

Amendment 21: At-sea Sector Allocations for Darkblotched Rockfish and Pacific Ocean Perch



Pacific Fishery Management Council

June 2016

Groundfish Allocation Revisions

- Revisions Require an FMP Amendment
- Requires a Three-Meeting Process
- Proposed Process and Schedule
 - April – Identify Proposed Action
 - June – Approve Range of Alternatives and Provide Guidance on Analysis
 - September – Select Final Preferred Alternative
- Target Implementation Date: May 15, 2017

Council Action (April)

- Specify the following amounts (main priority)
- As annual set-asides (preferred, if possible) or allocations
- For each of the at-sea sectors
- For 2017 and 2018

Sector	Darkblotched	POP
Catcher Processor	25	20
Mothership	20	15

- Strongly urge NMFS explore every possible mechanism to make these adjustments

Council Action (April)

- Specify the following amounts (main priority)

The proposed higher amounts have greater importance and are of urgent need than the type of specification

- As annual set-asides (preferred, if possible) or allocations

Allocations are “hard caps” that trigger an automatic closure of the sector; set-asides are “soft caps,” and NMFS may close a sector upon attainment

- For each of the at-sea sectors

Set-asides are currently for the at-sea sectors combined

- For 2017 and 2018

These amounts are “interim,” become the default for the next cycle, and can be changed through biennial process

Purpose of Proposed Action

- Substantially reduce risk to CP and MS of not attaining their whiting allocations due to incidental catch of darkblotched or POP
- Consider timeliness and administrative feasibility in range of alternatives
- Provide an interim solution to address immediate needs

Overall Intent

Provide a revised fair and equitable allocation among the trawl sectors while not affecting the rebuilding plans for both stocks

Need for Action

- Post-IFQ: Both CP and MS have exceeded their darkblotched allocations
 - CP (2011): MS had attained whiting and closed; NMFS transferred dkbl from MS to CP
 - MS (2014): Council emergency meeting in Oct; transferred dkbl from CP to MS; transferred residual dkbl back to CP through Nov inseason

MSA Section 303(a)(14)

Council consider economic impact of rebuilding harvest restrictions Recovery benefits and allocate them fairly and equitably among sectors

- Darkblotched and POP are almost all trawl

Background: Amendment 21

- Focused on: Trawl/Non-trawl and Within Trawl
- Darkblotched and POP allocations based on catch from 1995-2007 (non-overfished and overfished periods)
- General Policy: Accommodate sector needs, provide for long-term planning, and reduce sector risk
- Within Trawl: Accommodate whiting sectors, then allocate remainder to non-whiting trawl

Allocations set as a percentage of the trawl allocation or a minimum tonnage, whichever is greater:

- *Darkblotched: 9% or 25 mt*
- *POP: 17% or 30 mt*

Range of Alternatives

- No Action – At-sea sector allocations using Am 21 rules
- Alternative 1 (PPA) – Revised at-sea sector allocations

Species - Year	No Action			Alternative 1		
	CP	MS	IFQ	CP	MS	IFQ
DKBL - 2017 & 2018	13.5	9.5	416.7	25	20	394.6
POP - 2017	10.2	7.2	121.9	20	15	104.3
POP - 2018	10.2	7.2	126.6	20	15	109

- Option A – Sector amounts as allocations (hard caps)
- Option B (PPA) – Sector-specific set-asides (soft caps)

Council can mix and match alternatives and options

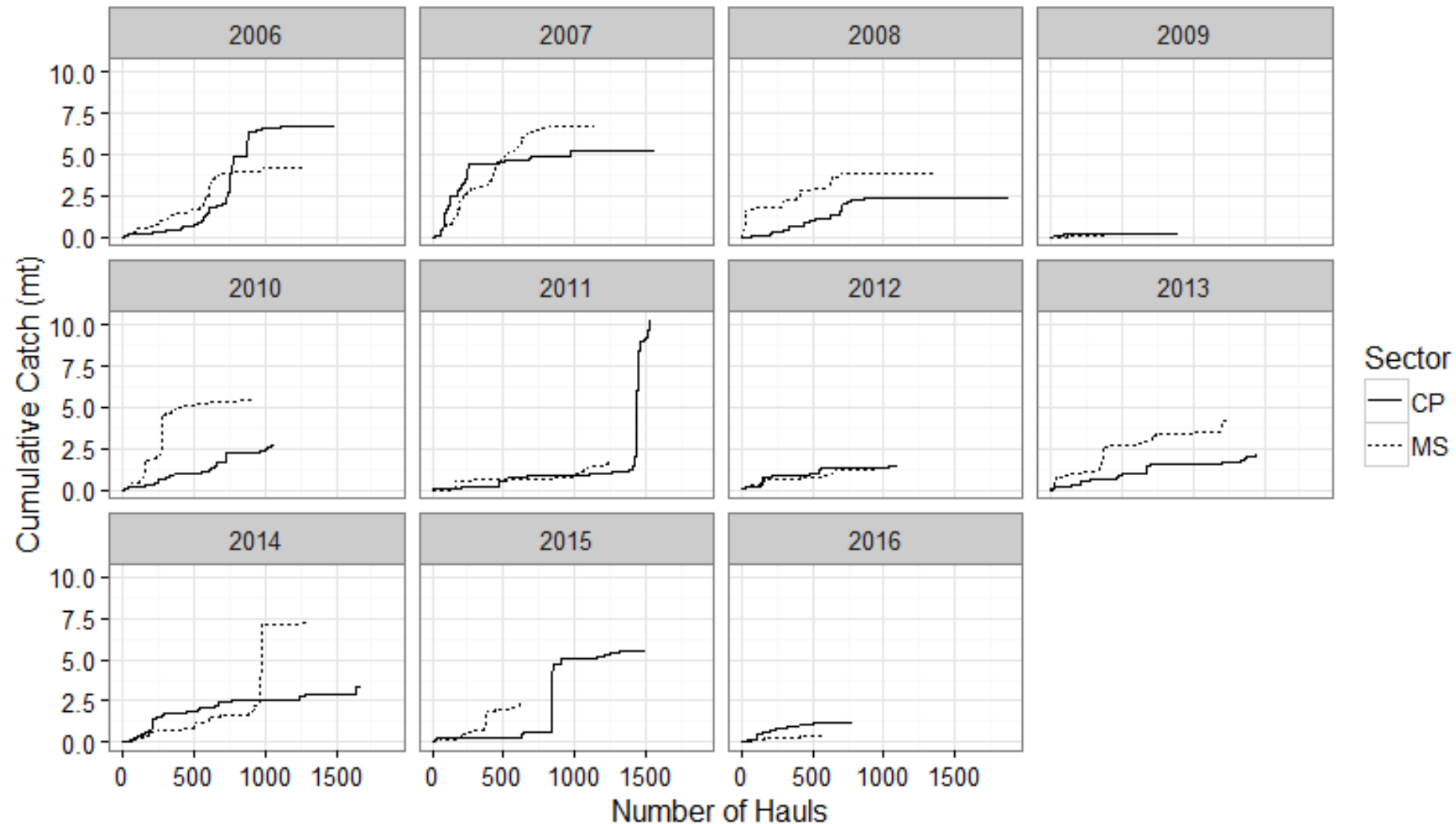
Proposed Approach to Analysis

- National Standard 4 – Core Requirements for Allocations
 - Fair and equitable
- NS4 Guidelines – Evaluating fairness and equity
 - Allocations justified in term of FMP objectives
 - Any hardships on groups should be outweighed by the total benefits received by other groups

Proposed Approach

Analyze the: 1) Risk of early closures in each sector and resulting loss of marketable harvest, and 2) Impacts that the respective rebuilding allocations have on the flexibility and profitability of individual fishing operations

Analysis: At-Sea Sector Risk (Dkbl)



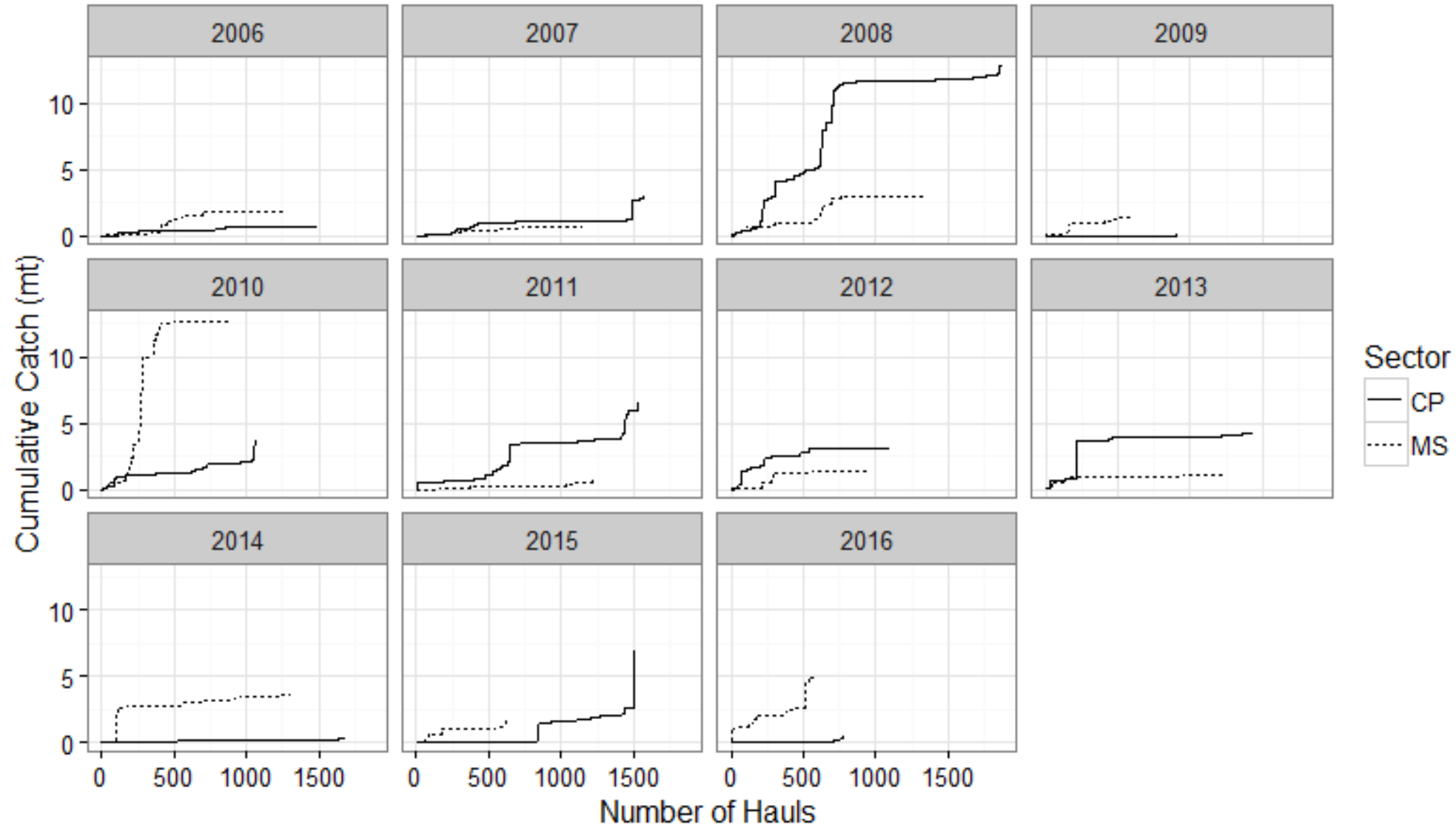
Findings: At-Sea Sector Risk (Dkbl)

- Highly Unpredictable: Catch patterns vary year to year
- Inability to Respond Quickly: Catch accumulates rapidly
- Under rebuilding, encounter rates may be even higher

Bootstrap Results

- No Action: CP would not attain whiting 50% of the time; MS would attain whiting 75% of the time
- Alt. 1: CP and MS attain whiting 75% of the time
- Risk of reaching dkbl limit before whiting is reduced from about 1 in 5 to about 1 in 20

Analysis: At-Sea Sector Risk (POP)



Findings: Sector Risk (POP)

- Highly Unpredictable: Catch patterns vary year to year
- Inability to Respond Quickly: Catch accumulates rapidly
- Under rebuilding, encounter rates may be even higher

Bootstrap Results

- No Action: CP would not attain whiting 50% of the time; MS would attain whiting 75% of the time
- Alt. 1: CP and MS attain whiting 75% of the time
- Risk of reaching POP limit before whiting is reduced from about 1 in 4 to 1 in 20 for CP; remains similar for MS

Findings: Sector Risk (IFQ)

Darkblotched

- Post-IFQ: IFQ attains 39% of allocation on average
- IFQ allocation remains ~100 mt higher than the pre-IFQ high sector catch ~295 mt in 2010

POP

- Post-IFQ: IFQ attains 42% of allocation on average
- IFQ whiting has similar risk under No Action and Alt. 1—catch is unpredictable and could exceed allocation
- Based on logbooks, higher encounters of POP typically occur off northern WA

Findings: At-Sea Individual Impacts

- Darkblotched: MS vessels had range of 5-18% of days exceeding 100% of base rate; 2-13% exceeding 200%
- POP: MS vessels ranged from 3-15% of days exceeding 100% of base rate; 1-10% exceeding 200%
- While cannot quantify, under Alt. 1, vessels will experience some relief in bycatch avoidance costs as bycatch base rates will be higher

For September:

- Impacts to CP individual vessels
- Observer data on distance and time between hauls
- Costs associated with vessels moving to avoid bycatch

Findings: IFQ Individual Impacts

Darkblotched

- 5.3% reduction in QPs from No Action to Alt. 1
- 45 QS accounts have zero QS and would not be affected
- 87 QS accounts would be reduced by 180 pounds or less

POP

- There is a 14-14.5% reduction in QPs under Alt. 1
- 55 QS accounts have zero QS and would not be affected
- 87 QS accounts would be reduced by 100 pounds or less

On average, for both stocks, vessels used less than half a pound for every pound transferred into account

Allocations v. Set Asides

- Allocations are “hard caps”
 - If the allocation is reached, sector must stop fishing
- Within trawl allocations can be transferred inseason between at-sea sectors only
- Unused at-sea allocation can be transferred to IFQ sector
- Set asides are “soft caps”
 - NMFS may close a sector or impose measures
- Sector-specific set asides add accountability
- Set asides are not available inseason unless there is a risk of exceeding ACL, unforeseen impacts, or a conservation concern

Questions for the Council

- **Proposed Purpose and Need**

- Any suggested changes?

- **Range of Alternatives**

- Is the range sufficient for analysis?
- Confirm Preliminary Preferred Alternative

- **Analysis for September**

- Proposed Approach – suggested changes?