

Washington, Oregon, and California Groundfish Fisheries

by

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## Summary of the Fishery in 1989

The following tables present statistics on annual landings, exvessel values, and fishing vessel fleet size for the commercial groundfish fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California from 1981 through 1989. During the 1989 fishing year, shoreside landings increased by 6.6 percent over 1988 to 97,700 mt. Joint venture Pacific whiting landings again set a new record, increasing 47 percent to over 200,000 mt. As a result, the total commercial landed catch rose 31 percent over 1988 to a new high of 297,800 mt. The exvessel value of the total commercial landed catch was \$89.1 million or 8.2 percent above the 1988 landed value. The exvessel value of shoreside and joint venture landings increased 7 percent and 47 percent, respectively.

Shoreside groundfish landings for individual species/species groups were generally higher in 1989, with lingcod, widow rockfish, and all flatfish species increasing in magnitude. Landings of sablefish and Pacific cod were lower in 1989.

Landings were higher for trawl and longline gear, but dropped slightly for pot gear. Despite the substantial increase in groundfish trawl landings, the number of trawl vessels making at least one landing of groundfish in 1989 fell by 7 vessels. This is the first year for the groundfish trawl fleet to contract since 1986. The groundfish pot fleet grew for the second consecutive year, while the size of the longline fleet appears to have reversed a three year declining trend. As in past years, the status of the groundfish setnet fleet cannot be determined due to insufficient data.

Table 1 - Quantity and exvessel value of groundfish landings in Washington, Oregon, and California, including joint venture deliveries in waters off these states, 1988-89.

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Shoreside (mt)	91,636	97,683	+6.6
Joint Venture (mt) <sup>1</sup>	133,365	200,045	+47.3
<b>Total WOC Landings</b>	<b>227,419</b>	<b>297,728</b>	<b>+30.9</b>
<b>Shoreside Values \$</b>			
Current	67,646,000	67,544,000	-0.2
Real <sup>1</sup>	63,901,000	61,482,000	-3.8
<b>Joint Venture Value</b>			
Current	14,682,000	21,562,000	+46.9
Real	13,869,000	19,627,000	+41.5
<b>Total WOC Groundfish Landed Value</b>			
Current	82,328,000	89,106,000	+8.2
Real	77,771,000	81,109,000	+4.3

Source: Pacific Coast Fishery Information Network (PacFIN) Groundfish report series, preliminary data June 1990; 1988 preliminary data, May 1989. NMFS, Northwest Regional Office

- 1/ Includes Pacific whiting retained by foreign processors after landings by U.S. vessels. Does not include whiting that are landed, but eventually discarded, nor incidental species for which U.S. fishermen are not paid. Discarded whiting landings totaled 2,418 mt in 1988 and 3,532 mt in 1989.
- 2/ Real values are current values adjusted to eliminate the effects of inflation. This adjustment has been made by dividing current values by the current year GNP implicit price deflator, with a base year of 1986. The GNP deflators are 1.0586 in 1988 and 1.0986 in 1989.

Table 2 - Average annual exvessel prices paid for some commercially important groundfish species, 1980-1989.

	Sablefish		All Rockfish Combined		Widow Rockfish		Dover Sole		English Sole		Petrale Sole	
	Nominal	Real	Nominal	Real	Nominal	Real	Nominal	Real	Nominal	Real	Nominal	Real
1980	.199	.265	.159	.212	-	-	.211	.281	.328	.437	.458	.611
1981	.215	.262	.169	.206	.135	.164	.223	.270	.297	.362	.512	.624
1982	.252	.289	.195	.224	.157	.180	.233	.267	.318	.365	.606	.696
1983	.237	.262	.223	.246	.192	.212	.224	.247	.322	.356	.682	.755
1984	.218	.232	.251	.267	.225	.240	.231	.246	.321	.343	.709	.755
1985	.334	.343	.281	.289	.250	.257	.240	.246	.333	.342	.736	.756
1986	.374	.374	.313	.313	.275	.275	.258	.258	.360	.360	.777	.777
1987	.472	.461	.350	.343	.322	.314	.305	.298	.402	.393	.816	.797
1988	.525	.496	.323	.305	.286	.270	.304	.287	.392	.370	.816	.771
1989	.476	.433	.319	.290	.258	.235	.275	.261	.365	.332	.816	.074

Source: PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, preliminary data.  
State Fishery Agencies.

NOTE: Real prices were adjusted for inflation using the GNP implicit price deflator, where 1986=1.00.  
All prices are weighted averages.

Table 3 - Washington, Oregon, and California shoreside commercial groundfish landings (metric tons) and exvessel value (thousands of dollars), 1980-1989.

Year	California		Oregon		Washington		Total Coast	
	mt	\$	mt	\$	mt	\$	mt	\$
1980	36,862	16,551	28,515	11,425	22,514	9,119	87,891	37,095
1981	42,578	21,448	37,502	14,721	23,093	10,100	103,173	46,269
1982	52,608	27,795	41,023	20,445	25,368	11,405	118,999	59,645
1983	39,498	21,984	35,158	18,345	22,970	11,257	97,626	51,586
1984	40,570	22,914	28,209	15,234	21,080	10,474	89,859	48,622
1985	43,062	26,516	29,023	17,095	19,229	12,449	91,314	56,060
1986	41,246	28,522	24,931	16,813	16,081	10,905	82,298	56,240
1987	41,410	30,682	30,626	24,328	20,292	16,872	92,329	71,881
1988	39,420	28,213	31,845	23,748	20,371	15,686	91,635	67,646
1984-88 Average	41,142	27,369	28,927	19,444	19,441	13,277	89,487	60,090
1989	40,766	28,800	36,845	25,207	20,072	13,537	97,683	67,544

Source: State Fishery Agencies  
PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series; preliminary data, 1981-1988.

Table 4 - Commercial landings (mt) of individual groundfish species by state, 1988-1989.

Species	California		Oregon		Washington	
	1988	1989	1988	1989	1988	1989
Lingcod	873	1135	999	1,175	756	1,136
Pacific Cod	5	-	1,022	780	2,305	1,403
Pacific Whiting	6,541	7,302	246	89	88	27
Sablefish	3,784	3,891	4,068	3,998	2,926	2,415
Pacific Ocean Perch	26	10	728	1,014	49	431
Widow Rockfish	1,847	1,578	5,445	6,964	3,555	4,176
Other Rockfish	14,345	15,327	8,898	10,431	5,686	3,933
Dover Sole	8,176	7,711	7,583	8,903	2,241	2,177
English Sole	1,062	1,040	577	693	454	662
Petrale Sole	785	827	894	863	452	444
Other Flatfish	1,709	1,699	1,369	1,919	1,553	2,887

Source: PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, 1988 preliminary data, June 1990.  
PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, 1988 preliminary data, May 1989.

Table 5 - Landings and exvessel value of individual groundfish species landed in Washington, Oregon, and California, 1988-1989.

Species	1988		1989		% Change	
	mt	\$	mt	\$	mt	\$
Lingcod	2,629	2,122,100	3,446	2,665,000	+31.1	+25.6
Pacific Cod	3,332	1,945,700	2,183	1,246,000	-34.5	-36.0
Pacific Whiting	6,876	1,145,400	7,418	1,081,400	+7.9	-5.6
Sablefish	10,778	12,468,300	10,254	10,769,800	-0.05	-13.6
Pacific Ocean Perch	803	514,300	1,455	869,300	+81.2	+6.9
Widow Rockfish	10,847	6,827,500	12,717	7,227,700	+17.2	+5.9
Other Rockfish	28,928	21,550,800	29,691	22,744,500	+2.6	+5.5
Dover Sole	18,000	12,053,500	18,791	11,384,400	+4.4	-5.5
English Sole	2,093	1,809,800	2,395	1,928,300	+14.4	+6.5
Petrale Sole	2,131	3,835,200	2,134	3,836,500	+0.1	+0.03
Other Flatfish	4,631	2,968,000	6,505	3,314,300	+40.5	+11.7
TOTAL	91,048	67,240,600	96,989	67,067,200	+6.5	-0.2

Source: PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, 1989 preliminary data, June 1990; 1988 preliminary data, May 1989.

1/ Includes domestic landings from U.S. coastal waters off WOC, but not Puget Sound; A small amount of landings of miscellaneous groundfish species are not included in the totals.



Table 6 - Washington, Oregon, and California landings and exvessel value of sablefish by gear, 1988-1989.<sup>1</sup>

	Total WOC 1988		Total WOC 1989	
	mt	\$	mt	\$
Ground. trawl	5,262.4 (48.8)	4,169.5 (33.4)	5,647.2 (55.1)	4,551.4 (42.3)
Pot	2,018.7 (18.7)	2,651.7 (21.3)	1,924.4 (18.8)	2,285.4 (21.2)
Longline/setline <sup>2</sup>	3,124.2 (29.0)	5,362.9 (43.0)	2,562.1 (25.0)	3,845.7 (35.7)
Net	60.2 (0.6)	41.0 (0.3)	55.4 (0.5)	35.5 (0.3)
Other	<u>312.3 (2.9)</u>	<u>243.2 (1.9)</u>	<u>64.9 (0.6)</u>	<u>51.8 (0.5)</u>
Total	10,777.8	12,468.3	10,254.0	10,769.8

Source: PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, preliminary data, May 1989.  
PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, preliminary data, June 1990.

- 1/ Figures in parentheses are the percentages each gear group contributed to the total landed catch and exvessel value.
- 2/ Includes California commercial pole-and-line gear.

Table 7 - West Coast groundfish shoreside landings (metric tons) by gear group, 1981-1989.

	<u>Trawl</u>	<u>Trap/ Pot</u>	<u>Setline<sup>1</sup>/ Longline</u>	<u>Gill/Set<sup>2</sup> Net</u>	<u>Other/Misc</u>
1981	90,797	3,956	3,997	1,632	2,791
1982	103,299	6,530	4,384	2,077	2,709
1983	81,668	5,423	2,191	2,243	6,101
1984	72,693	3,854	1,989	2,199	9,124
1985	75,352	3,703	4,603	3,918	3,737
1986	61,249	2,216	5,894	4,205	8,734
1987	74,719	2,076	6,952	3,903	4,740
1988	73,460	2,186	5,679	2,864	7,487
1989	83,782	1,992	5,753	2,302	3,869

Source: PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, preliminary data, May 1989.  
PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, preliminary data, June 1990.

1/ Includes commercial pole catch for California landings, because large quantities of sablefish and rockfish are landed with this gear in PacFIN.

2/ Includes gill net, set net, and other net; but not dip, trammel, seine, or miscellaneous nets.

Table 8. Exvessel value (thousands of dollars) of West Coast groundfish landings by gear group, 1981-1989.

	<u>Trawl</u>	<u>Trap/Pot</u>	<u>Set/Longline</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Gill/Set</u> <sup>2</sup> <u>Net</u>	<u>Other/Misc</u>
1981	37,855	2,081	3,696	1,468	2,169
1982	46,987	4,863	4,551	1,814	1,430
1983	40,987	3,598	2,091	1,742	3,578
1984	36,885	2,338	2,083	1,955	5,361
1985	41,264	3,154	5,329	3,367	2,946
1986	36,916	2,171	6,811	3,715	6,627
1987	52,162	2,347	9,527	3,806	4,032
1988	48,010	2,797	8,573	2,709	3,928
1989	52,107	2,370	7,954	2,293	2,828

Source: PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, preliminary data, May 1989.  
PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, preliminary data, June 1990.

- 1/ Includes commercial pole catch for California landings, because large quantities of sablefish and rockfish are landed with this gear as reported in PacFIN.
- 2/ Includes gill net, set net, and other net; but not dip, trammel, seine, or miscellaneous.

Table 9 - Number of shoreside vessels in Washington, Oregon, and California commercial groundfish fleets, 1981-1989.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Otter Trawl</u>	<u>Pot/Trap<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Longline<sup>1</sup></u>
1981	408	66	191
1982	444	82	208
1983	436	59	185
1984	397	34	96 <sup>2</sup>
1985	358	32	129 <sup>2</sup>
1986	308	25	190 <sup>2</sup>
1987	318	26	186 <sup>3</sup>
1988	349	29	156 <sup>3</sup>
1989	342	36	159 <sup>3</sup>

Note: Data are preliminary, therefore, numbers are subject to change as updated information on fleets is received.

Source: State Fishery Agencies

- 1/ Vessels landing fish caught with this gear-type in two or more states are counted in each state for years 1982-83. These numbers therefore are an upper bound for the true number of vessels using this gear-type in these years. 1988 data updated with three additional vessels than reported originally.
- 2/ Represents number of longline vessels landing in Oregon and Washington, where double counting has been eliminated; California data unavailable for those years.
- 3/ Includes count for sablefish longline vessels landing in California and Oregon and all coastal longline vessels landing in Washington.

Table 10 - Washington, Oregon, and California groundfish shoreside trawl fleet characteristics, 1983-88.<sup>1</sup>

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Total Number Landing	308	318	349	342
Frequency by Size (length) Class				
< 30 feet	1	1	7	6
30-39	9	10	10	12
40-49	73	73	75	65
50-59	87	85	95	92
60-69	90	94	98	102
70-79	37	38	45	47
80-89	6	10	8	10
> 90	5	7	8	7
Missing	-	-	3	1
Vessel Characteristics:				
Average Length	58.2	58.2	58.4	59.0
Average Horsepower	310.8	318.9	317.8	330.8
Average Net Tonnage	47.6	49.7	48.8	42.3
Number Vessels Based in Each State				
California	126	121	130	127
Oregon	110	120	136	140
Washington	72	77	83	75
Vessels Landing in More Than One State	34	35	37	30

Source: State Fishery Agencies

1/ Preliminary data

Table 11 - West Coast commercial groundfish shoreside landings, exvessel values (thousands of dollars) and average vessel gross revenues for selected gear groups, 1981-89. (Numbers of vessels using gear types other than the three listed below are unknown).

Year	Groundfish Otter Trawl <sup>1</sup>		Average		Pot/Trap		Average		Longline	
	mt	\$	\$ per vessel	mt	\$	\$ per vessel	mt	\$	mt	\$
1981	90,800	37,900	92.9	3,956	2,080	31.5	3,997	3,700	11.3	
1982	103,300	47,000	105.8	6,530	4,860	59.3	4,384	4,600	13.2	
1983	81,700	40,600	93.1	5,423	3,600	61.0	2,191	2,100	7.2	
1984	72,700	36,900	92.9	3,854	2,340	68.8	1,989	2,100	N/A	
1985	75,400	41,300	115.4	3,703	3,154	98.6	4,603	5,300	N/A	
1986	61,200	36,900	119.8	2,216	2,171	86.8	5,894	6,800	N/A	
1987	74,700	52,200	164.1	2,076	2,347	90.3	6,952	9,500	51.1	
1988	73,500	48,000	137.5	2,186	2,797	96.4	5,679	8,600	55.1	
1989	83,800	52,100	152.3	1,992	2,370	65.8	5,753	8,000	50.3	

Source: PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series, preliminary data.

1/ Includes bottom, roller, and midwater trawls.

Table 12 - Landings and participation in Pacific Whiting joint-venture fisheries off of Washington, Oregon, and California, 1979-89.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Landings (mt)</u>	<u>Estimated Dollar Value (\$)</u>	<u>Number of Trawl Vessel</u>	<u>Average Revenue Per Vessel (\$)</u>
1979	9,054	1,162,000	11	105,600
1980	26,793	3,275,000	15	218,300
1981	43,758	6,345,000	21	302,100
1982	68,420	10,367,000	17	609,800
1983	72,140	10,217,000	19	537,700
1984	79,047	11,841,000	21	563,800
1985	31,567	3,751,000	17	220,700
1986	81,855	8,760,000	25	350,400
1987	106,095	11,663,000	30	388,800
1988 <sup>1</sup>	135,365	14,682,000	40	367,100
1989 <sup>1</sup>	200,045	21,562,000	65	331,700

Source: PacFIN, Groundfish Report Series  
 NMFS, Northwest Regional Office

1/ Beginning in 1988, data sources permitted separation of total landings from whiting that was retained by foreign processors, and for which U.S. fishermen were paid. Therefore, figures reflect retained landings, excluding whiting that are eventually discarded. Discarded whiting totaled 2,418 mt in 1988 and 3,532 mt in 1989.

