



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

West Coast  
Region

Agenda Item F.11.a  
Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1  
November 2017

# NMFS Report on EM Agenda Item F.11

NMFS Report 1 and Supplemental NMFS Report 2  
PFMC Meeting, Costa Mesa, CA  
November 19, 2017

# Discard Species List

- Proposed EM regulations: Handle discard species list changes through routine process, with full rulemaking.
- In April, the Council requested NMFS investigate a process for changing the discard species list that would:
  - Not require rulemaking
  - Provide opportunity for Council consideration of changes, before final

# Discard Species List

- Option 1 – Status quo proposal
  - Routine action, one Council meeting
  - Proposed and final rule (possibly just a final rule)
  - Incorporate into VMPs
- Option 2 – Accelerated process
  - One Council meeting
  - NMFS issues public notice
  - Incorporate into VMPs

# Discard Species List

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# Retention Requirements

1. Bottom trawl = optimized; NW Midwater trawl = maximized
  - What happens when gear rule implemented?
  - Maximized retention would negate WCGOP coverage for NWMWT trips (if prohibits can be retained)
2. Both = optimized retention
  1. Must discard prohibits (current draft reg text)
  2. May retain prohibits ?
    - Better fit for mixed flatfish/rockfish trips
    - Still need WCGOP coverage for data collection on discards

Discard Category	Can Discard?	
	Bottom Trawl	Non-whiting Midwater Trawl
IFQ species that can't be identified	No	No
Arrowtooth, Dover, English, whiting, lingcod	Yes	Yes
Non-IFQ species that can't be identified	No	No
Other non-IFQ species	Yes	Yes
Salmon	No	No
Pacific halibut	If sort at sea, must discard; If don't sort at sea, may retain	If sort at sea, must discard; If don't sort at sea, may retain
Other prohibited species	If sort at sea, must discard; If don't sort at sea, may retain	If sort at sea, must discard; If don't sort at sea, may retain
Large animals	Yes	Yes

# Retention Requirements

- Council preferred alternative:
  - Both = optimized retention
- To allow max retention trips (most likely NWMWT) to be exempt from WCGOP coverage, NMFS would require declare retention option to WCGOP at 48-hour pre-trip notification
  - Allows NMFS to prioritize WCGOP coverage to trips with discards
  - Reduces burden on maximized retention vessels

# Whiting Unmarketable Fish

## Mothership Catcher Vessels:

Year	Vessels	Hauls	Discard Events >10K	Discard Events >25K	Total Discards (pounds)
2015	9	456	3	0	332,059
2016	15	1460	4	0	711,431
2017	9	809	12	2	969,851

## Shoreside Hake:

Year	Vessels	Hauls	Discard Events >10K	Discard Events >25K	Total Discards (pounds)
2015	17	1277	4	1	172,920
2016	20	1435	16	5	710,838
2017	22	1952	75	28	3,501,073



# Whiting Unmarketable Fish

- Non-EM Vessels:
  - May discard provided sampled by the observer
  - Discards ID from observer sample
- EM Vessels:
  - Must retain all catch, with few exceptions
  - Discard total wt estimate from video, species comp from landings
  - Goal to minimize amount of un-ID discards

# Whiting Unmarketable Fish

- Should maintain the current maximized retention definition?
  - Burden to vessel from storage and disposal of small fish
  - BUT, video reviewers can't verify species or reason for discard, and would increase amount of uncertainty in whiting discards

# Implementation Plan

Timeline	Action
January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize whiting and fixed gear regulations</li><li>• Roll-out drive report database and integration with vessel account system</li><li>• Update Permits Office SOPs</li></ul>
March-April 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transition EFP vessels and providers to regulations</li><li>• Conduct pre-season webinars</li><li>• Start accepting applications from new vessels and providers</li></ul>
Spring/Summer 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposed regulations for bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl</li><li>• Work on:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protocol for &lt;100% video review</li><li>• Revisit video data retention</li><li>• Consolidating tri-state and EM logbooks with states</li></ul></li></ul>

# Implementation Plan

Timeline	Action
Fall 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl regulations</li><li>• Transition bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl vessels to regulations for January 2019</li><li>• Formalize self-enforcing agreements for January 2019</li><li>• Permit EM providers for January 2019</li></ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare to transition to third party video review<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update EM Program Guidelines, if needed</li><li>• Permit third party review providers for January 2020</li><li>• Set up infrastructure for NMFS program management<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop manual and training module for video reviewers</li><li>• Develop NMFS debriefing procedures</li><li>• Develop communication procedures</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>