



Pacific Council News

A publication of the Pacific Fishery Management Council • Summer 2012 • Volume 36, No. 2 • www.pcouncil.org

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Council Reaffirms Intention to Protect Unmanaged Forage Fish

At its June meeting, the Council reaffirmed the importance of protecting currently unmanaged forage fish species, recognizing the importance of forage fish to the marine ecosystem off the West Coast. The Council's objective is to prohibit the development of new directed fisheries on forage species that are not currently managed by the Pacific Council, or the States, until there is an adequate opportunity to assess the science relating to the fishery and impacts to existing fisheries and communities. The species that will be considered for protection will likely include herrings, smelts, silversides, Pacific sandlance, Pacific saury, and a host of mesopelagic species (*myctophidae*, *bathylagidae*, etc.).


The issue generated a significant amount of public testimony and was the focus of environmental nonprofit group campaigns. Many expressed concern that increasing demand for aquaculture feeds could lead to new fisheries for these species,



Pacific sandlance (NOAA)

many of which are important prey for West Coast fish and wildlife species.

The Council adopted two mechanisms to address unmanaged forage species protections. The first is to update and revise the Federal List of Fisheries and Gear allowed for the West Coast, and to include in the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) a description of the standards that would be used to assess whether a proposed new fishery

would compromise West Coast conservation and management measures. The second is to incorporate any needed protections through amendment of existing Council fishery management plans. In an effort to avoid delays in completion of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan, the Council recommended that work on these two mechanisms occur after initial completion of the FEP, which is scheduled for March 2013. 

West Coast States Gear Up to Address Marine Debris from Tsunami

West Coast states and NOAA are actively addressing the problem of marine debris from the March 2011 Japanese tsunami. Several large pieces of debris, including a dock, a boat, and a motorcycle, have washed up this year.

Beachgoers may notice a

gradual increase in debris on beaches over many years, in addition to marine debris that normally washes up, depending on where ocean currents carry it. Items could make landfall anywhere from Alaska down to California and Hawaii, or they could get pulled into existing

“garbage patches.”

Radiation experts agree that it is highly unlikely that any tsunami-generated marine debris will hold harmful levels of radiation from the Fukushima nuclear emergency. Some debris

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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
NA10NMF4410014.

Groundfish News

New Methods to Address Rockfish Barotrauma Could Have Management Implications

In June, the Council discussed the issue of barotrauma in recreational catch-and-release rockfish fisheries. A workshop to discuss how to improve survival of released fish that suffer barotrauma was convened in Portland, Oregon on May 8-9, 2012. The workshop focused on how to improve survival of released rockfish caught using recreational hook-and-line gear using descending devices that enable fish to be released at depth. This method allows recompression of expanded gases that cause barotrauma in fish species that cannot quickly acclimate to the change in depth that occurs when fish are caught and quickly brought to the surface. Studies have shown that some of these fish survive in both the short- and long-term when they are released at depth using descending devices.

Workshop participants recommended routine use of descending devices to mitigate the effects of barotrauma in released fish. Fish that suffer barotrauma during capture should ideally be released at the depth of capture as quickly as possible with minimum handling. Water temperature, time on deck, and how released fish are handled influence survival rates. Workshop participants recommended that management systems give survival credit in fisheries where descending devices are used. The challenge is how to educate anglers on how to use these




Rockfish barotrauma (Oregon State University)

devices properly, how to shape management systems to provide an appropriate survival credit when these devices are used, and how to determine appropriate survival rates for species that suffer barotrauma when these devices are used.

Recommendations from this workshop and from a national workshop are available at <http://tinyurl.com/74ut2br>, along with an annotated bibliography of key research and a presentation on venting and recompression of rockfish.

In their June discussions, the Council agreed that barotrauma associated with the hook and line catch-and-release recreational groundfish fishery was a priority consideration that needs to be accounted for in catch forecasting and accounting models, and that such accounting should include

the differential release mortality associated with depth of catch and depth of release. The Council also recommended that cowcod and yelloweye rockfish be the highest priority species in any proposals to change the management system to allow survival credit when these fish are released using descending devices. The Council also noted that several recompression devices are effective in releasing fish back at depth with low mortality. Per Council request, the Groundfish Management Team will develop draft proposed estimates for recompression-release survival rates, specifically depth-based mortality tables, for the November meeting, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee will review this information. The Council will take this issue up again in March 2013. 

June groundfish briefing book materials are at <http://tinyurl.com/June12BB>

Groundfish News

Groundfish Stock Assessments Planned for Several Rockfish, Sanddabs


At its June meeting, the Council planned new groundfish stock assessments to be conducted in 2013 and used in 2014 to set harvest specifications and management measures for 2015 and 2016 groundfish fisheries.

Full assessments are proposed for darkblotched rockfish, bocaccio rockfish, petrale sole, shortspine thornyhead,

longspine thornyhead, cowcod, aurora rockfish, and Pacific sanddabs. An update assessment is proposed for bocaccio. The Council is also considering a full assessment for rougheye rockfish or yellowtail rockfish, as well as an update assessment for sablefish. Data reports (an evaluation of recent catches to ensure that management is effectively maintaining harvest at or below

the limits prescribed in rebuilding plans) are proposed for canary rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and yelloweye rockfish.

The Terms of Reference for the stock assessment process specify how the next assessment process should occur and define the roles and responsibilities of various entities contributing to this process. Another Terms of Reference guides the develop-

ment of rebuilding analyses for overfished species, and a third guides how new assessment methods are reviewed and recommended. In June the Council adopted all three Terms of Reference for public review. Final adoption of the Terms of Reference and of the list of stocks to be assessed next year is scheduled for the September meeting. 

Three Groundfish Exempted Fishing Permits Approved

In June, the Council recommended three exempted fishing permits (EFPs) for 2013 and 2014. EFPs provide a way to test innovative fishing gears and strategies to find methods to fish safely and sustainably.


The first proposed EFP,

sponsored by Steve and Kathy Fosmark, seeks to test the effectiveness of trolled longline gear to selectively harvest chilipepper rockfish in waters off central California.

The second EFP, sponsored by the San Francisco Fisher-

men's Cooperative and Mr. Dan Platt, seeks to test the effectiveness of vertical hook-and-line gear to selectively harvest midwater species such as yellowtail rockfish off of central California.

The third, sponsored by

the Central Coast Sustainable Groundfish Association, seeks to survey the distribution and size of overfished species in the Rockfish Conservation Area off the central coast of California using hook-and-line and trap gear. 


Inseason Adjustments Made to Groundfish Fisheries; Sablefish, Other Limits Changed

The Council considered recent information on ongoing fisheries and recommended the following inseason adjustments:

Reduce the limited entry sablefish daily trip limits north of 36° N. latitude starting

September 1, 2012 for the rest of the year. The limits would change from "1,000 pounds per week, not to exceed 4,000 pounds per two months" to "800 pounds per week, not to exceed 1,600 lbs."

Increase the the limited entry shelf rockfish trip limit south of 34°27' N. latitude from "3,000 pounds per 2 months" to "4,000 pounds per 2 months" as soon as possible, through the end of the year.

Increase the limited entry fixed gear trip limits for bocaccio south of 34°27' N. latitude from "300 pounds per 2 months" to "500 pounds per 2 months" as soon as possible, through the end of the year. 

Carryover of Shorebased Groundfish Quota To Be Allowed from 2011 to 2012

In May, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced that surplus carryover quota pounds from 2011 would be credited to 2012 vessel accounts, except for Pacific whiting and sablefish (see <http://tinyurl.com/7d7gqho>).

The shorebased quota share program allows up to 10 percent of unused quota pounds

for quota share species in one year to be carried over into the following year - called a surplus carryover. This provision was intended to increase individual flexibility for harvesters, improve economic efficiency, and achieve optimum yield while preserving the conservation of stocks.

For the May NMFS decision, data from the 2011 vessel

accounts and projected impacts for all sectors in 2012 (including issuance of surplus carryover) were compared to the 2012 annual catch limit (ACL) and total allowable catch (TAC) for Pacific whiting. For most species, NMFS issued surplus carryover because it determined there was a very low risk of exceeding the ACL. However, NMFS deter-

mined the risk of exceeding the sablefish ACLs (north and south of 36° N. latitude) and TAC for Pacific whiting was high enough to warrant not issuing surplus carryover for these species at this time.

The Council expressed concern that individuals might

Continued on page 11

Groundfish News

Work Continues on Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions and Whiting Reallocation

The Council is continuing to work on a number of trailing issues for the trawl rationalization program.

Whiting Reallocation

The Council is reconsidering the time period used for the allocation of whiting quota shares, pursuant to a judicial order. The Council was originally scheduled to select a preliminary preferred alternative in June, but because of the large amount of information it had to consider, it chose not to do so. However, it will select a final preferred alternative in September, as scheduled. The Council is considering the time periods in Table 1 for the initial allocations.

These allocation periods are coupled with two requirements. First, permits must deliver a minimum threshold (500 mt of whiting delivered to motherhips) in order to qualify for a mothership catcher vessel endorsement; second, processors must meet a recent participation requirement (1 mt of whiting deliveries in each of two years during the recent participation period). A permit must qualify for a mothership catcher vessel endorsement in order to qualify for a mothership catch history allocation. The alternatives being analyzed would establish that the time period over which catcher vessels must meet the minimum threshold to qualify for the mothership catcher vessel endorsement would be the same as the allocation period used for the catch history allocation. For shoreside sector allocations, no catcher vessel endorsement is required and no minimum

threshold must be met. However, the allocation periods for the shoreside and mothership sectors would be linked: whichever period is used for the mothership sector would also be used for the shoreside sector. For the whiting processor shoreside quota share allocation alternatives, the Council determined that the recent participation requirements in Table 2 (below) would apply.

A number of other adjustments to the program are required to accommodate a possible whiting reallocation.

The reallocation of whiting would also reallocate the non-whiting shoreside quota shares that were allocated proportionally to whiting trips. To accommodate this, the moratorium on quota share trading, originally set to expire for all species at the end of this year, will likely be

continued as necessary throughout most of 2013 for **all shares of all species**. Additionally, any reallocation will be redistributed among existing quota share accounts based on the history of the permits used to generate those accounts. Allocations will not go to the current limited entry permit holder, because after quota shares were issued, limited entry permits were traded separate from the quota share accounts. Finally, to accommodate any reallocation resulting from the final decision on the whiting allocation period, the provisions to allow mothership catcher vessel endorsements and allocations to be separated from the permits, originally scheduled to go into place at the start of 2013, will be delayed; and some quota pounds may be held back from the 2013 start of year quota pound allocations.

Widow Rockfish Quota Pounds

The Council plans to consider reallocation of the widow rockfish quota shares now that widow rockfish is rebuilt. It will develop alternatives this November and finalize a recommendation in the spring of 2013. At its June 2012 meeting, the Council decided that the moratorium on widow rockfish quota share trading should be continued until December 31, 2014, or until the widow rockfish reallocation process is complete, whichever comes first. Thus, when trading starts for all other species, the trading moratorium may remain in place for widow rockfish quota shares.

Trawl Gear Restrictions

The Council discussed

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Table 1

Initial Allocation Group	Years Used for History Based Allocation for Whiting Trips				
	Alternatives				
	No Action	Alt 1: thru '03	Alt 2: thru '07	Alt 3: thru '10	Alt 4: thru '10
Catcher Vessel Permits: Shoreside History	1994-2003	1994-2003	1994-2007	1994-2010	2000-2010
Whiting Processors: Shoreside History	1998-2004	1998-2003	1998-2007	1998-2010	2000-2010
Catcher Vessel Permits: Mothership History	1994-2003	1994-2003	1994-2007	1994-2010	2000-2010

Table 2

Whiting processors	Adjusted Recent Participation Requirement for Each Alternative in Table 1.				
	Receive deliveries of at least 1 mt of whiting from whiting trips in any of two years from				
	No Action	Alt 1: thru '03	Alt 2: thru '07	Alt 3: thru '10	Alt 4: thru '10
Recent Participation Period	1998-2004	1998-2003	2001-2007	2004-2007	2004-2010

Groundfish News

2013-2014 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Adopted


In June, the Council adopted final harvest specifications and management measures, including allocations, for 2013-2014 groundfish fisheries. Harvest specifications can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/c3tse65>.

The adopted management adjustments are predicted to provide fishing opportunity while staying within annual catch limits. New recreational measures in California include

shelf rockfish retention in the Cowcod Conservation Area, removal of the bocaccio size limit, increasing the bocaccio bag limit from two to three fish, and increasing the greenling bag limit from two to ten fish. Notable changes to commercial management measures include increases to the lingcod quota pound accumulation limits (i.e., vessel usage limits) in the shorebased quota share program,

and establishing a 300 pound threshold for moving between the sablefish primary fishery to the daily trip limit fishery north of 36° N. latitude.

More information on the proposed harvest specifications and management measures for 2013-2014 is available in the draft environmental impact statement (<http://tinyurl.com/6s6k6he>). The Council decisions will be forwarded to

the National Marine Fisheries Service and are expected to be published as a proposed rule. Public comment on the proposed rule is invited once the rule is published, most likely in September. New harvest specifications and management measures will be considered final when they are adopted by the Secretary of Commerce and published in the *Federal Register* later this year. 

Coming Up at the September 2012 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Boise, Idaho on September 13-18 2012. The Briefing Book will be available on the Council website in late August (www.pcouncil.org).

Groundfish

- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report
- Trawl rationalization trailing actions for cost recovery and process issues
- Adopt final stock assessment plan including terms of reference for groundfish & coastal pelagic species, and direction for data-moderate species
- Establish process for implementing seabird protection regulations
- Inseason adjustments
- Adopt report & prioritize

analysis elements for Phase 1 Essential Fish Habitat Review

- Reconsider initial catch share allocations in the mothership and shoreside whiting fisheries

Salmon

- California hatchery review report
- Salmon methodology review: adopt final priorities
- Amendment 17—Modify annual season start date & minor changes
- Amendment 18—Update

salmon essential fish habitat: adopt alternatives for public review

- Lower Columbia Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan: Provide comments

Pacific Halibut

- Review workgroup report & recommendations for Pacific halibut management south of Humbug Mtn.
- Adopt proposed changes to 2013 halibut regulations and the Catch Sharing Plan for public review
- Pacific halibut bycatch esti-

mate for 2013 groundfish fisheries

Highly Migratory Species

- NMFS Report (including Northern Committee meeting)

Other

- Legislative matters
- Review NMFS Fisheries Science Center Strategic Research Plan & approve Council five-year research plan for public review
- Tri-State Fishery Enforcement Report
- Habitat issues



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Highly Migratory Species News

Highly Migratory Species Reference Points and Management Measures for 2013-2014 Fisheries Set

Neither the Council's highly migratory species advisory bodies nor the public proposed any regulatory changes for West Coast highly migratory species fisheries as part of this management cycle.

In addition, the Council decided not to take a fresh look at biological reference points for highly migratory stocks, because it seems likely that the Pacific regional fishery management organizations (the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission) will undertake this task in the near future. As a result, the Council scratched these topics from further consideration at the September and November meetings.

Unlike other Council-managed species, the Council is not required to set annual catch limits for highly migratory species because they are mainly managed by regional fishery management organizations. However, the Council must identify maximum sustainable yield, optimum yield, and status determination criteria, which are used to determine if overfishing is occurring or a stock is overfished. The Council has the option of revisiting these figures every two years as part of the harvest specifications process. The Council is then likely to adopt any reference points the regional organizations establish. 

Council Looks at International Management Activities and Recommendations

In June, the Council considered two significant issues related to international highly migratory species management, both involving North Pacific albacore tuna.

International Management Framework for North Pacific Albacore

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee has included in its workplan for the coming years, 2012-2015, the development of a precautionary framework for the management of North Pacific albacore. This will be discussed at the next Northern Committee meeting scheduled for September in Nagasaki, Japan.

A report from last year's Northern Committee meeting describes the management framework as "including agreed upon biological limit and target reference points and decision rules should those reference points be exceeded."

In March the Council tasked its highly migratory species advisory bodies to develop information for the June

meeting that would help the Council provide input on the development of a management framework for North Pacific albacore. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team

submitted a report (<http://tinyurl.com/76nubso>) that provides

information on biological reference points and potential management measures. Based on reports from its advisory bodies, the Council recommended that the U.S. support further development of the international management framework and specifically that a management strategy evaluation be conducted to support its development. This is a simulation technique based on modelling each part of the adaptive management cycle. If the Northern Committee commissions an evaluation, the Council would be prepared to recommend management objectives on which to base it.

U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty

The U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty governs reciprocal access

to each country's exclusive economic zone by albacore vessels from the other country. In December 2011, bilateral negotiations did not reach agreement on a replacement

for the regime that expired with the cessation of fishing in 2011. This March, the Council recommended suspending reciprocal access in 2012 to "allow stakeholders and managers to better assess the information and data needed to address the long-term reciprocal privileges under the treaty."

Delegations from the U.S. and Canada met again in May 2012, in Portland, to discuss development of a replacement regime. A summary of these discussions is available at <http://tinyurl.com/7h29snb>. Although Canada put forward proposals intended to address concerns voiced by U.S. albacore fishermen about increases in Canadian vessels' capacity and their sometimes aggressive behavior on the fishing grounds, the U.S. decided these

were an insufficient basis for a 2012 agreement.

Since the Council is viewed as a forum that brings together various stakeholders and government entities involved in West Coast fisheries, Council recommendations are an important factor in developing U.S. positions on the treaty issue. Recognizing this, in June, representatives from the British Columbia government and Canadian albacore fishing associations testified before the Council, urging a recommendation on an agreement for 2012. Nonetheless, the Council reaffirmed their previous recommendation on suspension while urging the U.S. to aggressively pursue negotiations so that an acceptable agreement can be reached for 2013 and subsequent years. Any such agreement would need to include provisions addressing U.S. harvesters' concerns, which revolve around ensuring that the benefits stemming from the treaty are equitable for those involved in the fishery from both countries. 



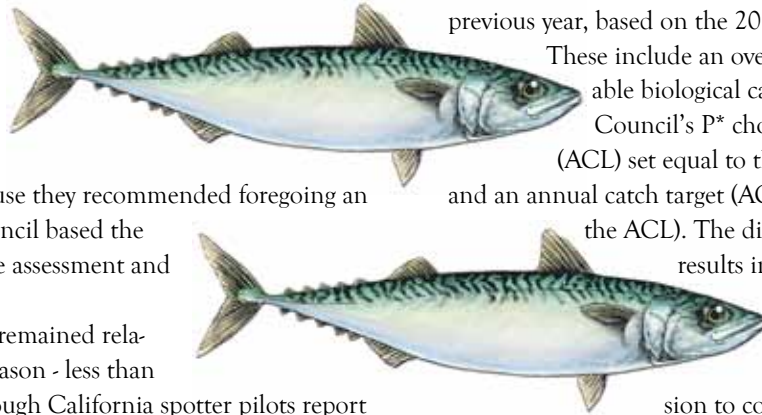
Coastal Pelagic Species News

Council Adopts Coastal Pelagic Species Management Measures for 2012-2013

The Council adopted management measures for the 2012-2013 Pacific mackerel fishing season, which runs from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Because they recommended foregoing an assessment for 2012, the Council based the management measures on the assessment and Council action from 2011.

Pacific mackerel harvest remained relatively low in the 2011-2012 season - less than 2,000 metric tons (mt). Although California spotter pilots report sighting Pacific mackerel, they remained largely offshore and to the south, too far away to make it economically viable to target the fish.

The Council adopted the same management measures as the



previous year, based on the 2011 biomass estimate of 211,126 mt. These include an overfishing limit of 44,336 mt, an acceptable biological catch of 42,375 mt (resulting from the Council's P* choice of 0.45), an annual catch limit (ACL) set equal to the harvest guideline of 40,514 mt, and an annual catch target (ACT) of 30,386 mt (which is 75% of the ACL). The difference between the ACL and ACT results in a corresponding incidental set-aside of 10,128 mt.

As with the previous year, the Council adopted a "check in" provision to consider the possibility of re-allocating the incidental set-aside to the directed fishery. Should landings approach the ACT, the Council will consider the issue at its April 2013 meeting.

Legislative Committee Looks at Fisheries Investment and Regulatory Relief Act

The Council's Legislative Committee met in June to review legislative matters of interest to the Council (<http://tinyurl.com/6u7ycca>). The Committee spent most of its time discussing the Fisheries Investment and Regulatory Relief Act of 2012, S. 2184, and a companion bill in the U.S. House, H.R. 4208 (<http://tinyurl.com/6vbkep3>).

The Fisheries Investment and Regulatory Relief Act of 2012 (S. 2184)

This Act would amend the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act to create a fund dedicated to fishery management, scientific research, monitoring, and data collection programs. The bill was first introduced March 12, 2012, by Senator John Kerry as a way to redirect funds collected from fishery import duties under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act to their intended purpose, the support of sustainable fishery management. Under this bill each regional fishery management council would be required to establish a fishery investment committee to develop a regional fishery investment plan identifying research, conservation, management needs, and actions to rebuild and maintain healthy fish populations and sustainable fisheries; and make recommendations to the Council on grant applications and projects to implement the respective plans.

The grants and projects under the Act would emphasize public-private partnerships and would focus funds on rebuilding and maintaining healthy fish populations and promoting sustainable fisheries. Seventy percent of the funds would be directed to the regional fishery management councils, 20 percent to the Secretary of Commerce for projects in support of fisheries management, and 10 percent would

go to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

As of July 11th, there has been no formal request for Council input on S. 2184. The Committee is generally supportive of the comments regarding S. 2184 submitted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to Senator Murkowski. In particular, the Council is concerned about the potential for "net-loss" or "zero-sum-game" scenarios under which the reallocation of Saltonstall-Kennedy funds from NMFS to Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) could be offset or negated by NMFS program reductions. The Council notes that the mechanism for distributing some of the funds proportionally between RFMCs based on the "combined economic impact of commercial landings and recreational fisheries" is undefined, making it impossible to assess the potential distribution in terms of magnitude, fairness, and exact impact on West Coast marine fishery management. The intent of S. 2184 is to improve funding of sustainable fishery management, and the Council strongly recommends that at a minimum, should S. 2184 become law, that a provision be added to clearly require that the total funding provided to RFMCs for all operational activities be held harmless from any reallocation consequences to any parts of the NMFS budget. Further, if there is an opportunity for S. 2184 to provide for stable, secure funding for all RFMC activities, as opposed to just providing guidance for fishery management support projects, the Council would recommend such a provision.

The Council also discussed H.R. 1837, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act, on which it provide comments to Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. H.R. 1837 has passed the House and is awaiting Senate action.

Habitat: Comparative Survival Study Looks at Salmon Passage In Columbia

In June, the Council's Habitat Committee was briefed on the Comparative Survival Study, a two-decade study that monitors the life cycles of salmon and steelhead on the Columbia River. The study looks at salmon survival at various life stages, and the effects of marine and riverine conditions on fish passage and survival; and develops smolt-to-adult return rates, juvenile survival rates, and travel times for passage throughout the Columbia River hydro-power system. Since 2006, the Comparative Survival Study has incorporated information from the court-ordered spill program affecting the Federal dams of the Columbia River.

A few key findings from this review are as follows:

- There are ever stronger indications that spill is positively related to both ocean and

in-river salmon survival. The multi-year Comparative Survival Study builds on existing lines of evidence demonstrating the benefits of spill as a potential tool for recovery, and shows that spill benefits salmon regardless of ocean conditions.

- In-river environmental variables such as flow and spill, along with ocean variables, explained most of the variation in smolt-to-adult return rates and marine survival rates.

- Increased spill has resulted in faster juvenile fish travel time, higher survival rates between dams, higher ocean survival, and higher smolt-to-adult return rates. For Chinook salmon in particular, increased spill was by far the primary driver that increased in-river survival.


- Passage of salmon through dam powerhouses was

related to lower ocean survival and lower smolt-to-adult return rates, which suggests that significant delayed mortality is occurring with powerhouse passage routes.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council program established a goal of a 2-6% smolt-to-adult return rate to ensure recovery of Snake River spring/summer Chinook and steelhead. However, this goal is not being met under the current spill schedule. To achieve an average 4% smolt-to-adult return rate, the study suggests that 85% juvenile survival rates through the hydro system are necessary, given current ocean survival rates. Spill levels of 55-60% at all projects are projected to meet these goals. The current Court order requires about 40% spill, and this has been shown to increase survival, but more is

needed to achieve recovery goals.

Given that current measures are not meeting the smolt-to-adult return rates necessary for recovery, the next logical step is to determine whether spilling at these higher levels within current gas cap constraints meets the goal. If not, dam breaching remains a final option.

The Habitat Committee believes that an experiment to test the effect of increased spill levels on smolt-to-adult return rates is promising, especially as an effective alternative to dam breaching. Achieving the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's targeted smolt-to-adult return rate goal of 2-6% (average 4%) is projected to more than double adult returns of Snake River salmon to the mouth of the Columbia River, and would benefit other Columbia Basin stocks. 

Tsunami debris, continued from page 1


in West Coast states has already been tested, and no radioactive contamination was found. At least one item known to be from the Fukushima region, a small fishing boat found in the Pacific Ocean, also tested normal. The Government of Japan has translated its hazardous marine

debris handbook into English so that beachgoers can see what hazardous materials from Japan look like, in the event it washes up on U.S. shores; see <http://tinyurl.com/95s8sah>.

Washington and Oregon states now have reporting lines for marine debris. In Washing-

ton, people who call 1-855-WA-COAST (1-855-922-6278) can report oil, hazardous items, floating debris items that might pose a boating or navigation hazard, or get instructions for reporting debris that is not large or hazardous. To report hazardous debris or a hazard to

navigation in Oregon, call 211 (or 1-800-SAFENET).

In addition, dozens of marine debris disposal stations are set up on the Oregon coast. Beach cleaners can bring bags of debris to the stations, as well as larger items, such as appliances. (Source: NOAA) 

Trawl rationalization trailing actions, continued from page 4


whether certain gear and area restrictions in the trawl fishery can be lifted now that the trawl rationalization program provides for individual accountability for catch. A gear workshop will be convened August 29-30 in Portland to evaluate regulations that may no longer be needed.

Program Improvements and Enhancement Rule

A scoping session for the next program improvements and enhancement rule, originally scheduled for September, was postponed until November. Further action on the whiting season opening date, a lender

safe harbor from quota share control limits, and other lender issues was also deferred until November. At that time, the Council will also begin scoping issues related to the possible use of video and electronic monitoring in the rationalized trawl fishery.

Surplus Quota Pound Carryover

The Council will be working with NMFS to find ways to ensure that surplus quota pound carryover provisions can be carried out each year. See story, page 3, for more information. 

Enforcement Corner

A Roundup of Enforcement Stories from Around the West Coast

Oregon

Oregon State troopers have had a busy summer protecting canary and yelloweye rockfish. Several charges have been filed regarding the illegal take of these overfished species. Two recent investigations involved the unlawful harvest of 34 canary and four yelloweye by recreational anglers. The unlawful retention of canary and yelloweye rockfish has also been discovered on charter and commercial fishing vessels. Protecting these fish is a high priority for the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division.

California

Much of California's enforcement activities have been revolving around salmon recently. With predictions of a banner year and some great initial catches, a lot of folks have been out fishing. With increased numbers of people pursuing salmon, there is also an increase in the number of violations. Reports from the field include the normal retention of prohibited species (Coho salmon) on both sport and commercial vessels, unreported landings of salmon, and minor gear violations. However, one significant case involved the unlawful retention of salmon aboard a research vessel. The Enforcement Consultant Committee (EC) spends a lot of time scrutinizing Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) applications. While some may question our interest in placing additional safeguards on vessels engaged in research, this recent case is a perfect example of why we are so diligent in trying to develop safeguards even for "research" vessels.

Washington

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Police are also focused on salmon, particularly areas where species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) are present and closures meant to protect them are in effect. Two examples include:

A Repeat Offender: Three Fish and Wildlife Officers responded to a report of a subject who had unlawfully retained a large fish from a catch-and-release area near the town of Methow. The Methow River is home to three federally protected species including steelhead, spring Chinook, and bull trout, all of which were present in the system at the time of the incident. Officers Day and McCormick arrived on scene first, and after interviewing the witness, contacted the home where the suspect was observed driving to in his Arctic Cat utility vehicle, along with his 80 year-old father. Upon contact, the suspect was identified as someone who possesses a rather colorful history with WDFW enforcement, including several hunting violations. The experienced poacher repeatedly denied having caught any fish from the Methow River, and refused any searches of his vacation home. Officer Day immediately began writing a search warrant affidavit for the residence, while Officer McCormick secured the exterior of the house. Officers Christensen and Peters

arrived shortly afterwards to assist. Officer Christensen noticed an Okanogan County road sign hanging on the garage. Fortunately, Officer Christensen, who as a former Okanogan County Sheriff's deputy, had helped establish a county-wide marking system for all county signs - an embedded emblem that helps to identify stolen property. The markings found on the sign allowed the officers to add an additional charge of theft to the warrant. While waiting for a judge to review and sign the warrant, the suspect's 80 year old father began to feel faint and requested emergency aid. An ambulance was dispatched from Pateros and the subject taken to Brewster Hospital for treatment. Upon execution of the search warrant, fishing gear and blood was located corresponding to the witness' statement; however the missing fish was nowhere to be found. A functioning garbage disposal, two toilets, and numerous other means of making evidence disappear probably resulted in the absence of the actual fish before the residence could be secured. However, blood samples were recovered and will be sent to the lab for genetics testing. For now, charges for possession of a closed season fish, failing to submit catch for inspection, and possession of stolen property will be filed with the prosecutor's office in the coming weeks. Possession of an ESA-listed fish may be added to the menu.

Netter Gets Away: A gillnet was set in the Columbia River above Bonneville Dam in broad daylight and during the closed season. WDFW officers conducted surveillance into the wee hours the next day. The officers passed on the stakeout responsibility to an officer from another jurisdiction at 2:00 A.M., who essentially blew the many hour investment by parking a marked truck in the path of any approaching suspects. As expected, the suspects arrived, saw the truck, and fled. The case remains unresolved.

ESA Steelhead: The Nooksack River is home to ESA-listed steelhead and has been a focus of closed season patrol efforts for officers stationed in that area. Officers Valentine and Jones know that the allure of catching one of the few returning fish draws a few poachers. Such was the case when they surprised a fisherman with three rods trying to catch closed season fish. The fisher took off over the bank when he observed the officers, but the fleet of foot Officer Jones ran him down and took him into custody. The suspect is fighting to stay clean of his heroin addiction, but was cited for the fisheries violation.

On the halibut and groundfish front, many hours have been invested in enforcing regulations pertaining to both commercial and recreational fisheries, with some serious violations being discovered. Here's a snapshot:

Cheating Offshore: Patrolling offshore commercial fisheries usually means a long day and a bumpy ride, especially when officers

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Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standard 1 Guidelines May be Revised

On May 3, 2012, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking regarding potential revisions to National Standard 1 Guidelines. National Standard 1, one of ten national standards in Section 301 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), states: "Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry."


The National Standard Guidelines were last updated in 2009 following the most recent reauthorization of the MSA. Along with the other Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Pacific Fishery Management Council has amended its fishery management plans to meet the requirements of the updated National Standard 1 Guidelines to prevent overfishing. In the course of creating and implementing the amendments, the Regional Councils and NMFS have identified several issues which may need further consideration:

- Consider the criteria and use of identifying ecosystem component species within a fishery management plan that are not required to have biological reference points or annual catch limits (ACLs).
- Consider alternative definitions of overfishing that would take into account a longer, multi-year view.
- Clarify the relationship and importance of economic, social,

and ecological factors in the determination of ACLs and their relationship to optimum yield (OY).

- Provide further guidance on establishing OY in mixed stock fisheries where achieving the OY for some abundant stocks may be precluded.
- Address overly precautionary ACLs resulting from reductions due to both scientific and management uncertainty.
- Determine how to apply management criteria to data-poor stocks.
- Review acceptable biological catch control rules in order to improve their application, and determine how to address carryover (unharvested allocations) from one year to the next within the rule.

The Council will develop a letter responding to the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking by the September 15 deadline, emphasizing the importance of a longer view in defining overfishing, clarifying the relationship and importance of social, economic, and ecological factors in determining annual catch limits and optimum yield; and dealing with carryover of unharvested allocations.

After receiving stakeholder and public input, NMFS will likely issue a preliminary proposed rule with draft revisions and call for comments, followed sometime later by a final rule implementing any changes to the National Standard One guidelines. 

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find violations. It was that kind of day when Student Officer Smith was inducted into the world of the halibut longline fishery. Smith, his training Officer Hopkins and Officer Anderson were 27 miles offshore of Long Beach when they boarded a boat skippered by a well known offender. Right away, the officers discovered numerous violations. The vessel had just finishing pulling the last of its gear, and was running undersized halibut through a crucifix, effectively ripping their jaws open. While an efficient way of removing fish from the hooks, it doesn't do much for long term survivability. But then the skipper didn't have any intention of releasing them anyway. More illegal sized fish were found stashed on the deck. SO Smith and Officer Anderson stayed on the vessel for the four-hour escorted

trip back to port while our patrol boat followed. Never idle, the two officers continued to search through the hundreds of fish and found an additional 40 undersized and illegally possessed halibut. Once back in port the officers climbed into the hold and dug through the ice and slime looking for more. And they found them - bringing the total to 60 illegal halibut. A number of serious charges will be levied. NOAA is also interested in the case.

Discarded Fish: On June 4th, 2012, during a routine patrol, Coast Guard Cutter *Fir* detected a large number of discarded fish, approximately 500 yds by 500 yds in area, floating on the ocean

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September Public Comment and Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held September 13-18, 2012, at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on August 23** 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 3** will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the September meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

Appointments Made to Council Advisory Bodies and Committees

Council members reappointed **Dan Wolford** and **Dorothy Lowman** to Council Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for the 2012-2013 term.

The following advisory body vacancies were filled:

- **Michael Hendrick** in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Region position on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team.

- **Correigh Greene** in the NMFS Fisheries Science Center po-

sition on the Habitat Committee.


- LCDR **Brad Soule** in the U.S. Coast Guard District 11 position on the Enforcement Consultants.

The following members were appointed to the ad hoc South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Policy Committee: **Michele Culver** (Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), **Steve Williams** (Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), **Marci Yaremko** (California Dept. of Fish and Game), **Sarah Williams**

(NMFS), and **Gregg Williams** (International Pacific Halibut Commission, acceptance pending).


In response to a request by the Council Coordination Committee, the Council appointed **Dorothy Lowman** as the Pacific Council representative on the Council Coordinating Committee Video and Electronic Monitoring Subcommittee. Per a request by co-chairs of the National Ocean Council, the Council appointed **Michele Culver** as the representative on

the Regional Planning Body for the West Coast Region and **Gway Kirchner** as her alternate.

Mike Okoniewski will be chair and **Diane Pleshner-Steele** will be vice-chair of the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel. **Robert Emmett** will be chair and **Briana Brady** will be vice-chair of the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team. **Yvonne de Reynier** will be chair and **John Field** will be vice-chair of the Ecosystem Plan Development Team. 


Carryover, continued from page 3

attempt to attain 100 percent or greater of their allocation if there is uncertainty surrounding the issuance of surplus carryover pounds in the future. This could increase the risk of fishing into deficit, possibly leading to economic losses and ACL overages. The Council

recognized the need for long-term solutions to this problem, which may include an amendment to the fishery management plan and potential revisions to the National Standard 1 guidelines (see article on page 10). 

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surface northwest of the Columbia River. A Coast Guard Sector Columbia River helicopter from Astoria responded in an effort to document the fish. However, much of the fish had sunk or had been eaten by birds before the helicopter arrived. Among the samples

identified were canary rockfish and lingcod. Two trawlers fishing in the vicinity were boarded and the NOAA observers and crews were interviewed. The recovered fish were turned over to NOAA Fisheries Enforcement for investigation. 

Recipe: Grilled Fish Tacos

Ingredients:

- 2 cups chopped white onion, divided
- 3/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro, divided
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 5 tablespoons fresh lime juice, divided
- 3 tablespoons fresh orange juice
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano (preferably Mexican)
- 1 pound of your favorite local firm white fish
- Coarse kosher salt
- 1 cup mayonnaise or Greek-style (thick) yogurt
- 1 tablespoon milk
- Corn tortillas
- 2 avocados, peeled, pitted, sliced
- 1/2 small head of cabbage, cored, thinly sliced
- Fresh green salsa
- Lime wedges

Stir 1 cup onion, 1/4 cup cilantro, oil, 3 tablespoons lime juice, orange juice, garlic, and oregano in medium bowl. Sprinkle fish with coarse salt and pepper. Spread half of onion mixture over bottom of 11x7x2-inch glass baking dish. Arrange fish atop onion mixture. Spoon remaining onion mixture over fish. Cover and chill 30 minutes. Turn fish; cover and chill 30 minutes longer. Whisk mayonnaise (or yogurt), milk, and remaining 2 tablespoons lime juice in small bowl.

Brush grill grate with oil; prepare barbecue (medium-high heat). Grill fish with some marinade still clinging until just opaque in center, 3 to 5 minutes per side. Grill tortillas until slightly charred, about 10 seconds per side.

Coarsely chop fish; place on platter. Serve with lime mayonnaise, tortillas, remaining 1 cup chopped onion, remaining 1/2 cup cilantro, avocados, cabbage, green salsa, and lime wedges.

Adapted from a recipe at Epicurious.com (see original recipe at <http://tinyurl.com/22vbh8b>)

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.

South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Workgroup Conference Call

Purpose: To finalize a report on the biological, assessment, monitoring, and allocation history of Pacific halibut in the area south of Humbug Mt.

Date: August 15, 2012

Location: Pacific Fishery Management Council office, Portland, OR (listening station)

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

Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee Conference Call

Purpose: To finalize the Phase I report on the review of information relevant to essential fish habitat for groundfish.

Date: August 17, 2012

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

Trawl Catch Share Gear Workshop

Purpose: To review gear restrictions (including area of use) that apply under the trawl rationalization program and discuss the need for such restrictions in the context of that program.

Date: August 29-30, 2012

Location: Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, Oregon.

Contact: LB Boydstun (916-844-4358)

Ad Hoc Amendment 24 Workgroup Conference Call

Purpose: To discuss a draft report (for the November Council meeting) on how to modify the groundfish management process.

Date: August 31, 2012

Location: Pacific Fishery Management Council office, Portland, OR (listening station)

Contact: Kit Dahl (kit.dahl@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dates: September 13-18, 2012

Location: Riverside Hotel, Boise

Contact: Carolyn Porter (carolyn.porter@noaa.gov)



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