

Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP Progress Report: *Monitoring and Minimizing Salmon Bycatch When Targeting Rockfish in the Shorebased IFQ Fishery*

Lori Steele, West Coast Seafood Processors Association

Shems Jud, Environmental Defense Fund

Brad Pettinger, OR Trawl Commission

Mike Okoniewski, Pacific Seafood

Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP Progress Report

- EFP permits issued February 24, 2017
- 32 vessels enrolled in 2017 EFP (no new vessels enrolled after April 2017 Council meeting)
- 8 vessels have taken 35 EFP trips
- EFP vessels fishing out of Astoria and Newport OR
- Majority of activity in EFP prior to May 15

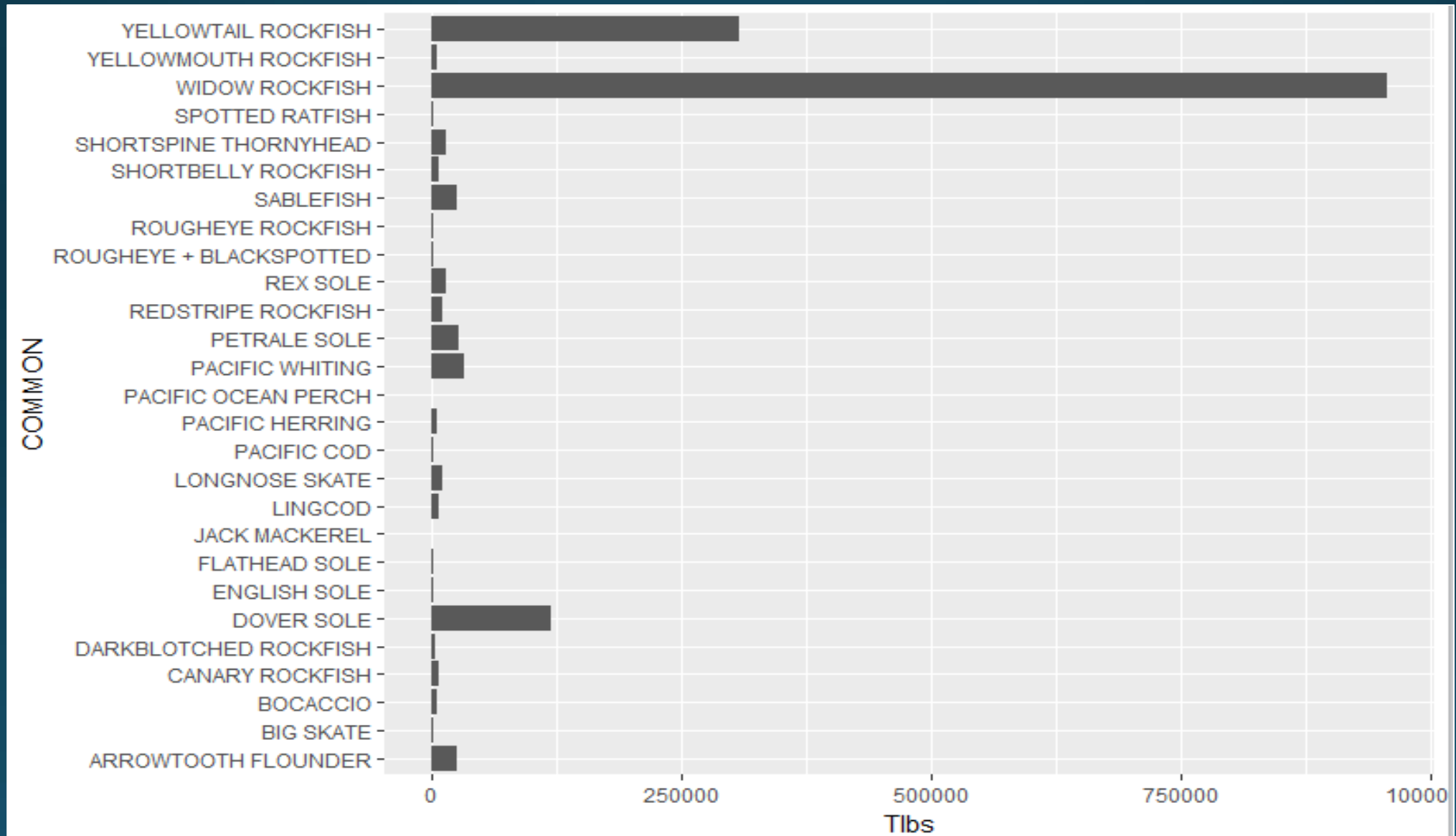
2017 Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP

No Vessels	No. Trips	No. Chinook	No. Coho	No. Green Sturgeon	No. Eulachon	Groundfish (Total pounds)
8	35	4	0	0	0	1,650,702

Data reflect EFP trips taken through June 5, 2017.

Groundfish landings are primarily widow rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and canary rockfish.

2017 Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP



2017 Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP

2017 EFP Value:

- ~\$730,000 ex-vessel (38% Astoria; 62% Newport)
- ~\$1.6 million in income generated*
- ~20 jobs generated*

*Projections using IO-PAC “multiplier tables” assigned to ex-vessel revenue

a) dependent on species/species-groupings, gear, area)

b) considers total income generated by fish sales (e.g., value to processors)

source: [Leonard and Watson \(2011\)](#)

2018 Year-Round Midwater Rockfish EFP:
*Monitoring and Minimizing Salmon Bycatch
When Targeting Rockfish in the Shorebased
IFQ Fishery*

Lori Steele, West Coast Seafood Processors Association

Shems Jud, Environmental Defense Fund

Brad Pettinger, OR Trawl Commission

Heather Mann, Midwater Trawler's Cooperative

Background

EFP builds on 2017 Selective Flatfish Trawl EFP

- Incorporates additional elements of Council's trawl gear package (2019 implementation)
- Provides opportunity to midwater trawl vessels prior to May 15
- Timing is critical to maximize fishing and marketing opportunities – January 1, 2018

Purpose and Need

To provide more flexibility in the configuration of midwater trawl and bottom trawl gear, and to provide opportunity for both gear types to target rockfish year-round while meeting conservation requirements

- EFP needed to allow industry to more fully realize the expected benefits of the trawl catch share program

Goals and Objectives

Goals and Objectives are the same as SFFT EFP.

- To collect information on the effects of various gear configurations (bottom and midwater trawl) on the nature and extent of bycatch in a directed fishery for pelagic rockfish species, while minimizing bycatch to the extent practicable
- Demonstrate that removal of outdated and unnecessary gear restrictions will better meet objectives of catch share program
- Better inform implementation of upcoming groundfish management actions

Proposed Action

1. Include additional major elements of Council's trawl gear change package (March 2016)
2. Eliminate May 15 start date for non-whiting midwater trawl, as well as additional restrictions on fishing in RCAs

Proposed Action

Additional Trawl Gear Package Measures

- No minimum mesh for bottom trawl/midwater trawl
- Mesh measured between knots/corners
- No codend restrictions
- Eliminate SFFT requirements
- Eliminate chafing gear restrictions
- *Allow multiple trawl gears on board, catch separated by gear type*
- No mixing of hauls until samples have been collected

Proposed Action

Year-Round Midwater Trawl Opportunity

- Eliminate the May 15 start date for the non-whiting midwater trawl season (Jan. 1 start)
- Eliminate restrictions on use of midwater trawl gear in RCAs
- ~~• Eliminate restrictions on use of bottom trawl gear in RCAs~~

Proposed Action

- Salmon bycatch retention requirement
- Real-time monitoring/reporting, 100% accountability
- Continued cooperation with PSMFC (weekly catch/bycatch reports)
- Requirement to participate in industry-based bycatch avoidance/minimization program

Enrollment and Participation

- Participation initially open to all bottom trawl and midwater trawl vessels in IFQ fishery – initial enrollment process similar to 2017 EFP
- Work with NMFS/PSMFC to continue to simplify enrollment and trip/gear declarations
- All vessels are 100% monitored/accountable and required to share information and participate in bycatch avoidance program

Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

- 100% at-sea observer coverage (or EM if participating in one of the EM EFPs)
- 100% shoreside monitoring
- Provide all salmon bycatch information as quickly as possible and without any restrictions on confidentiality

Retention and Sorting Requirements

- **Retain and land all salmon bycatch** on all EFP trips, consistent with requirements for the shoreside whiting fishery
- **Vessels carrying observers** must continue to sort their catch on deck and separate salmon bycatch by each haul to facilitate haul-level observer sampling.
- **Vessels using EM** must comply with related provisions in their individual monitoring plans.

Measures to Address Salmon Bycatch

Same* Measures as 2017 SFFT EFP

- Harvest guideline – 3,547 Chinook salmon (EFP and other non-whiting MWT)
- 800 Chinook limit (hard cap) prior to May 1
- Real-time monitoring
- **Retention requirement**
- Industry-based bycatch avoidance program

Measures to Address Salmon Bycatch

Additional Measures South of 42 Degrees

- 350 Chinook limit (hard cap) for EFP trips south of 42 degrees (represents 10% of overall harvest guideline)
- EFP south of 42 degrees would close for remainder of year if hard cap is reached
- Klamath River Conservation Zone Closure (closed year-round)

Industry-Based Bycatch Avoidance

- A vessel that experiences a **high bycatch tow (10 Chinook/tow)** is required to report the tow as quickly as possible (email); AND
Move its fishing operation before setting out gear again during the same fishing trip.
- Information about high bycatch tows will be disseminated to the fleet through the weekly PSMFC Report and immediately by OTC/MTC/WCSPA.

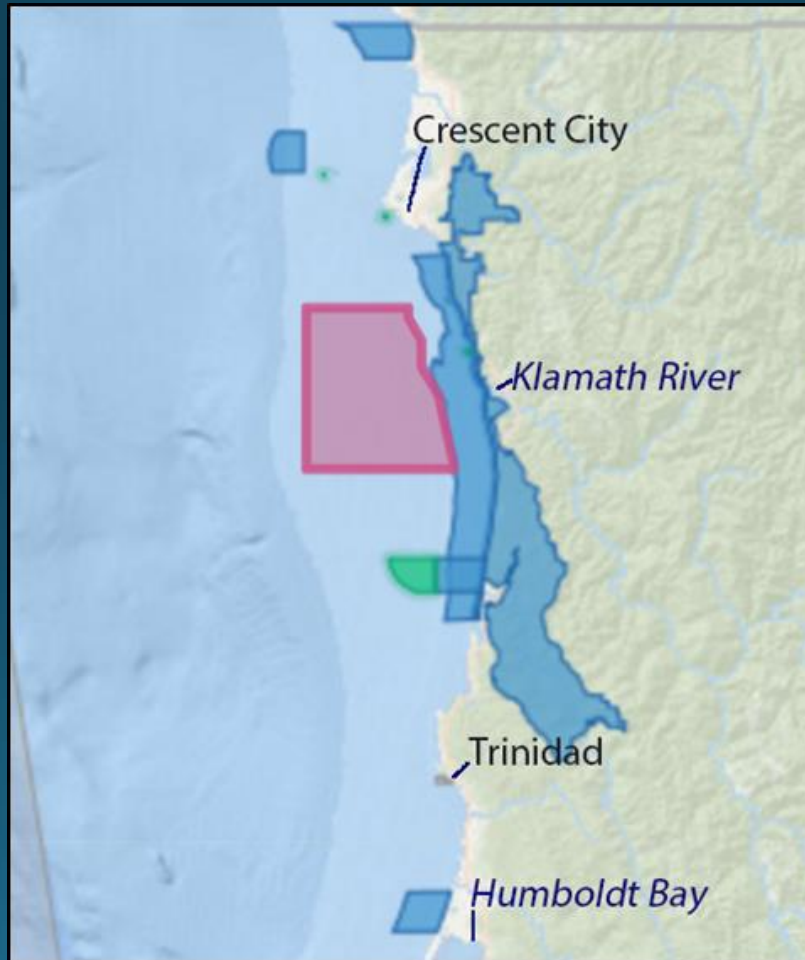
Bycatch Avoidance/Minimization Rules

High bycatch trips = 25 Chinook or more

Three-strike rule – A vessel that has three high bycatch trips during one month will be required to declare out of the EFP for 30 days and for the remainder of the following month. If this happens twice, the vessel is out of the EFP.

Bycatch Avoidance/Minimization Rules

Klamath River Conservation Zone – Closed to EFP



2017 EFP Priorities

Year-round opportunity to target pelagic rockfish is our biggest priority.

- Year-round MWT fishing AND the Council's March 2016 gear package
- Retention requirement – lesser priority
- Bottom trawling in RCAs – proposed for elimination
- Fishing in multiple IFQ management areas (June 2016) – not included in EFP

Timing and Next Steps

This EFP must be available January 1, 2018 to ensure success.

- Incorporate Council recommendations and finalize details with NMFS following June Council meeting
- Final Council review – September 2017 meeting
- Public comment and preparation of analysis October – December 2017
- Implementation January 1, 2018 – Every day makes a difference!

Questions?

Lori Steele, West Coast Seafood Processors Association

Shems Jud, Environmental Defense Fund

Brad Pettinger, OR Trawl Commission

Heather Mann, Midwater Trawler's Cooperative