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NOAA
FISHERIES

2022 Trawl Rationalization (TRat) Compliance Summary

**NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
West Coast Division**

March 2023

2022 TRAWL RATIONALIZATION (TRat) COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement - West Coast Division

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The Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Catch Share Program, also called the Trawl Rationalization (TRat) Program, consists of an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program for the shorebased trawl fleet, and cooperative programs for the at-sea mothership and catcher/processor trawl fleets. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) West Coast Division (WCD) conducted a review of permit and law enforcement data for calendar year 2022 to produce compliance statistics for both the shorebased nonwhiting IFQ (Table 1) and shorebased and at-sea cooperative IFQ whiting (Table 2) TRat programs. The 2022 TRat Compliance Summary is the second year that statistics for the whiting and nonwhiting sectors are reported separately. Future reports will continue this separation of sectors to eventually include a 3-year data comparison. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) information included in this report provide additional TRat statistics pertaining to participation and landing rates among the different fishery sectors over the past three years (Tables 3-5). Data submitted by the United States Coast Guard Districts 11 and 13 (USCG-D11/D13) offer a snapshot of their West Coast Living Marine Resources (LMR) and general living marine resource enforcement effort over the same time period (Table 6).

Compliance review of the shorebased groundfish IFQ (nonwhiting) and whiting trawl sectors was implemented through separate searches of NOAA's Pacific Coast Fisheries Permit System and OLE's case management system (CMS) databases to identify commercial fishing vessels and fish processors registered with a West Coast Groundfish Limited Entry Permit (LEP) that were also connected to a recorded enforcement incident in 2022. Each of the enforcement incidents were then examined to 1) determine which sector the vessel or processor was participating in, and 2) assess the disposition of the action(s) subsequently taken.

The compliance rate is calculated as the ratio of the number of incidents that *did not* result in enforcement actions beyond compliance assistance - such as a written warning, notice of violation and assessment (NOVA), summary settlement, or settlement agreement - to the total number of settled complaints and closed investigations conducted by OLE.

Analysis of the 62 closed enforcement incidents associated with the shorebased groundfish IFQ trawl fishery in 2022 yielded an 90% compliance rate for the nonwhiting trawl sector; and a 87% compliance rate for first receiver sites (Table 1). The five categories of all groundfish LEP regulations with the highest number of multiple violations in 2022 were: *Economic Data Collection (EDC) Issue: 18; Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Issue: 17; Observer-Impede/Interfere/Resist/Oppose: 5; Fishing in Deficit: 4; Catch Monitor Not Present During Offload: 4.*

For the groundfish LEP whiting assignment trawl fleet that includes catcher vessels delivering to both mothership and shorebased IFQ first receiver sites, mothership vessels, and catcher processor vessels, 43 enforcement incidents were identified in the OLE CMS for 2022; 34 of which were attributed to west coast catcher vessels. The 2022 compliance rate for the whiting catcher vessel fleet is 97%; and 100% for the catcher processor vessels. The three enforcement incidents recorded for the mothership vessel category in 2022 are open and ongoing investigations, and therefore not included as part of the compliance rate estimation. The categories of violations among the whiting sector catcher and catcher processor vessels with multiple occurrences were: *Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Issue: 7; Fishing in Deficit: 4; and Observer - Failure to Provide Reasonable Assistance: 2.*

Table 1. 2022 Trawl Rationalization (TRat) Compliance Statistics – NONWHITING



2022 TRAWL RATIONALIZATION COMPLIANCE STATISTICS: NON-WHITING				
Groundfish Limited Entry Permit (LEP)	GroundfishTrawlers		First Receiver Sites	
PERMITS	2022	2021	2022	2021
General Groundfish	117	134	49	43
Groundfish and Whiting			14	13
Whiting-Only			1	1
CONTACTS				
Complaints / Referrals	19	21	24	7
Investigations / Boardings / Audits	47	52	1	5
INCIDENTS				
Non-Whiting Enforcement Incidents	66	73	25	12
2021 Carry-Over Non-Whiting Enforcement Incidents	5		1	
ACTIONS				
No Violation / Nolle Prossed	29	29		5
Compliance Assistance	27	35	20	4
Written Warning	1	1	2	
Summary Settlement	2	2		1
Settlement Agreement	2	0	1	1
NOVA	1	0		
Ongoing Investigation	9	6	3	1
VIOLATIONS				
Economic Data Collection (EDC) Issue			18	4
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Issue	17	14		
Observer - Impede / Interfere / Resist / Oppose	5	6		
Fishing in Deficit	4	6		
Catch Monitor Not Present During Offload			4	1
Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements		3		
Permit		3		
Observer - Refusal	2			
Declaration Issue		3		
Retention of Prohibited Species		2		
Closed Area	1			
Noncompliant Discard		1		
Overage	1			
Observer - Sexual Harassment	1			
Observer - Intimidate / Harrassment	1			
Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)	1			
Current First Receiver Site License (FRSL) Not Posted			1	1
COMPLIANCE RATES	GroundfishTrawlers		First Receiver Sites	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
CLOSED Non-Whiting Enforcement Incidents	62	67	23	11
No Violation / Nolle Prossed	29	29	0	5
Compliance Assistance	27	35	20	4
	90%	96%	87%	82%

Table 2. 2022 TRat Compliance Statistics – WHITING



2022 TRAWL RATIONALIZATION COMPLIANCE STATISTICS: WHITING						
Groundfish Whiting Assignment LEP Permits	Catcher Vessels*		Mothership Vessels		Catcher Processor Vessels	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
PERMITS						
Whiting Assignment / Endorsement	32	33	6	6	6	10
CONTACTS				Operated only in Alaska		Operated only in Alaska
Complaints / Referrals	6	2	3	No Contacts	3	No Contacts
Investigations / Dockside Boardings	27	13			3	
INCIDENTS						
Enforcement Incidents	33	15	3	No Incidents	6	No Incidents
2021 Carry-Over Whiting Enforcement Incidents	1					
ACTIONS						
No Violation / Nolle Prossed	19	11		No Actions		No Actions
Compliance Assistance	11	2			3	
GCES Settlement Agreement	1					
Summary Settlement		1				
Ongoing Investigation	3	1	3		3	
VIOLATIONS						
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Issue	5	1		No Violations	2	No Violations
Fishing In Deficit	4					
Observer - Failure to Provide Reasonable Assistance	1				1	
Observer - Impede / Retain Prohibited Species		1				
Catch Monitor Not Present During Offload						
Closed Area	1					
Permit Not On Board	1	1				
COMPLIANCE RATES						
	Catcher Vessels*		Mothership Vessels		Catcher Processor Vessels	
	2022	2021			2022	2021
CLOSED Whiting Enforcement Incidents	31	14			3	
No Violation / Nolle Prossed	19	11				N/A
Compliance Assistance	11	2			3	
	97%	93%	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A

*Vessels delivering to both mothership and shorebased IFQ first receiver sites.

Table 3. 2022 TRat Participation

TRat Participation

ALL SHOREBASED SECTORS

	Vessels	Landings*
2022	82	2,026
2021	78	2,101
2020	82	2,252



Shorebased IFQ Whiting

	Vessels	Landings*
2022	26	905
2021	25	1,023
2020	28	1,243

Mothership Catcher Vessels

	Vessels	Trips**
2022	20	30
2021	17	27
2020	15	21

Shorebased IFQ Trawl

	Vessels	Landings*
2022	66	990
2021	63	977
2020	65	890

Catcher Processor Vessels

	Vessels	Trips**	Hauls
2022	9	17	1,709
2021	10	18	1,514
2020	10	19	1,502

Shorebased IFQ Fixed Gear

	Vessels	Landings*
2022	12	130
2021	9	102
2020	10	119

**Trips = Unique Seasons (i.e. spring & fall)

*Landings = Individual Fish Tickets

Table 4. 2022 TRat Electronic Monitoring Participation

TRat Electronic Monitoring Participation

ALL SHOREBASED SECTORS

	Vessels	Trips
2022	44	1,289
2021	42	1,365
2020	43	1,600



Shorebased IFQ Whiting

	Vessels	Trips
2022	25	863
2021	25	986
2020	27	1,215

Shorebased IFQ Trawl

	Vessels	Trips
2022	13	193
2021	11	154
2020	9	154

Shorebased IFQ Fixed Gear

	Vessels	Trips
2022	8	89
2021	6	81
2020	8	105

Mothership Catcher Vessels

	Vessels	Trips**
2022	18	27
2021	16	25
2020	13	18

** # Trips = # Unique Seasons (i.e. spring & fall)

Table 5. 2022 TRat Accounts / Licenses / E-Tickets

TRat Accounts / Licenses / E-Tickets

Accounts

	Quota Share
2022	169
2021	166
2020	168

	Vessel
2022	140
2021	144
2020	157

Licenses

	First Receiver Sites
2022	45
2021	44
2020	43



E-Tickets

	Total Landings	California	Oregon	Washington
2022	2,026	439	1,325	262
2021	2,102	404	1,305	393
2020	2,252	360	1,546	346

E-Ticket Transmission Rate

	≤ 48 Hours
2022	98.4%
2021	98.0%
2020	98.1%

Table 6. 2022 USCG (D11/D13) TRat Enforcement

USCG (D11/D13) TRat Enforcement

Commercial Groundfish Vessel Boardings

	Boardings	Trawlers
2022	38	7
2021	66	3
2020	58	9



Combined Boat, Cutter, and Aircraft Resources

	Hours
2022	11,397
2021	18,337
2020	12,133

TRat Related Violations

	Violations	Trawlers
2022	0	0
2021	0	0
2020	2	2