting in Foster City, California. 

Council Postpones Action on Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Modification Proposals

In April, 2009, the Council solicited proposals for the modification of groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) under an interim review process. Two proposals were received, one to reduce the Eel Canyon

EFH Conservation Area that is closed to bottom trawl gear, and one to expand in size both the Olympic-2 and Grays Canyon Conservation Area, closed to bottom trawl gear, and to add areas closed to bottom contact

gear within the Olympic-2 area. The Eel Canyon proposal was submitted by the Fishermen's Marketing Association, and was intended to reopen 3.8 square nautical miles of sandy bottom habitat near the head of the

canyon to trawl gear by aligning the current eastern boundary of the Eel Canyon EFH Conservation Area with the 75 fathom Rockfish Conservation Area boundary. The current Eel Can-

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Groundfish News

Council Adopts Process and Schedule for 2011-2012 Groundfish Management

In June, the Council adopted a schedule for developing the 2011-2012 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures.

The groundfish management process occurs every two years and involves setting harvest limits (optimum yields, or OYs) for various groundfish stocks, and management measures for different groundfish harvest sectors. The schedule for 2011-2012 is similar to how the Council has proceeded in past biennial cycles. Council decision-making begins in November of this year, when the Council is slated to adopt ranges of acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and OYs for the close to 40 different management units (stocks or geographic subcomponents of stocks; see related article on recently-completed stock assessments). The Council will also provide guidance to the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and staff for developing a preliminary range of management measures.

At their April 2010 meeting, the Council will adopt their preferred OYs and a range of management measure alternatives. Finally, in June 2010 the Council will choose their preferred management measures alternative. After the June meeting, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) must conduct the rulemaking process necessary to implement regulations by January 1, 2011. This includes preparing the necessary environmental analyses.

In past years, the Council and NMFS have circulated an environmental impact statement (EIS) for public comment. NMFS will decide whether to prepare an EIS or an environmental assessment for the upcoming 2011-2012 biennial specifications. If an EIS is prepared, there is a 45-day public comment period on the draft, which would occur in the fall of next year.

Two important changes in groundfish management will likely affect decisions about harvest levels and management measures for the next biennium. First, the Council must amend the groundfish FMP to comply with revised National Standard 1 guidelines (see related story on annual catch limits, page 2). This could affect the process by which the Council chooses the harvest limits.

Second, with the Council completing work on the trawl rationalization program (see story, page 1), NMFS is targeting program implementation for January 1, 2011, to coincide with the start of the next biennial management cycle. This program will substantially change the way that the trawl sectors are managed, affecting the range of decisions and types of management measures the Council will consider under the biennial process. However, if the program cannot be implemented by January 1, 2011, then the Council would need to use currently available management tools, such as cumulative landing limits, in developing management measures for the

trawl sector.

Key dates in the Council's decision-making schedule are:

June Council Meeting (June 13-18, 2009) and September Council Meeting (September 12-17, 2009)

The Council and advisory bodies meet to adopt new stock assessments.

"Mop up" Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel and Rebuilding Analyses (September 28-October 2, 2009)

The Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) Groundfish Subcommittee and members of the GMT and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel meet to review any stock assessments recommended for further review by the SSC, as well as rebuilding analyses prepared for overfished species.



GMT Meeting (October 2009, exact dates to be determined)

The GMT, Council staff, and NMFS Northwest Region staff meet to review new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses and to draft a recommended range of 2011-2012 groundfish harvest specifications and preliminary management measures.

November Council Meeting (October 31-November 5, 2009)

The Council and advisory bodies meet in Costa Mesa, California to adopt:

1. Remaining stock assessments and rebuilding analyses.
2. Updated observer data and proposed methodologies to model bycatch in trawl and fixed gear fisheries and other impact analyses.
3. A range of preliminary 2011-2012 harvest specifications for groundfish stocks and complexes.
4. Adopt, or give guidance on, a preliminary range of management measures, including initial allocations.

April Council Meeting (April 10-15, 2010)

Council and advisory bodies meet in Portland, Oregon to adopt:

1. Final 2011-2012 harvest specifications.
2. Range of refined management measure alternatives and, if possible, a preliminary preferred alternative of management measures.

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Groundfish News

Council Affirms Open Access Fishery Decision

At its June meeting the Council heard a report from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) expressing concerns about the Council's March 2009 recommendation to require preseason registration of all open access groundfish vessels. The report cited duplication of effort between

the proposed registration process and the recently enacted Vessel Monitoring System, and suggested the Council might wish to consider rescinding its registration decision in favor of one of the other alternatives considered in March, such as a form of limited entry or no action at all. After consider-

able discussion, the Council voted to support its March 2009 position citing the need for consistency in its decision process and the potential that some business decisions may have been made based on the March recommendation. Council staff were directed to prepare the necessary regula-

tory documents and forward them to NMFS in a timely manner. However, the NMFS seat reported that staff limitations might preclude document review until the summer of 2010, which, if approved, would preclude regulatory action until after the 2011 fishing season. 

Council Specifies Groundfish Inseason Adjustments, Petrale "Point of Concern," Canary "Red Light"


At the June Council meeting, the Council voted to start a "Point of Concern" framework process for petrale sole. This process was triggered by preliminary results from the most recent petrale stock assessment, which indicated the stock status is more depleted than previously thought. Catch reductions may therefore be necessary to keep the stock from reaching an "overfished" condition in 2011.

The Council's final decision on whether and how to reduce petrale sole impacts in the 2009-2010 biennium will be decided at the September Council meeting, along with final adoption of the petrale stock assessment. In September, the Council may reconsider Period 6 petrale trip limits as well as 2010 trip limits and a reduced optimum yield (OY) for 2010. Furthermore, the Council also discussed the possibility of implementing a "red light" action to reduce the canary rockfish OY in 2010 as a result of a more pessimistic assessment for that species. (See article, page 3). The Council will consider the possibility of reducing the canary rockfish OY at the November Council meeting.

In addition to beginning the Point of Concern framework process, the Council adopted routine adjustments to trip limits and Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) for commercial fisheries. These changes are:



Black rockfish (NOAA)

- Reduce petrale sole cumulative limits coastwide in both Periods 5 and 6 in the limited entry non-whiting trawl fishery. In Period 5, set trawl cumulative limits of petrale sole for both large and small footrope and selective flatfish trawl gears to 5,000 lbs. Set Period 6 petrale limits for both large and small footrope and selective flatfish trawl gears to 2,000 lbs.
- Implement an unmodified 200 fathom line in the trawl fishery coastwide in Period 6 (i.e., close petrale cutouts).
- In Period 4, move the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA to 100 fathoms between 48°10' N. latitude and 40°10' N. latitude.
- Increase the sablefish trip limit North of 40° 10' N. latitude for trawl vessels using large and small footrope gear to 24,000 lb/two months in Periods 4 & 5 and to 20,000 lb/two months in Period 6.
- Increase sablefish trip limits North of 40° 10' N. latitude for trawl vessels using selective flatfish trawl gear to 11,000 lbs/two months beginning in Period 4 through the end of the year.
- Increase chilipepper limits for trawl vessels operating south of 40° 10' N. latitude to 12,000 lbs/two months beginning in Period 4 through the end of the year.
- Increase the bimonthly limit for the limited entry sablefish daily-trip-limit fishery north of 36° N. latitude to 6,000 lb/two months from July-October.
- Increase the open access sablefish daily-trip-limit weekly and bimonthly limits N of 36° N. latitude to 950 lbs and 2,750 lbs respectively beginning July 1 through the end of the year.
- Increase the California scorpionfish trip limits in the limited entry and open access fixed gear fisheries South of 40° 10' N. latitude to 1,200 lb/two months beginning July 1 through the end of the year.
- Modify the minor nearshore rockfish cumulative limit in the limited entry and open access fixed gear fisheries between 42° N. latitude and 40°10' N. latitude to 7,000 lb/two months, of which no more than 1,200 lb may be species other than black rockfish. 

Highly Migratory Species News

Council Makes Recommendations on Tuna and Swordfish Management


In June, the Council made recommendations to the U.S. delegation to the Northern Committee, a subsidiary body of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) responsible for developing management measures for highly migratory species stocks occurring principally north of 20° N. latitude. This body has identified as their responsibility the North Pacific stocks of albacore tuna, bluefin tuna, and swordfish. The Northern Committee will hold its 5th Regular Session on September 7-10, 2009, in Nagasaki, Japan. Any conserva-

tion recommendations they make are presented to the 6th Regular Session of the WCPFC, to be held December 7-11, 2009, in Papeete, Tahiti.

The Council's recommendations were to maintain progress in developing biological reference points for North Pacific albacore; resolve stock structure issues for North Pacific striped marlin and, once resolved, conduct an assessment for all stocks; recommend the Northern Committee seek management authority for striped marlin from the WCPFC; address any conservation recommendations for North

Pacific swordfish proposed by the Plenary of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean; and conduct an assessment of Northern bluefin tuna as soon as possible to resolve uncertainties in the last assessment.

The Council also made the following general recommendations for the WCPFC, which could first be considered by the Northern Committee: first, to encourage the WCPFC to request that a representative be invited to join the recently formed ad-hoc work group of the

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, which is tasked with defining measures of "current" fishing effort for North Pacific albacore per Resolution C-05-02. WCPFC representation on the ad-hoc committee would help ensure that any operational definition would be consistent between the two organizations, given the related WCPFC Conservation and Management Measure CMM-2005-03. Second, to request that the WCPFC ensure all parties to the Convention report fishing effort information on North Pacific albacore to comply with CMM-2005-03. 

Acronyms

| | |
|------------------|--|
| ABC | acceptable biological catch |
| AMP | Adaptive Management Program |
| B _{MSY} | target biomass |
| CDFG | California Department of Fish & Game |
| CHOW | Capitol Hill Oceans Week |
| CMM | Conservation and management measure |
| CPS | coastal pelagic species |
| CRCP | Coral Reef Conservation Program (NOAA) |
| EFH | Essential fish habitat |
| EFH | Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee |
| EFP | exempted fishing permit |
| EIS | environmental impact statement |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| FMP | fishery management plan |
| F/V | fishing vessel |
| FY | fiscal year |
| GAO | General Accounting Office |
| GAP | Groundfish Advisory Subpanel |
| GMT | Groundfish Management Team |
| HC | Habitat Committee |
| IFQ | individual fishing quota |
| MBA | Masters in Business Administration |
| MPA | marine protected area |
| MSA | Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006 |
| mt | metric ton |

| | |
|-------|--|
| NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| NOAA | National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration |
| OY | optimum yield |
| POP | Pacific ocean perch |
| QS | quota share(s) |
| RCA | Rockfish Conservation Area |
| RFA | Recreational Fishing Alliance |
| SSC | Scientific and Statistical Committee |
| TIQ | trawl individual quota |
| WCPFC | Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission |
| WDFW | Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife |

Need more? See our list of definitions at <http://www.pcouncil.org/acronyms.html>.



Coastal Pelagic Species News

Council Recommends Approval of Exempted Fishing Permits for Aerial Sardine Survey Research


The Council recommended that the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) approve a proposed exempted fishing permit (EFP) to conduct Pacific sardine research in 2009. The permit would exempt up to eight vessels from a potential closure of the directed fishery to provide access to 2,400 metric tons of the 2009 harvest guideline that has been set aside for this work. The proposed research will expand an aerial survey to cover an area from the U.S./Canada border to Monterey, California and

will include purse seine sets to verify school size and to collect biological samples with the goal of developing a new index of Pacific sardine abundance. It is anticipated that the 2009 survey results will be informative to a full assessment planned for this fall and that the aerial survey work will continue into the future and develop into a long-term population index.

In recommending approval of the EFP, the Council added pre-fishing notification requirements as requested by the Council's Enforcement

Consultants. Vessels participating in the survey under the EFP would be required to notify the Regional NOAA Office for Law Enforcement and the appropriate State Fish and Wildlife Enforcement entity a minimum of 24 hours prior to carrying out any fishing under the EFP. The notification would include the date, time and place of the fishing activity, the name of the vessel, its operator and the permit holder, and the location the fish will be landed and stored.

Additionally, the Council recommended that NMFS

specify reporting requirements in the EFP to ensure timely delivery of survey results. This is to ensure that EFP landings can be accurately tracked and to maximize the opportunity to use the survey results in the next Pacific sardine assessment that will be evaluated by a Stock Assessment Review Panel in September. The Council is scheduled to consider the new assessment and recommend harvest levels and management measures for 2010 at its November meeting in Costa Mesa, California. 

Council Adopts Harvest Levels and Management Measures for 2009-2010 Mackerel Fishery

The Council adopted the most recent assessment update for Pacific mackerel, which estimates the current Pacific mackerel biomass to be 282,049 metric tons (mt). Based on this new assessment and the Pacific mackerel harvest control rule in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan, the Council recommends an acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 55,408 mt and an overall harvest guideline for the 2009-2010 Pacific mackerel fishery of 10,000 mt that includes a 2,000 mt set-aside for incidental landings should the directed fishery close.

Setting the harvest guideline for the directed fishery substantially below the ABC is recommended as a precautionary measure in response to uncertainty associated with the most recent assessment. The Council also reviewed historic




Pacific mackerel landings that have rarely exceeded 20,000 mt over the last 10 years and have averaged approximately 6,000 mt. Alternatively, the Council considered the resiliency of the Pacific mackerel stock and industry reports of increasing Pacific mackerel availability at a time when opportunities for

Pacific sardine and market squid are declining. The Council felt that this harvest recommendation is in keeping with landings in recent years while allowing for modest growth in the fishery.

Should the directed fishery attain the harvest guideline of 8,000 mt, the Council recom-

mends NMFS close the directed fishery and establish a 45 percent incidental catch allowance when Pacific mackerel are landed with other CPS, except that up to one metric ton of Pacific mackerel could be landed without landing any other CPS. Any incidental harvest of Pacific mackerel should be applied against the 2,000 mt set aside for incidental landings.

Full assessments for actively managed CPS stocks including Pacific mackerel typically occur every third year. Uncertainty in the current assessment and a decline in available data led the Council to recommend no assessment in 2010. Rather, the Council recommends next year's efforts be focused on Pacific mackerel research and data analysis to contribute to an improved full assessment in 2011. 

Habitat and Ecosystem News

Habitat Committee Focuses on Invasive Species, National Corals Plan, Queets Coho

The Habitat Committee (HC) met June 5, 2009, in Portland.

Invasive Species

Paul Heimowitz (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Steve Phillips (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission) gave the HC a presentation on the status of aquatic invasive species in the western states. Prior to 2007, zebra/quagga mussels had not yet been detected in western United States waters. Since then, mussels have been documented in multiple western states, including California, Utah, and Colorado. Since 2007, most states have taken some legislative actions that either raise funds for inspections and coordination or enhance enforcement efforts to prevent importation of zebra/quagga mussels.

Inspections have already been successful in intercepting several vessels infested with these mussels before they were launched into Columbia Basin waters. Unlike neighboring states, the Oregon State Constitution does not allow mandatory boat inspections.

Interstate coordination in fighting aquatic invasive species has improved since 2007. Coordination has focused on increased monitoring and rapid response. A "Columbia Basin Rapid Response Plan" has been developed by a multi-agency coordination team, and is being adopted by Federal agencies, tribes, and other partners.

Other aquatic invasives can affect Council-managed species. Recent reports have suggested that the impacts of non-indigenous species on salmon rival the impacts from the four "H" risk factors (habitat, hydro, harvest, and hatcheries). Management and control of aquatic invasive species needs to be integrated with all watershed, coastal, and ocean management programs.

Corals Plan

The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) has been charged with coordinating the implementation of the Deep Sea Research and Technology Program authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The 2006 re-authorization required that a Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program be established, and autho-



Zebra mussels clinging to a native mussel. Photo: Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources.




Coldwater corals. Photo: NOAA.

rized, among other things, the designation of zones to protect deep-sea corals. FY2009 is the first year that the program has been funded, and the CRCP has proposed a funding model characterized by significant investment in research activities on a region-by-region basis. The CRCP has dedicated most FY2009 funds to the South Atlantic region, and proposes to focus on the Pacific region in FY2010. The CRCP is looking at criteria for prioritizing other regions beyond 2010. In the HC's report, the committee noted that "By almost any standard, the U.S. west coast ranks high for immediate attention on deep sea corals. For example, the Council may soon be considering modifications of groundfish essential fish habitat related to coral presence, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is currently undergoing management plan review that considers protections for corals, and new information is being developed about the significance of corals and sponges found in surveys off the coast of Washington."

The federal activity will culminate in a plan for field science activities that use mapping, habitat characterization, and research to address the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the priority management needs of the Council and other managers, and take advantage of opportunities to complement or leverage partnership resources. The HC will be following development of this proposal and inform the Council when action is appropriate.

Juan de Fuca/Queets Coho Overfishing Concern

The HC began planning for its involvement in the overfishing report for Queets and Western Strait of Juan de Fuca coho. The committee will seek input from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington tribes to obtain current information on freshwater habitat conditions, and will seek information from NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center, which has ocean sampling data on sub-adult coho. The HC will coordinate with the Salmon Technical Team in developing the report, and plans to have at least one subgroup meeting to focus on the report. 

NOAA Program Seeks Solutions to Marine Debris Problems, Needs Partners

The NOAA Marine Debris Program, created in 2005, is currently seeking partners in Oregon for its Fishing for Energy Partnership. In addition to this project, the program is hosting a workshop on abandoned vessels, conducting research on the impacts of marine debris on the environment and provides federal funding opportunities for marine debris projects across the country.

Seeking Partners for Fishing for Energy Project

The NOAA Marine Debris Program is seeking Oregon partners for the Fishing for Energy (FfE) partnership, which converts the non-recyclable fraction of old and derelict fishing gear into electricity.

Derelict, and lost and abandoned fishing gear is one of the major types of debris impacting the marine environment today. The greatest impact caused by this type of debris is what is called "Ghostfishing"; gear that continues to trap organisms and commercial species long after the gear is lost. This gear can also impact the environment and human safety by entangling and killing marine life, smothering



habitat, and acting as a hazard to navigation.

FfE is a partnership between the NOAA Marine Debris Program, Covanta Energy Corporation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Schnitzer Steel that began in 2008. The partnership provides a place for the fishing community to dispose of old or derelict fishing gear at no cost. Partnerships are formed with ports, cities, marinas, and fishermen's cooperatives to reach out to fishermen, provide disposal facilities and advertise the project. The program is modeled on a successful multi-partner project in Hawaii.

Once removed from the environment, all the non-recyclable gear material will be

transported to the nearest Covanta Energy-from-Waste facility. Approximately one ton of derelict nets can equal enough electricity to power one home for up to 18 days.

The FfE partnership is seeking to partner with a port or private business, such as a processor or gear supplier, willing to make a large bin available for gear disposal on their property. Due to the location of their energy-producing partners, the FfE partnership is currently only active in Oregon. If you are interested in suggesting bin sites for free gear disposal, please contact Holly Bamford at Holly.Bamford@noaa.gov.

Abandoned Vessel Workshop

In response to concern about the growing number of abandoned vessels along our coastline, the NOAA Marine Debris Program is hosting a Derelict Vessel Workshop in

Fall 2009. The objective of this workshop is to develop best practices for creating sustainable state-managed programs for prioritizing and removing derelict vessels. For more information, contact Holly.Bamford@noaa.gov.

Federal Funding Opportunities for Marine Debris Projects

The NOAA Marine Debris Program issues calls for marine debris proposals for non-federal partners twice a year—once in the spring, through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, focusing on fishery-related projects and research; and once in the fall, through the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program, focusing on removal and outreach.

Information about these calls for proposals is available at www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding/welcome. The Program is also planning to develop a third funding opportunity through the Fishing for Energy partnership for ports and organizations involved in the project.

For more information, go to <http://www.marinedebris.noaa.gov>.

Recipe: Dover Sole Stuffed with Crab & Asparagus

Great for guests, but easy enough for a weeknight dinner. Serves four.

Ingredients

4 dover sole fillets
8 fresh asparagus spears
1 cup Dungeness crab meat
1 cup heavy cream
1 tbsp fresh tarragon, finely chopped
1 shallot, chopped
1 tsp grated lemon peel
salt and pepper

Directions

Trim stalk end of asparagus. Wash and drain well.

In a sauce pot, combine heavy cream, shallot and fresh tarragon. Bring to a boil and then lower heat. Simmer until sole fillets are ready and stuffed.

Season fillets lightly with salt and freshly-ground pepper. Place two asparagus and 1/4 cup of crab meat on one end of sole. Roll into a log to wrap the fillet over filling.

Arrange prepared sole on a baking dish with seam side down. Sprinkle grated lemon peel on top of sole. Pour cream and tarragon mixture over fish to coat entirely.

Bake uncovered in a 350° oven until just cooked through, around 10 to 15 minutes. Serve hot.

Pacific Council Joins Other Regional Councils at Capitol Hill Oceans Week

This spring, the Pacific Council worked with the other seven regional fishery management Councils to create a presence at Capitol Hill Oceans Week (known as CHOW) in Washington D.C. CHOW took place June 9-11 and focused on the links between the

ocean and the economy.

Dr. Don McIsaac, the Council's Executive Director, spoke at CHOW about the economic role of the regional fishery management Councils. The keynote address was provided by NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco.

This was the first time the regional fishery management Councils have had a unified presence at CHOW.

The Councils created a display (middle photo, below); developed a joint publication summarizing opportunities and challenges in fisheries management (available from the Council office); and sponsored a booth at the NOAA Fish Fry. The Fish Fry booth featured chefs sponsored by the Western Pacific and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils. The Makah Nation also

sponsored a booth, handing out samples of marbled salmon and smoked blackcod chowder. More than 1000 people attended the NOAA Fish Fry this year, including the Secretary of Commerce, NOAA Administrator, Council Executive Directors, and many Congressional representatives.



Above: NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco and Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke sample the fare at the Regional Fishery Management Council booth at the NOAA Fish Fry; Council staffer Jennifer Gilden at the Regional Fishery Management Council booth set up for Capitol Hill Oceans Week; and the NOAA Fish Fry booth, featuring fish from the Western Pacific and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils.

Essential Fish Habitat, continued from page 3

yon EFH Conservation Area is approximately 253.6 square nautical miles. The Olympic-2 and Grays Canyon proposal was submitted by Oceana and was intended to provide additional protection to recently identified coral and sponge habitat by expanding the current boundaries of the respective EFH Conservation Areas and by prohibiting all bottom contact gear in two areas within the Olympic-2 EFH Conservation Area. The proposal would increase the size of the

Olympic-2 EFH Conservation Area from 159.6 to 415.8 square nautical miles, and expand the Grays Canyon EFH Conservation Area from 47.8 to 305.3 square nautical miles. The proposals are available on the Council website at: <http://www.pccouncil.org/groundfish/gfefh.html>.

The Ad Hoc Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC) met May 12-13 in Portland, Oregon to review and evaluate the propos-

als and to develop recommendations to the Council for further consideration of the proposals.

The Council considered moving the proposals ahead in the interim review process, which if approved would eventually include the proposal(s) as alternatives in the biennial groundfish specification process. However, due to workload issues and the scheduled 2011 start of the comprehensive five year review of groundfish EFH, the Council deferred action on the

proposals until no earlier than September 2010. In the interim, the Council encouraged proponents of both proposals to continue refining their proposals based on the comments of the EFHRC, the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and other Council advisory bodies. The Council noted that current Rockfish Conservation Area closures would protect most of the areas identified in the proposed Olympic-2 and Grays Canyon expansion during that time.

Enforcement Corner

The following stories were collected from fisheries enforcement activities around the West Coast.

False Labeling of Seafood (Bellevue, Washington)

On April 24, 2009, Kevin D. Steele of Bellevue, Washington was found guilty of "false labeling of a fish product," in violation of the Lacey Act, and a misdemeanor charge of "introducing misbranded food into interstate commerce."

Mr. Steele owns and operates Mallard Cove Resources, a seafood brokerage business in Bellevue. From July 2003 through mid-2006, he purchased more than 136,000 pounds of a fish commonly known as Greenland halibut or Greenland turbot. Mr. Steele had the product shipped to a cold storage facility, where he directed the cold storage company to repack and labeled the product as halibut. Federal regulations are clear that only Pacific or Atlantic halibut can be marketed as "halibut." Mr. Steele profited greatly from selling the lower quality, misnamed turbot to retail stores and restaurants, primarily in Utah and Texas.

Mr. Steele's actions created a possible denial of market access to legitimate halibut fisherman and seafood dealers. In addition, his actions misled consumers into spending more of their family food budgets on what they believed to be a higher valued product. Mr. Steele was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment, fined \$60,000, ordered to pay \$100,000 as a community service payment, and placed on five years of supervised release.



Oregon Troopers conduct a market inspection (above) and seize illegal gillnets (below). (Photos: ODFW).



In a February 2009 Report to Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported on seafood fraud and its effects on consumers and industry. The GAO report stated that this type of fraud is "pervasive throughout the seafood industry."

Fraudulent Concealing of Black Cod Overages (Chinook, Washington)

On May 6, 2009, the owner of the Bell Buoy Crab Company in Chinook, Washington, agreed to pay a \$63,152 pen-

alty to NMFS and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) after an investigation conducted by NMFS and WDFW revealed that the company was hiding overages of black cod by falsifying fish tickets and selling the illegal product in interstate and foreign commerce. Three employees of Bell Buoy, who were responsible for facilitating the illegal purchase, have pleaded guilty to criminal misdemeanor Lacey Act charges and are scheduled to be sentenced this September.

Sea Lion Shooting Investigation (Westport, Washington)

NMFS is investigating the shooting of a California sea lion after a sea lion was observed hauled out on a dock in the Westport, Washington marina with an arrow stuck in its side. The sighting was reported to the NMFS marine mammal enforcement hotline (800-853-1964). The shooting garnered media attention, and after the story was run and a reward was offered, agents received tips from witnesses who identified the possible shooter. The investigation is continuing. The shooting is a violation of the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the culprit faces possible jail time and a large fine.

F/V Ida W II Investigation

National Marine Fisheries Service conducted an investigation of the F/V Ida W II after receiving information from WDFW Officers that the vessel may have been fishing in violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. As a result of the investigation, the owner/operator of the vessel was charged with failing to maintain a Vessel Monitoring System unit, landing more than a 25 percent overage of arrowtooth flounder, and for making a false statement. The owner has agreed to pay \$7500 to settle the charges.

San Francisco CDFG and NOAA Investigation

In March 2009, 22 officers from California Department of Fish and Game and three NOAA agents conducted a detail

Continued on page 12

Coming Up at the September 2009 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Foster City, California on September 12-17, 2009. The advance Briefing Book will be posted on the Council website in early September.

Groundfish

- ✳ NMFS report
- ✳ Stock assessments for 2011-2012: final approval and (separate agenda item) informal briefing on petrale, bocaccio, widow, lingcod, cabezon, yelloweye, & green-striped rockfish
- ✳ Off-year science improvements: plan & prioritize for 2010
- ✳ Amendment 23 (annual catch limits): adopt for public review

- ✳ Amendment 20 (trawl rationalization): regulatory review, halibut sampling protocols & regulations; deeming
- ✳ Report on catch of unidentified rockfish species in the recreational fishery
- ✳ Presentation on offshore groundfish aquaculture

Highly Migratory Species

- ✳ NMFS report

Salmon

- ✳ Amendment 16 (annual catch limits): initial draft

- ✳ 2009 methodology review: select final review priorities
- ✳ Central Valley Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion & Sacramento River fall Chinook Failure

Habitat and Marine Protected Areas

- ✳ Habitat report
- ✳ Presentation on ocean acidification and sea level rise
- ✳ Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary draft marine protected area document (Council review)

- ✳ National MPA registry
- ✳ Marine resources public opinion poll

Pacific Halibut

- ✳ Proposed changes to 2010 regulations
- ✳ Review halibut bycatch estimate for International Pacific Halibut Commission

Other Items


- ✳ Legislative matters
- ✳ Enforcement report (state activity - Oregon)
- ✳ Membership appointments

2011-2012 Groundfish Management Process, continue from page 4

June Council Meeting (June 12-17, 2010)

Council and advisory bodies meet to take final action on 2011-2012 groundfish management measures.

Implementation Process (June-December 2010)

Council/NMFS Northwest Region staffs complete National Environmental Policy Act analysis. NMFS develops and implements the necessary regulations by January 1, 2011. 

Enforcement Report, continue from page 11

in the San Francisco area focusing on local fish businesses, markets and herbal shops. Several violations were uncovered during the course of the inspections.


While many of the violations were of a routine nature, some unexpected discoveries were made, such as the possession of 197 sport-taken waterfowl carcasses, possession of sport-taken bear galls, and the illegal sales of marine mammal parts. San Francisco Police Department officers helped with language translation. Overall, 13

State violations and two Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act/Lacey Act violations were uncovered.

VMS An Additional Search and Rescue Tool

On May 20th, 2009, the Coast Guard District Thirteen Command Center in Seattle received an alert from a 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) indicating potential distress aboard *F/V Bernadette* off the central Oregon coast. The initial EPIRB

hit did not provide an accurate location of the vessel, and it would have taken approximately one hour for a second EPIRB detection to verify the vessel's position. However, after determining the vessel was equipped with NOAA's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Coast Guard personnel were able to pinpoint the vessel's position within 10 minutes of initial notification. Further investigation and contact with the vessel ultimately determined the EPIRB was activated inadvertently and

there was no distress. However, this incident was an excellent example of how VMS can be used to enhance search and rescue capabilities. It is important to note, however, that while useful in search planning, VMS does not supply an indicator of distress. So, although VMS was developed as a fisheries enforcement tool and not an emergency communications device, it remains quite helpful for search planners, when alerted by other means, to establish a vessel's location. 

Council appointments, continued from page 1

in oceanography and a Master's in marine resource management, her prior work experience includes working on staff at the University of Washington Oceanography Department and for the Pacific, North Pacific and Western Pacific Councils. Prior to her Council appointment, she served on the Council's Trawl Individual Quota Committee as well as the Secretary of Commerce's Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee. Ms. Lowman crewed on a salmon troller in southeast Alaska for two seasons in the mid 1980s. She writes, "I try to work cooperatively with environmental interests and industry to find win-win situations to conservation concerns, and am particularly interested in ways to use market incentives to help achieve management goals."

David Crabbe has been a commercial fisherman in California for thirty years. He has fished with traps, purse seine, drum seine and gillnet for salmon, black cod, petrale sole, squid, sardines, anchovies, mackerel, halibut and rockfish. Mr. Crabbe owns Buccaneer Fishing and holds a market squid light boat permit. For the past several years, he has represented Monterey commercial fishermen on the California Wetfish Producers Association Board of Directors. He worked with Environmental Defense to organize and facilitate a crab steering committee to discuss commercial crab fishery management issues, leading to the passage of a bill that mandates the creation of a crab task force charged with resolving long-standing crab management issues. He also worked on a project to conduct interviews with Morro Bay fish-

ers in order to document interest and ability to fish with fixed gear and lease groundfish quota share from The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Crabbe has been actively involved in shaping California fishery management through his role as a central California regional stakeholder for the Marine Life Protection Act process, as well as his service on the California squid advisory board and the Fishery Advisory Board for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary. He lives in Carmel, California with his wife and four children.

Buzz Brizendine, of San Diego, is the owner/operator of the 65' "Prowler," one of the top charter fishing boats operating out of Fisherman's Landing. Mr. Brizendine has been in the fishing business for over 35 years. He serves on the Council's Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel and is a member of the Sportfishing Association of California.

Dale Myer, of Seattle, will be starting his second term with the Council. He has been involved in fisheries for over thirty years. He is currently Director of Operations for Arctic Storm Management Group which participates in the whiting industry. Mr. Myer has served on the Council's Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and was Vice Chair of the GAP in 2005 and 2006. Mr. Myer has participated in commercial fishing for salmon, tuna and mackerel. He received a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Management and

a MBA, both from the University of Washington.

Council members are nominated by the governors of Council member states. The Secretary of Commerce selects council members from the list of nominees provided by the governors to fill obligatory and at-large seats that have become available due to an expiring term, a resignation or other reasons. Obligatory seats are state-specific, while at-large seats can be filled by a person from any of the states in the region. Council members serve three-year terms, and may be reappointed to serve up to three consecutive terms.

Internal Appointments

Council operating procedures call for the election of a Council Chair and two Vice Chairs each June. For the 2009-2010 term (effective August 11), the Council appointed Mr. Dave Ortmann, a current Council Vice Chair, to the Council Chair position. He succeeds Mr. Donald Hansen, who has reached the nine year limit on Council ap-


pointments and has served continuously as Council Chair since 2003. For its two Vice Chair positions, the Council reappointed Mr. Mark Cedergreen and appointed Mr. Daniel Wolford to his first term.

As the new Council Chair, Mr. Ortmann will replace Mr. Hansen on the Budget, Legislative, and Groundfish Allocation committees. Prior to the

September Council meeting, Mr. Ortmann will make decisions for filling other vacancies left by departing Council members—Mr. Frank Warrens on the Budget Committee and Ms. Kathy Fosmark on the Legislative Committee.

To fill the vacant tribal fisher position on the GAP for the remainder of the 2007-2009 term, the Council appointed Mr. Roger Bain, a Makah tribal member who has fished for over 20 years.

The Council also created an ad hoc Salmon Amendment Plan Committee to develop and complete a salmon fishery management plan (FMP) amendment to bring the FMP into compliance with the revised National Standard 1 Guidelines concerning overfishing and annual catch limits. The Council Chair made the following initial appointments to the committee: Dr. Peter Dygert, Ms. Peggy Busby, Ms. Jennifer Isé, Ms. Shelby Mendez, Ms. Corinne Pinkerton, Dr. Robert Kope, Dr. Pete Lawson, Mr. Michael Mohr, Mr. Mike O'Farrell, Ms. Sheila Lynch, Mr. Keith Lutz, and Mr. Ron Boyce. Other appointments may be made later by the Council Chair as appropriate.

At the June meeting, Chair Don Hansen announced the nomination of Dr. Dave Hanson to the NOAA Catch Shares Task Force and Mr. Jim Seger to the NOAA Catch Share Working Group. Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, announced in early July that each were appointed as official members to help NOAA facilitate the consideration and adoption of catch shares as a fishery management strategy. 



Trawl rationalization, continued from page 1

the Council website. Following is a more detailed description of the actions taken at the June Council meeting.

Eligibility to Own. The Council confirmed the specific language for its provision on eligibility to own quota shares. In general, those eligible to own quota shares include anyone who is eligible to own a U.S. documented fishing vessel. The exact language is as recommended by the Council’s Groundfish Allocation Committee (see <http://tinyurl.com/lo4p2l>).

Carryovers. Each year quota pounds are issued to those holding quota shares. The carryover provision allows a vessel to carry up to 10 percent of its quota pounds from one year to the next, or to cover an overage of up to 10 percent with quota pounds from the following year. The Council modified this carryover provision by specifying that (1) when an optimum yield (OY) declines, carry-overs will be adjusted downward proportionally to the decline in the OY, (2) the 10 percent carryover amount may be adjusted during the biennial management specifications process, and (3) the carry over provision will be implemented to the maximum extent possible within the limits of Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA).

IFQ Program Species Coverage. The Council decided to exclude the “Other Fish” category of groundfish from the IFQ program. “Other Fish” includes species such as spiny dogfish, and miscellaneous skates and sharks. If the “Other Fish” category is added to the IFQ program in the future, quota shares for “Other Fish” would be allocated using the same catch history criteria as was

used for all other groundfish species under the program, unless otherwise specified by a future Council action. The Council provided this guidance on future allocation of “Other Fish” IFQs so that fishermen would know not to increase their effort on species in the “Other Fish” category in hopes of acquiring quota shares in the future.

Accumulation Limits. The Council confirmed its previous action on non-overfished species quota share control limits and vessel use limits (vessel limits). A control limit limits the amount of quota shares a person can own or control. A vessel limit, limits the amount of quota pounds that can be put in a vessel account. The vessel limit applies to both the used and unused quota pounds in a vessel account. At this meeting, the Council adopted overfished species and Pacific halibut control and vessel limits to go with those it had previously adopted for non-overfished species. Additionally, for overfished species and halibut, the Council adopted a secondary vessel limit, an unused quota pound limit, which limits the amount of unused quota pounds that can be in a vessel account at any one time. The unused quota pound limit reduces the opportunity for a vessel to stockpile quota pounds in a vessel account. The Council hopes that the unused quota pound limit will make overfished species and Pacific halibut quota pounds more available for other vessels than if more quota pounds for those species could be held unused in a vessel account (see table above).

The Council may revisit un-

| Species | Vessel Limit for Unused Quota Pounds and Control Limit for Quota Shares* | Vessel Limit for Used and Unused Quota Pounds |
|---|--|---|
| Yelloweye | 5.7% | 11.4% |
| Canary | 4.4% | 10.0% |
| Darkblotched | 4.5% | 6.8% |
| POP | 4.0% | 6.0% |
| Bocaccio | 13.2% | 15.4% |
| Cowcod | 17.7% | 17.7% |
| Widow (rebuilding) | 5.1% | 8.5% |
| Widow (rebuilt) | 8.0% | 12.0% |
| Pacific Halibut | 5.4% | 14% |
| * Vessel limits for all other species apply to both used and unused quota pounds. | | |

used quota pound vessel limits in the first biennial specifications process after implementation of the trawl rationalization program. In order to prevent entities from stockpiling quota pounds outside of vessel accounts, the Council added a provision that prohibits the transfer of quota pounds to anywhere other than a vessel account.

Divestiture. Anyone qualifying for non-overfished species quota shares in excess of control limits will be allowed to receive those quota shares, but will be required to divest themselves of those shares in years three and four of the IFQ program (a transfer moratorium prohibits transfer in years one and two). Any shares not divested by the end of the fourth year will be forfeited without compensation. The opportunity to receive quota shares in excess of the limits and then divest applies only with respect to shares issued for permits for which transfers were made prior to November 8, 2008 and registered with NMFS prior to the end of November 2008. Before divestiture occurs, those holding quota shares in

excess of control limits will be allowed to receive and use or transfer the quota pounds for all of their quota shares, including the shares held in excess of the control limits.

Adaptive Management Program. Ten percent of the quota pounds for the trawl sector are to be set aside to support adaptive management. The Council voted to adopt an adaptive management “pass through” option for the first two years of the trawl rationalization program. This option will distribute the Adaptive Management Program (AMP) quota pounds to quota share holders on a pro-rata basis during this period. During the first two years the Council will continue to develop a formulaic approach for distribution of AMP quota pounds for implementation in years three through five, consistent with the goals and objectives for the program (community stability, processor stability, conservation, adaptation to unintended and unforeseen consequences of the TIQ program, and to facilitate new entrants).

Continued on page 15

Trawl rationalization, continued from page 14

The AMP set-aside will be reviewed during year five of the rationalization program as part of the comprehensive program review.

Catch History Used for Allocation in the Mothership Co-op Fishery. To determine the allocations for catcher vessel permits in the mothership sector, the Council decided a permit's harvest history in a particular year will be measured as its share of harvest in that year (relative pounds), rather than its total pounds of harvest in that year.


Tracking and Monitoring. The Council indicated its intent to provide NMFS flexibility in the design and implementation of the tracking and monitoring program, as needed to achieve the goals and objectives of the trawl rationalization program.

Trawl Rationalization FMP Amendment Language (Amendment 20). The Council adopted FMP amendment language which will allow future modification of many aspects

of the trawl rationalization program through regulatory action without the need for an FMP amendment that duplicates the regulatory action.

Modification of Intersector Allocation Recommendation (Amendment 21) – Halibut for the Trawl Individual

Bycatch Quota Program. The Council modified its previous action on intersector allocation by specifying that during the biennial specifications process the amount of halibut made available for trawl individual bycatch quota may be modified either up or down. The original action

specified that only downward movement could occur. Additionally, rather than needing to cover halibut catch, each vessel would be required to cover their halibut mortality with individual bycatch quota. Trawlers will continue to be required to discard all halibut bycatch. 

| Amendment 20 – Trawl Rationalization Schedule | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Approval Process | Schedule | Status |
| Finalization of Draft EIS and Related Elements of the Decision Package | Summer/Fall 2009 | In Progress – Council Staff |
| Drafting of Proposed Regulations | Summer/Fall/Winter 2009-2010 | In Progress – NMFS/NOAA General Counsel |
| Council Review of Proposed Regulations | Fall 2009 through Spring 2010 | |
| Submission of Draft EIS to EPA | Fall, 2009 | |
| 45-Day Public Comment Period on Draft EIS | Winter, 2009-2010 | |
| Submission of Council Recommendations and Proposed Regulations to NMFS | Spring 2010 | |
| 50-Day Public Comment on Trawl Rationalization Fishery Management Plan Amendment and Proposed Implementing Regulations | Spring, 2010 | |
| NMFS Final Decision to Approve or Disapprove | Summer 2010 | |
| QS Application Process | Summer/Fall 2010 | |
| IFQ Required for Groundfish Trawl Vessels Making Shoreside Landings, Co-op structures in Place for At-Sea Whiting Fishery | January 1, 2011 | |

Upcoming Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held September 12-17, 2009, in Foster City, California. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on **August 26** will be included in the briefing books mailed to Council members prior to the September meeting. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on **September 4** will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the September meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see www.pcouncil.org/bb/bb.html.

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.

Lingcod and Cabezon Stock Assessment STAR Panel

Date: July 27-31, 2009

Location: Hotel Deca, Seattle

Contact: John DeVore (john.devore@noaa.gov)

Yellow and Greenstriped Rockfish STAR Panel

Date: August 3-7, 2009

Location: Hotel Deca, Seattle

Contact: John DeVore (john.devore@noaa.gov)

Salmon Plan Amendment Committee

Purpose: To address annual catch limit and accountability measure requirements for the Council's salmon plan.

Date: August 4-5, 2009

Location: NMFS SW Fisheries Science Center, Santa Cruz, California

Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dates: September 12-17, 2009

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City, California

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

We're Hiring!

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is seeking candidates to fill a senior scientific and policy analyst position focusing on west coast marine fishery management issues, focusing on groundfish fishery management. For more information, see <http://www.pcouncil.org/staff/employ.html>.

The public comment deadline for the September Council meeting is August 26! (See p. 15)



Pacific Council News
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