



Pacific Council News

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Trawl Catch Share Program Set to Begin in January

Starting on January 1, 2011, one of the largest fisheries on the West Coast, the groundfish trawl fishery, will be managed under a catch share program. Under this program, vessels that deliver to buyers and processors on shore will be required to have their own quota (individual fishing quota, or IFQ) to cover most of their groundfish landings. Vessels delivering to at-sea processors in the whiting fishery will have the opportunity to fish under allocations granted to vessel co-operatives. Initial allocations of IFQ were given to owners of groundfish trawl limited entry permits (permits required for trawl vessels) and some of the shoreside whiting allocation went to shoreside processors. Additionally, first receivers of groundfish shore-

side (for example, buyers) and at-sea mothership processors will be required to have licenses. There will be no limit on the number of shoreside receivers, but there will be a limit on the number of mothership processors.

The groundfish fishery is a multispecies fishery for which there are a number of harvesting sectors, including the limited entry trawl sector, limited entry hook-and-line and pot sector (fixed gear), the directed open access sector (mostly hook-and-line gears), the tribal sector and recreational sector. This new program for the trawl sector was implemented under Amendments 20 and 21 to the West Coast groundfish fishery management plan. Amendment 21 established the amount

of most groundfish species that would be allocated to the trawl sector, cutting the trawl sector back from its historic shares of the harvest; and Amendment 20 set out the rules for the catch share program, the means by which the trawl sector is kept within its allocation.

Under the program, anyone eligible to own a US fishing vessel may acquire IFQ in the shoreside fisheries, including communities and crew members, and any vessel that acquires a trawl limited entry permit can use IFQ to catch the trawl allocation using nontrawl gear. Every vessel must carry an observer while participating in the program, and every offloading will be monitored by a shoreside observer.

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Trailing Amendments for Catch Shares, Intersector Allocation Move Forward

In November, the Council discussed several trailing amendments related to trawl rationalization:

Superceding Groundfish Amendment 6

The Council will consider a groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) amendment that would replace the current limited entry/open access allocations (described in Amendment 6 to the FMP) with the trawl/nontrawl allocations established in Amendment 21 (intersector allocation). This is what the Council originally intended for Amendment 21.

Cost recovery (paying for the catch share program)

The Council is working on a way to identify catch share program administrative costs that will be recovered through fishery fees. NMFS is leading this effort and will develop a method for Council review. One of the Council's primary concerns is that the cost accounting method be fully transparent to industry members that will be asked to pay the fees. The Council intends to move toward a fee system that would assess fees for each trawl sector based on the catch share management costs of

that sector.

Safe harbors from quota share control limits

Council staff will continue developing options and analysis relative to creating exceptions (or "safe harbors") to certain quota share control limits. These safe harbors would apply to community fishing associations, risk pools for constraining species such as overfished species and halibut, and to lenders who accept quota shares as loan collateral. NMFS and NOAA General Counsel staff will be meeting with industry members

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Salmon News

Salmon Plan Amendment 16 (Annual Catch Limits) Process Continues

In November, the Council continued to discuss the alternatives adopted for public review at the September 2010 meeting in Boise, Idaho for salmon fishery management plan Amendment 16 (annual catch limits and accountability measures). The Council had postponed final action in order to give the ad hoc Salmon Amendment Committee time to clarify several issues and complete a draft environmental assessment for the process.

The Council's preliminary preferred alternative for stock classification was modified to include a stock complex for far-north-migrating spring/summer Chinook stocks to allow specifi-

cation of ACLs for those stocks that have very low impacts in Council area fisheries. The preliminary preferred alternative for status determination criteria for overfished stocks, stocks approaching an overfished condition, and rebuilt stocks were modified to be based on three year

geometric means of the most recent years rather than arithmetic means (simple averages). The Council also provided guidance on language for de minimis fishing provisions describing how the allowable exploitation rate would be reduced as stock status

approached the minimum stock size threshold.

The Council scheduled final action for Amendment 16 for the June 2011 Council meet-

For more, see the November salmon briefing book materials:
<http://tinyurl.com/27hur8o>

ing. As a result, 2011 salmon management will be governed by the terms of the current Fishery Management Plan. The public review alternatives will be analyzed in an environmental assessment, which is under development. 

Council Comments on Future Management of Mitchell Act Hatcheries

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is considering future management and funding of Mitchell Act hatchery operations. Mitchell Act hatcheries are located in the Columbia River basin in the states of Oregon and Washington. A draft environmental impact statement was issued on August 6, and the Council received a presentation in September on the subject. The Council has been working with its advisory bodies, particularly the Council's ad hoc Mitchell Act Committee, to develop comments on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in time for the December 3 dead-



A coho fry tackles the "falls" at Oregon's Cascade Fish Hatchery (photo J. Gilden)

line. In November, the Council adopted a draft comment letter developed by the Mitchell Act Committee. The letter includes comments on the need to update portions of the analysis, reduce

complexity and confusion over the intent and purpose of the alternatives, ensure that the preferred alternative includes an option to accommodate increased production, and allow opportunity for public comment on the preferred alternative

before the final EIS is completed.

The draft EIS can be viewed online at <http://tinyurl.com/2u9n5jz>. The Council's letter on Mitchell Act funding is at <http://tinyurl.com/2akgopq>. 

Progress Report on Sacramento River Fall Chinook Overfishing Assessment

This March, the Council determined that Sacramento River fall Chinook numbers had triggered an Overfishing Concern (not meeting the conservation goal for the three most recent years). As required by

the salmon fishery management plan, the Council directed the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and Habitat Committee to work with relevant co-managers to describe the factors leading to the Overfishing Concern.

A joint subcommittee made up of members of the STT and Habitat Committee has met twice, and provided a progress report on their efforts. The final report is due at the March 2011 Council meeting. 

Salmon and Halibut News

Council Sets Preseason Management Schedule for 2011 Salmon

The Council adopted the locations and dates for Council-sponsored salmon hearings in 2011. The hearings will be held in Westport, Washington on March 28; in Coos Bay, Oregon on March 28; and in Eureka, California on March 29.

Scheduling of other state-sponsored meetings will be considered at the March 2011 Council meeting. The Council also approved the schedule and process for developing 2011 ocean salmon management measures (page 11). 

SSC, STT Review Salmon Methodology

Each year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee and Salmon Technical Team review the methodology used to estimate impacts of the Council's salmon management actions.

This year the Council adopted a new Oregon coastal natural coho abundance predictor, and updated indicator stock coded-wire-tag groups for Columbia River summer Chinook used in the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model. 



The remains of a spawned-out salmon near the Columbia River this November. (Photo J. Gilden)

2011 Pacific Halibut Regulations: Spring All-Depth Share Decreased; Summer Share Increased

For the 2011 Pacific halibut season, the Council considered changes to the management of recreational fisheries in Oregon, and some minor regulatory language for the non-Indian directed commercial fishery.

In November, the Council adopted the following changes to the Area 2A Pacific halibut catch sharing plan:

- Closed areas that will apply to the non-Indian directed commercial fishery will be defined within federal groundfish regulations (50 CFR 660.70.)

- Adjust the allocation to the Oregon central coast subarea seasons to decrease the spring all-depth share from 69 to 67 percent; increase the summer all depth share from 23 to 25 percent; and maintain an 8 percent share for the nearshore fishery. 

For more, see the November halibut briefing book materials:
<http://tinyurl.com/2el4dxt>

Enforcement Corner

Man Arrested for Unlicensed Fishing Guide Operation, Hunting Violations

In December, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officers participated in a joint operation with Oregon State Police (OSP) that was planned and coordinated by Officer Jon Horn. Operation "Guiding Light" was the culmination of a two month long joint investigation between WDFW and OSP into a local, unlicensed fishing guide whom Officer Horn had learned about from an anonymous source. In

addition to the illegal guiding operation, the suspect was involved in several big game hunting violations. The operation centered around two undercover officers participating in a guided fishing trip on the Columbia River above McNary Dam. Support teams included a marked patrol vessel on the water observing the fishermen, a take-down team standing by at the boat launch and multiple interview teams conducting searches and in-

terviews at different locations. The operation went smoothly, resulting in the suspect admitting to guiding for fish on the Columbia River without a license or Coast Guard operators' certificate. At that point, the investigation quickly transitioned to the possible big game hunting violations. A full confession was obtained regarding multiple unlawfully harvested deer and elk in Columbia and Chelan counties. Multiple subjects were

interviewed in connection with the case, resulting in evidence and statements implicating the suspect and additional suspects being identified. Due to a past history of big game violations, several of the recent big game charges will be filed as felonies. Approximately 20-25 fishing and hunting violations will be referred on multiple subjects to the prosecutor's offices in Benton, Columbia and Chelan counties for consideration of charges. 

Groundfish News

National Marine Fisheries Service Reports on Groundfish Activities

At its November meeting, the Council heard updates from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center regarding assessment activities, research, and recent publications by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program. The Northwest Region provided an update on regulatory activities including the status of implementing the 2011-2012 harvest specifications and management measures, which are delayed beyond January 1, 2011, and which will be implemented no later

than April 29, 2011. The Region stated that, per the groundfish fishery management plan, the 2010 harvest specifications and management measures will be in place until the new specifications can be implemented.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) intends to release an emergency rule to issue quota pounds for the trawl rationalization program, effective January 1, 2011. An emergency rule is necessary to avoid complications for the rationalization

program, which specifies that quota pounds are based on annual specifications. NMFS anticipates publishing the final rule for the 2011-2012 harvest specifications for non-overfished species and management measures in April 2011. Revised overfished species harvest specifications for the remainder of 2011 will be issued via an emergency rule. The Council

For more, see the November groundfish briefing book materials: <http://tinyurl.com/2cwkcfm>

will likely be asked to reconsider the overfished species harvest specifications for 2012, as well as potential revisions to Amendment 16-5, overfished species rebuilding plans, in the event that any of the rebuilding plans in that amendment are disapproved by NMFS. 

The Biennial Management Process for Groundfish May Be Revised

The Council is considering revisions to the biennial groundfish management process. Since 2004, the Council has set groundfish harvest specifications and management measures every two years. The biennial process has become more complex and time-consuming, due in part to increased workload and overlap-

ping federal requirements.

The Council reviewed a Council staff white paper on process improvements and created an ad hoc committee to investigate ways to improve the biennial management process. The committee will include Council members Frank Lockhart, Michele Culver, Rod Moore, Dan

Wolford, and Gway Kirchner; Scientific and Statistical Committee members Martin Dorn; Groundfish Management Team members Corey Niles, Lynn Mattes, Joanna Grebel and Jason Cope; Groundfish Advisory Subpanel member Dan Waldeck; Kevin Duffy and Sarah Williams of the NMFS Northwest Region;

and NOAA General Counsel Sheila Lynch. The committee will meet over the winter and provide recommendations to the Council in April 2011. Final action on process changes is scheduled for June 2011. Some proposed changes could take place in time for the 2013-2014 biennial cycle, which begins in June 2011. 

Council Considers Exempted Fishing Permits for 2011

Exempted fishing permits (EFPs) provide a way to test innovative fishing gears and strategies to promote sustainable fishing opportunities. In September, the Council considered four EFP applications and adopted the Oregon Department

of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) application for public review.

At the November Council meeting, ODFW withdrew the application due to funding concerns and the rollover of the 2010 yelloweye optimal yield of 14 metric tons (mt). The EFP

would have sought to collect biological data from yelloweye rockfish encountered in the Oregon sport charter fishery.

The Council considered the status of the 2010-2011 Oregon Recreational Fishing Alliance EFP for yellowtail rockfish, and

recommended that the EFP deduction from the 2011 yellowtail rockfish catch limit be increased from two to ten mt. The increase is designed to provide greater opportunity under the EFP, while minimizing impacts to overfished species. 

Trawl catch shares, continued from page 1

The intense observation and monitoring program will hold every vessel accountable for its catch. While there is concern about the cost of this program for vessels, vessels are expected to benefit from the

flexibility to land their catch whenever they choose, given market, weather and other constraints. Under the fishery as it was managed through the end of 2010, vessels landing shoreside were constrained by two-month per vessel landing

limits for the shoreside fishery and by end of season closures for the at-sea whiting fishery. These constraints will be all but eliminated under the catch share program.

Over the last few months, fishing community and in-

dustry members have been meeting among themselves to explore the creation of risk pools and community fishing associations. Encounters with overfished species often occur in single tows in which there is

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Groundfish News

Council Makes Inseason Adjustments to Groundfish Fisheries

The Council received new information on the status of 2010 groundfish fisheries and recommended that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implement the following inseason adjustments.

Adjustments for 2010

According to a recent report by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program, last year darkblotched rockfish exceeded its limited entry non-whiting trawl projection of fishing mortality and the optimum yield (OY). Current landings data shows a similar under-projection by the model for darkblotched in 2010 as well. Therefore, the Council recommended that NMFS implement the following harvest reductions:

Darkblotched rockfish and minor slope rockfish

- Reduce the darkblotched rockfish bycatch caps in the limited entry mid-water trawl fisheries for Pacific whiting from 6.0 to 5.5 metric tons (mt) for mothership processors, from 8.5 to 5.5 mt for the catcher-processors, and from 10.5 to 5.0 mt for the shorebased sector.

- For the non-whiting trawl fishery north of 40°10' N. latitude, the Council recommended that the seaward rockfish conservation area line be moved from 200 to 250 fm, effective as soon as possible for the remainder of the year. Further, the Council recommended closing the minor slope and darkblotched rockfish trip limits north of 40°10' N. latitude on December 1, 2010 for the remainder of the year.

Sablefish

Catches of sablefish north of 36° N. latitude in the limited entry and open access fixed gear fisheries are not expected to attain their allocations. For limited entry fixed gear north of 36° N. latitude, the Council recommended that NMFS increase sablefish trip limits from 1,750 lbs/week not to exceed 8,000 lbs/2 months to 2,000 lbs/week not to exceed 8,000 lbs/2 months beginning December 1 for the remainder of the year. The Council recommended that NMFS increase the open access sablefish trip limits north of 36° N. latitude from 300 lb/day or 1 landing per week of up to 950 lb, not to exceed 2,750 lb/2 months to 400 lb/day or 1 landing per week of up to 1,500 lb, not to exceed 4,500 lb/2 months beginning on December 1 through the remainder of the year.

Catches of sablefish in the Conception Area (south of 36° N. latitude) are tracking higher than anticipated, and without inseason action the optimum yield (OY) in this area is likely to be exceeded. The Council recommended that NMFS close the open access trip limits for sablefish south of 36° N. latitude starting December 1, 2010 for the remainder of the year. The Council also recommended that the limited entry fixed gear trip limits for sablefish south of 36° N. latitude be reduced from 2,800 lbs/week to 1,800 lbs/week effective December 1, 2010 for the remainder of the year. These adjustments are anticipated to keep catch within the OY.

Yellowtail rockfish

The Makah Tribe is successfully targeting yellowtail rockfish with mid-water gear with limited bycatch of overfished species. The Council recommended that NMFS increase the Makah limits for yellowtail rockfish to no more than 169 mt. Landings of widow rockfish must not exceed 10 percent of the total weight of yellowtail rockfish landed, for a given vessel, throughout the year.

Adjustments for 2011

The 2010 harvest specifications and management measures will remain in regulation until modified. NMFS plans to publish the final rule for the 2011-2012 harvest specifications for non-overfished species and management measures in April 2011. Specifications for overfished species for the remainder of 2011 will be issued via an emergency rule. The Council recommended routine inseason adjustments for 2011 recreational and commercial fisheries, described below, similar to the measures recommended under the biennial process, which should be implemented in April 2011.

The Council recommended that NMFS provide flexibility to modify the off-the-top deductions (groundfish mortality from exempted fishing permits, research, incidental open access, and tribal fisheries) to the OYs and two-year allocations that were recommended for bocaccio, canary, cowcod, petrale, and yelloweye rockfish as a result of the delay in the biennial cycle and the uncertainty surround-

ing overfished species harvest specifications. For petrale sole, the Council confirmed their 2011-2012 recommendation to set a 35 mt non-trawl allocation. The Council recommended that NMFS temporarily suspend the yelloweye rockfish allocations that were recommended by the Council for the biennial cycle. The Council's 2011 final preferred alternative for yelloweye rockfish was 17 mt (annual catch target) with a trawl allocation of 0.6 mt. However, given the delay in implementing the 2011 specifications, the 2010 yelloweye optimal yield of 14 mt will remain unless modified in April 2011. Given this lower specification, the Council recommended a trawl allocation of 0.3 mt for the start of the year and asked NMFS to provide flexibility to modify the allocations once the final harvest specifications are issued in April 2011.

The Council recommended that NMFS implement recreational regulations as published in the proposed rule to implement the 2011-2012 harvest specifications and management measures (75FR67810). Any non-routine recreational management measures were recommended to be implemented through an emergency rule. As of December 15, the Council-recommended emergency rule has not been published; therefore the 2010 regulations remain in effect. Anglers interested in fishing at the start of the year should contact state staff or Northwest Region staff to receive the most up to date information.

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Highly Migratory Species News

NMFS Reports on Shark Studies, Archival Tagging of Albacore

At the November Council meeting, National Marine Fisheries Service reported on current studies of highly migratory species and their status.

Shark Studies

Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) reported on several recent shark surveys. A survey of juvenile mako and blue sharks found few such sharks in the area surveyed. It is possible that cold water conditions resulted in a delay in pupping or a change in distribution of the juvenile sharks. After the survey, however, the cruise traveled farther offshore to conduct a study to test rare-earth metals as possible shark deterrents, and found a large number of blue shark pups. This supports the idea that pupping was delayed this year. The deterrent study showed that the deterrents have no effect on the catch rate of

either mako or blue sharks, but have proven effective at deterring hammerhead shark pups in Kaneohe Bay, HI.

The SWFSC also conducted a survey of thresher shark pups in nearshore waters from Point Conception to the US/Mexico border. The survey aims to learn more about the number of reproducing female thresher sharks. A large number of thresher shark pups were caught; the catch-per-effort was the highest for the history of the survey despite the lowest average surface temperature.

The SWFSC is collaborating on a study to assess the post-release survival of thresher sharks caught by recreational anglers. During the first phase of the study, sharks were released after tail hooking. The results demonstrated that survivorship is low for sharks greater

than 185 cm fork length, or sharks enduring more than 85 minutes of fighting on the line. Efforts are underway to promote catch and release practices for the recreational shark fishery, and to educate anglers about mouth hooking techniques, which could improve survival of released sharks.

Archival Tagging of Albacore

Since 2001, more than 600 albacore have been fitted with archival tags off the West Coast to determine migration patterns and other life-history characteristics of albacore. However, only 22 tags have been returned to date. The results show that juvenile north Pacific albacore move throughout the entire North Pacific. Movements of subgroups of fish were limited, however, and five distinct migratory patterns were described. Horizontal

and vertical movements showed seasonal and spatial patterns that were linked with oceanographic features, particularly the depth of the thermocline (a relatively thin layer of water in the ocean where the temperature changes rapidly compared to the layers above and below.) In coastal US waters during the summer and fall, where the sport and commercial fleets concentrate, albacore tend to be surface-oriented, spending most of their time in the mixed layer above the thermocline. This fall, 76 more albacore were tagged in two tagging trips conducted off the West Coast in cooperation with the commercial and recreational fleets. A \$500 reward is offered for the return of an albacore tagged with one of these archival tags to the SWFSC. More info: <http://tinyurl.com/24d8jq3>. 

Recipe: Quick and Easy Cioppino

Ingredients

- 1 fennel bulb, stalks discarded and bulb cut lengthwise into 6 wedges
- 1 medium onion, quartered
- 3 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 Turkish bay leaves or 1 California
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dried thyme
- 1/8 teaspoon dried hot red-pepper flakes
- 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes in juice
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 cup full-bodied red wine such as Zinfandel or Syrah
- 1 (8-ounce) bottle clam juice
- 1 pound skinless fillets of thick white-fleshed fish such as halibut, cod, or pollock, cut into 2-inch chunks
- 1 pound (total) mussels, clams, shrimp, crab, scallops, squid, etc.

Pulse fennel, onion, and garlic in a food processor until coarsely chopped.

Heat oil in a 5- to 6-quart heavy pot over medium-high heat until it shimmers, then stir in chopped vegetables, bay leaves, thyme, red-pepper flakes, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt, and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper.

Cook, covered, over medium heat, stirring once or twice, until vegetables begin to soften, about 4 minutes.

Add tomatoes with their juice, water, wine, and clam juice and boil, covered, 20 minutes. Stir in seafood and cook, uncovered, until fish is just cooked through and mussels open wide, 4 to 6 minutes (discard any that remain unopened after 6 minutes). Discard bay leaves.

Serve with a baguette or rice.

Note: Tomato base can be made in advance, with seafood added later.

Adapted from a recipe at *Epicurious.com* (<http://tinyurl.com/2dzeoyj>)

Cioppino was developed in the late 1800s by Italian fishermen who settled in the North Beach section of San Francisco. Cioppino is traditionally made from the catch of the day, which in San Francisco is typically a combination of Dungeness crab, clams, shrimp, scallops, squid, mussels and fish. Originally it was made on fishing boats at sea by combining various leftovers of the day's catch. (Wikipedia)

Highly Migratory Species News

Changes to Biennial Highly Migratory Species Management Measures Begin in April 2011

The Council recommended a change to Federal regulations on the possession and landing limit for swordfish that are incidentally caught in the deep-set tuna longline fishery, consistent with a proposal made by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council for their fisheries. Limits would depend on the type of hook being used, and whether observers are present. If using J-hooks (tuna hooks), the trip limit would be

ten swordfish. If using circle hooks, the trip limit would be 25 swordfish. If a vessel is carrying an observer, there would be no limit on the number of swordfish caught since unanticipated problems resulting from higher swordfish retention would be fully monitored and could be addressed as needed. Regulations prohibiting the use of shallow-set longlines to target swordfish would remain in place.

While Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) presented a

proposal to establish a per-trip recreational bag limit for albacore tuna, they subsequently recommended no further action at this time. In changing course, WDFW noted that recreational catches off Washington account for a small proportion of stockwide

For more, see the November HMS briefing book materials: <http://tinyurl.com/25f8vly>

catch, and that a new stock assessment is scheduled for 2011. Depending on the results of the next assessment, WDFW may work with the Council to develop management measures for albacore fisheries to achieve conservation goals. 

Council Makes Recommendations to Regional Fishery Management Organizations

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) held their seventh regular session on December 6-10 in Honolulu, Hawaii. In November, the Council made recommendations for positions to be advanced by the U.S. delegation to the meeting, including support for the Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for Pacific bluefin tuna recommended by the Northern Committee. For other Council positions, see the November briefing book materials at <http://tinyurl.com/25f8vly>.

Results of the 2010 IATTC Meeting

In September, the Council made recommendations to the U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission annual meeting, which took place September 27-October 1 in Antigua, Guatemala. At that meeting, due to political



Bluefin tuna (photo: NOAA)

issues regarding participation by Taiwan (or Chinese Taipei), China announced that they would not join consensus on any matter. This created a serious obstacle to the completion of the Commission's work. As a result, three proposals were agreed to as recommendations without consensus: a seabird bycatch mitiga-

tion resolution proposed by the European Union and Japan; a resolution prohibiting fishing on data buoys proposed by the U.S., and an update of the current tuna conservation resolution. Although Japan, Mexico, and the United States met on the margins to discuss the issue, no proposal for Pacific bluefin tuna

conservation measures was considered.

The IATTC Secretariat's recommendation to form a working group to define the current level of North Pacific albacore fishing effort was not addressed.

A resolution on a Multiannual Program for the Conservation of Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean was rolled over as an "agreement" to cover the three-year period 2011-2013, with the same measures that applied in 2010 to apply in 2011. Key measures are a 62-day closure for class 4-6 purse seine vessels, a purse seine closure area west of the Galapagos Islands to reduce bigeye catch, national longline limits on bigeye tuna, and a provision on full retention for purse seine vessels. 

Habitat and Ecosystem News

Alaska Fisheries Science Center Rep Briefs Council on North Pacific Ecosystem Management

In November, the Council heard from Dr. Patricia Livingston, the Director of the Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, about the North Pacific Council's initiatives to integrate ecosystem approaches within the Alaska fishery management process.

The Pacific Council is currently planning for ecosystem management, and the Council's Ecosystem Plan Development Team has been reviewing ecosystem-based fishery management initiatives around the country, including the North Pacific Council's Aleutian Islands

Fishery Ecosystem Plan. In particular, the Pacific Council was interested in the types of scientific information synthesized, presented, and used in management.

Dr. Livingston met with the Pacific Council and its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and provided an overview of the North Pacific Council's efforts to prevent overfishing, promote sustainable fisheries and communities, avoid impacts to non-target and prohibited species, preserve the food web, and reduce habitat impacts through the incorporation of ecosystem-based management objectives. Trends in ecosystem indicators

(i.e. population trends of apex predators and forage species) and fishing impacts on the ecosystem (i.e. total catch, effort, and discards) are reported in ecosystem considerations sections of the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation documents.

The Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan relies on a multidisciplinary team to develop a suite of indicators to inform management through the identification of important ecosystem interactions and their associated risks. Dr. Livingston

For more, see the November habitat & ecosystem briefing book materials:
<http://tinyurl.com/26l3w5e>
<http://tinyurl.com/2fkxvjb>

also highlighted the North Pacific Council Arctic Fishery Management Plan that has severely limited or banned fishing in U.S. arctic waters until their ecosystem impacts and sustainability can be assessed. The Pacific Council and the SSC appreciated Dr. Livingston's presentation and plan to continue to consider ways to adapt successful North Pacific examples on the West Coast. 

Northwest Fisheries Science Center Provides Report on Deepwater Coral Research

During the summer and fall of 2010, NOAA's Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program conducted its first season of West Coast deep-sea coral investigations. Dr. Elizabeth Clarke, of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, provided a report on this year's work at the November Council meeting. The 2010 research utilized several underwater tools and support vessels, including remotely oper-

ated vehicles, an autonomous underwater vehicle, multibeam sonar, and manned submersibles. Support ships included the research vessels McArthur II and Pacific Storm, and the Fishing Vessel Velero. This first year documented the presence of many species of habitat-forming corals and sponges at several sites. Subsequent research will address the priorities of distribution, species associations, biology, habitat suit-

ability modeling, and anthropogenic impacts.

The research is scheduled to continue during the 2011 and 2012 field seasons. The Council expressed strong interest in providing input into the design of the 2012 research season, and placed the topic on the September 2011 agenda.

The findings should

For more, see the November CPS briefing book materials:
<http://tinyurl.com/25cxcxk>

improve our understanding of the distribution, density, abundance, and biology of corals and sponges, in order to inform management decisions (e.g., essential fish habitat) in West Coast waters. 

Council Makes Advisory Body Appointments, Creates New Groundfish Biennial Process Improvement Committee

Responding to a recent change in regulations, and to provide for a new advisory body stipend program, the Council designated its five advisory subpanels, its stock assessment review panels, the Groundfish Allocation Committee (stipends applicable to nonvoting mem-

bers), Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Committee, and Habitat Committee as official Magnuson-Stevens Act advisory panels.

The Council also made the following appointments to fill advisory body vacancies:

Rosemary Kosaka to the

NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center position on the Groundfish Management Team (replacing Edward Dick); Carol Henry to the WDFW position on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (replacing Lorna Wargo); Chuck Farwell to the vacant conservation position

on the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel; and Merrick Burden to the vacant conservation position on the Groundfish Allocation Committee.

The Council also established the ad hoc Groundfish Biennial Process Improvement Committee (see page 4). 

Coastal Pelagic Species News

National Marine Fisheries Service Reports on Coastal Pelagic Species Activities

At the Council's November meeting, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Region (SWR) and Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) described the highlights of their coastal pelagic species (CPS)-related activities.

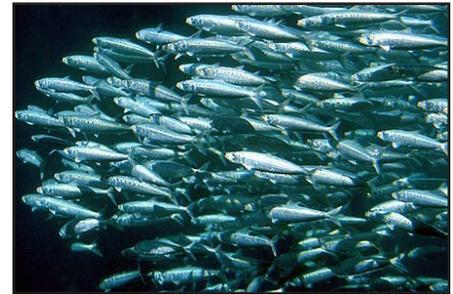
Mark Helvey (NMFS SWR) provided a report on the NOAA-sponsored Catch Shares Workshop, which looked at catch shares as a possible management tool for CPS fisheries. The proceedings are available at <http://tinyurl.com/23doo54>. Although the workshop

explored a variety of mechanisms, alternative methods, and structures that can go into a catch share program, there are no current plans to explore the issue further.

Scientists at NMFS SWFSC are comparing and calibrating various sardine survey methods, which will ultimately improve stock assessment techniques for CPS. A workshop in June 2010 looked at different survey methods; a followup workshop is slated for the March Council meeting in Vancouver, Washington.

NMFS reported on 2010 SWFSC sardine survey results, ocean conditions, and how those results compare with recent years. In relative terms, the sardine biomass appears to be on the decline, but there is limited agreement on absolute biomass between different survey methods. The report is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/27nz5wk>.

In addition, the NOAA research ship Bell M. Shimada was recently commissioned.



Sardines (Photo: Monterey Bay Aquarium)

NOAA hosted open houses in San Francisco and San Diego that provided visitors with an opportunity to see the capabilities of NOAA's newest and most technologically advanced class of vessels. 

Council Adopts Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment and CPS Management Measures for 2011

In November, the Council adopted harvest specifications and management measures for the 2011 Pacific sardine fishing season, and adopted harvest specifications for monitored coastal pelagic species (CPS) stocks (jack mackerel, northern anchovy, and market squid). The Council also heard reports on the 2010 Pacific sardine stock assessment and the 2010 aerial sardine survey.

The new management measures for sardine include annual catch limits (ACLs) to address revised National Standard 1 guidelines. For the 2011 Pacific sardine fishery, the Council adopted an overfishing limit of 92,767 mt. The Council also adopted a P-star value of 0.40, and a corresponding acceptable biological

catch (ABC) of 84,681 mt. The Council set an annual catch limit (ACL) equal to the ABC of 84,681 mt. A total harvest guideline of 50,526 mt was adopted, which includes a research set-aside of 4,200 mt and an incidental set-aside of 5,000 mt (see top table below). Incidental catch limits during closed periods and rollover provisions for quota overages and underages remain the same as the previous year. These management measures were based on the 2010 stock assessment update, which provided a biomass estimate of 537,173mt. A full assessment of sardine is scheduled for 2011, and may employ new survey methods. Methods under consideration include the SWFSC-sponsored acoustics survey

methodology, the industry-supported aerial satellite imagery method, and a hybrid survey incorporating LIDAR technology. These will be considered by a Methodology Review Panel in early February, 2011.

The Council also adopted OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs for monitored CPS stocks, based on existing benchmarks per Amendment 13. Status determination criteria had not yet been established for the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy, leading the Council to adopt those as well (see bottom table to left). 

| HG = 50,526 mt; EFP set aside = 4,200 mt; Adjusted HG = 46,326 mt | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------|
| | Jan 1- Jun 30 | Jul 1- Sep 14 | Sep 15 - Dec 31 | Total |
| Seasonal Allocation (mt) | 16,214 | 18,530 | 11,582 | 46,326 |
| Incidental Set Aside (mt) | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 3,000 |
| Management Uncertainty (mt) | | | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Adjusted Allocation (mt) | 15,214 | 17,530 | 8,582 | 41,326 |

| Stock | OFL | ABC | ACL | ACT |
|--|---|---|--------------|----------|
| Jack mackerel | 126,000 mt | 31,000 mt | Equal to ABC | |
| Northern anchovy, northern subpopulation | 39,000 mt | 9,750 mt | Equal to ABC | 1,500 mt |
| Northern anchovy, central subpopulation | 100,000 mt | 25,000 mt | Equal to ABC | |
| Market squid | F _{msy} proxy resulting in Egg Esc ≥ 30% | F _{msy} proxy resulting in Egg Esc ≥ 30% | Exempt | |

Coastal Pelagic Species News

Council Adopts Terms of Reference for CPS Stock Assessments and Methodology Review Panels

In November, the Council adopted two Terms of Reference documents on coastal pelagic species (CPS) stock assessment reviews and survey methodology reviews. The documents were developed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, with

review by Council staff, the CPS Management Team, and the CPS Advisory Subpanel. 2011 will be a “full assessment” for the sardine fishery, meaning that in the fall, a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel will consider new survey methods,

data, and models to inform the 2011 assessment of the Pacific sardine resource.

In addition, three survey methods will be reviewed in 2011 by methodology review panels. Acoustics survey and satellite methodology proposals

will be considered at an early 2011 review panel meeting; and a proposal on using LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging, a type of optical remote sensing technology) will be considered in parallel with the May mackerel STAR panel meeting. 

CPS Management Team Concludes Essential Fish Habitat Review for Coastal Pelagic Species

The Council approved the completed five-year review of essential fish habitat (EFH) for coastal pelagic species (CPS), and concluded (with input from its advisory bodies) that newly-available information will help

inform EFH consultations and provide additional background on CPS habitat, but does not warrant changes to the existing EFH description. The Council adopted the CPS Management Team recommendations to

modify the report by providing better information on fishing gear effects, Habitat Areas of Particular Concern, squid spawning habitat, and newly-available information and literature. The Council directed that

the EFH report should then be published in the 2011 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document, and that another review should be conducted in conjunction with the pending krill EFH review in 2013. 

A Basic Guide to Fishery Management Limits and Targets

Under the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act of 2006, each council must set annual catch limits (ACLs) no higher than the acceptable biological catch (ABC) determined by its Scientific and Statistical Committee. The law requires that ACLs must be set a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, accompanied by measures to ensure accountability. Fishery management plans must meet this requirement by 2010 for fisheries subject to overfishing, and by 2011 for all other fisheries.

A three-step approach is used to set limits and targets to ensure a low risk of overfishing while achieving optimum yield on a continuing basis. First, the ABC is set below the overfishing limit (OFL) to account for scientific uncertainty; second, the ACL is set at an amount not to exceed the ABC; and third, the annual catch target (ACT) may be set at an amount not to exceed the ACL in order to account for management uncertainty in controlling a fishery’s actual catch.

| | |
|--|--|
| Optimum yield (OY) | OY is the desired yield from a stock, complex, or fishery. OY specification is supposed to prevent overfishing so should consider scientific and management uncertainty in addition to ecological, economic, and social factors. OY is sometimes considered an overall guide rather than a hard number. |
| Overfishing limit (OFL) | An estimate of the maximum yield a stock can withstand without being put in jeopardy of overfishing. This is a scientific (rather than policy) determination. |
| P* (or P-star) | A multiplier that equates to the risk of reaching the overfishing limit. A high P* of 0.5 means there is a 50% risk of overfishing. A low P* of 0.1 means a 10% risk of overfishing. This is a scientific (rather than policy) determination. |
| Acceptable biological catch (ABC) | The ABC is based on the overfishing limit and should take into account scientific uncertainty, a stock’s life history and reproductive potential, and vulnerability to overfishing. The ABC should account for the uncertainty around the estimate of a stock’s biomass and its overfishing limit. This is a policy decision. |
| Annual catch limit (ACL) | An ACL can be equal to or less than the ABC. It takes into account management as well as scientific uncertainty. The ACL is somewhat vaguely defined by National Standard 1, but in general it is established at a level that will minimize the chance of overfishing. This is a policy decision based on the OFL, P*, and ACL. |
| Harvest guideline (HG) | “Harvest guideline” is a generic term that refers to the amount of harvest allowed for any particular fishing season. The harvest guideline can include specifications such as period allotments, research set-asides, or incidental catch set-asides. |
| Annual Catch Target (ACT) | Annual catch target (ACT) is an amount of annual catch of a stock or stock complex that is the management target of the fishery. A stock or stock complex’s ACT should usually be less than its ACL and results from the application of the ACT control rule. If sector-ACLs have been established, each one should have a sector-ACT. Designation of an ACT is not required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. |

Salmon Management Schedule for 2011 (see story, page 3)

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Nov. 3-9, 2010 | The Council and advisory entities meet at the Hilton Orange County, Costa Mesa, California, to consider any changes to methodologies used in the development of abundance projections or regulatory options. |
| Jan. 18-21, 2011 | The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) economist meet in Portland, Oregon to draft Review of 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. This report summarizes seasons, quotas, harvest, escapement, socioeconomic statistics, achievement of management goals, and impacts on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. (February 8 print date, available on-line February 11.) |
| Feb. 18 | Council report summarizing the 2010 salmon season is available to the public from the Council office. |
| Feb. 22-25 | STT meets in Portland, Oregon to complete Preseason Report I Stock Abundance Analysis for 2011 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. This report provides key salmon stock abundance estimates and level of precision, harvest and escapement estimates when recent regulatory regimes are projected on 2011 abundance, and other pertinent information to aid development of management options (March 2 print date, March 3 mailed to the Council and available on-line). |
| Feb. 28 through March 4 | State and tribal agencies hold constituent meetings to review preseason abundance projections and range of probable fishery options. |
| March 3 | Council report summarizing salmon stock abundance projections for 2011 is available to the public from the Council office. |
| March 5-10 | Council and advisory entities meet at the Hilton Vancouver Washington to adopt 2011 regulatory options for public review. The Council addresses inseason action for fisheries opening prior to May 1 and adopts preliminary options on March 7, adopts tentative options for STT analysis on March 8, and final options for public review on March 10. |
| March 14-18 | The STT completes Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2011 Ocean Salmon Fisheries (March 21 print date, March 22 available to the public). |
| March 15 through April 7 | Management agencies, tribes, and public develop their final recommendations for the regulatory options. North of Cape Falcon Forum meetings are scheduled for March 15 in Olympia, Washington, March 16 in Lacey, Washington and April 5-6 in Lynwood, Washington. |
| March 22 | Council staff distributes Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2011 Ocean Salmon Fisheries to the public. The report includes the public hearing schedule, comment instructions, option highlights, and tables summarizing the biological and economic impacts of the proposed management options. |
| March 28-29 | Sites and dates of public hearings to review the Council's proposed regulatory options are: Westport, Washington (March 28); Coos Bay, Oregon (March 28); and Eureka, California (March 29). Comments on the options will also be taken during the Council meeting on April 11 in San Mateo, California. |
| April 9-14 | Council and advisory entities meet to adopt final regulatory measures at the San Mateo Marriott, San Mateo, California. Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2011 Ocean Salmon Fisheries and information developed at the Council meeting is considered during the course of the week. The Council will tentatively adopt final regulatory measures for analysis by the STT on April 12. Final adoption of recommendations to NMFS are tentatively scheduled to be completed on April 14. |
| April 15-20 | The STT and Council staff completes Preseason Report III: Analysis of Council-Adopted Regulatory Measures for 2011 Ocean Salmon Fisheries (April 21 print date, mailed to the Council and available to the public April 22). Council and NMFS staff completes required National Environmental Policy Act documents for submission. |
| April 22 | Council staff distributes adopted ocean salmon fishing management recommendations, and Preseason Report III is made available to the public. |
| May 1 | NMFS implements Federal ocean salmon fishing regulations. |

Trawl catch shares, continued from page 4

a large amount of unexpected catch of one of these bycatch species (sometimes referred to as a "lightning strike" tow). Fishermen are looking at joining together in a type of insurance pool called a risk pool. Under such a pooling arrangement, fishermen would share their overfished species with one another. Groups are also gather-

ing in some communities to consider forming associations for the purposes of acquiring quota share and coordinating other activities to provide local support for program participants. Risk pools and CFAs are addressed further in this issue of the newsletter, in the article on trailing amendments. 

Trailing actions, continued from page 1

who are developing risk pools, and will report back to the Council on the arrangements discussed during those meetings that would and would not need an exception from quota share control limits.

Severability of mothership catcher-vessel endorsements

The Council plans to consider a provision to allow mothership catcher vessel endorsements and associated catch history to be transferred separately from underlying limited entry permits, with selection of a preliminary preferred alternative targeted for the March, 2011 Council meeting. Such a provision would allow a permit for a vessel dedicated primarily to the shoreside fishery to split off any mothership whiting sector history and transfer it to a more regular participant in that fishery. If this is not done, these permits would have to join a co-op, or part of the whiting allocation would go unused.

Adaptive management

Quota pounds for the adaptive management program

(10% of total quota pounds for nonwhiting species) are scheduled to be passed through to quota share holders for the first two years of the catch share program in proportion to the quota share each person holds. The Council may extend the pass-through for at least one more year if it does not develop a different way to distribute the adaptive management quota pounds before then. The adaptive management quota pounds are intended to be used for objectives related to community stability, processor stability, conservation, unintended/unforeseen consequences of the catch share program, and facilitating new entrants.

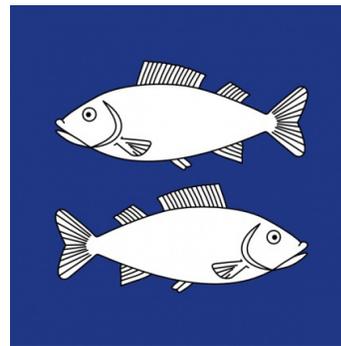
Halibut bycatch

The Council will recommend that the International Pacific Halibut Commission expect the groundfish trawl fishery to incur 130,000 pounds (net weight) of legal-sized halibut mortality in 2011.

As a result, trawl individual bycatch quota holders will be issued about twice the amount of quota pounds originally recommended under the intersector allocation program, but still half

the amount of halibut mortality that would have been expected without intersector allocation and the trawl catch share program. The 130,000 pounds of legal-sized fish (net weight) will convert to approximately 280,000 pounds for the entire trawl sector to use to cover its legal and sublegal halibut mortality (round weight).

The need for the change became apparent after NMFS



demonstrated in September that the historic trawl sector halibut mortality was substantially higher than previously thought. At that time, the Council requested the review of historic data in order to decide whether a change to the halibut bycatch allocation to the groundfish trawl fishery should become a

trailing action.

The Council is scheduled to consider permanently changing the trawl halibut mortality allocation specified in the groundfish fishery management plan. An analysis of three alternatives, developed by the Council, will be presented at the March, 2011 Council meeting.

Status of catch share implementation

The catch share program fishery management plan amendments (Amendments 20 and 21) were approved in August and implementing regulations are in the process of being finalized. The final rule on initial allocation was published on October 1, 2010, and the final rule on other aspects of the program was posted on the NMFS website on December 1. The deadline for entities to apply for an initial allocation of quota share (November 1, 2010) has passed.

In addition, the Council recommended that the north-south split of the lingcod quota in the trawl fishery not be implemented until the start of 2012. 

Inseason adjustments, continued from page 5

The trawl fishery is anticipated to be rationalized January 1, 2011 although some species in the shoreside sector (whiting and non-whiting) will still be managed with trip limits, instead of individual fishing quotas (IFQ). Further, vessels harvesting IFQ either with trawl or other gears will still be held to the rockfish conservation areas (RCAs). The Council recommended that NMFS implement the RCA boundaries

and landing allowances for non-IFQ species and Pacific whiting as described in Tables 1 and 2, effective January 1, 2011. In the event the trawl fishery is not rationalized on January 1, 2011 the Council recommended that NMFS implement the RCA and trip limits in Table 3.

For fixed gear commercial fisheries, the 2010 trip limits for periods 1 and 2 will remain in effect for 2011 until modified, with the following exceptions for sablefish:

- Limited entry fixed

gear fisheries north of 36° N. latitude: a cumulative trip limit of 2,000 lbs/week for periods 1 to 6 not to exceed 7,000 lbs/2 months for periods 1 to 3 and 8,000 lbs/2 months for periods 4 to 6, beginning January 1, 2011.

- Open access fixed gear fisheries north of 36° N. latitude: 300 lbs/day or one landing per week not to exceed 950 lbs and a cumulative bimonthly limit of 1,900 lbs/2 months for periods 1 – 3 and 300 lbs/day or one landing per week not to exceed 1,200

lbs and a cumulative bimonthly limit of 2,250 lbs for periods 4 – 6 beginning January 1, 2011.

- Limited entry fixed gear fisheries south of 36° N. latitude: a weekly sablefish limit of 2,100 lb/week for periods 1-6 beginning January 1, 2011.

- Open access fixed gear fisheries south of 36° N. latitude: 300 lb/day or one landing per week not to exceed 1,200 lb/week, and a cumulative bimonthly limit of 2,400 lb/2 months for periods 1-6 beginning January 1, 2011. 

Groundfish Table 1. Council-recommended RCA structure and landing allowances for non-IFQ species and Pacific whiting coastwide north of 40° 10' N. latitude under a rationalized trawl fishery

| | | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{6/}: | | | | | | | |
| 1 | North of 48°10' N. lat. | shore - modified ^{7/} 200 fm line ^{6/} | shore - 200 fm line ^{6/} | shore - 150 fm line ^{6/} | | shore - 200 fm line ^{6/} | shore - modified ^{7/} 200 fm line ^{6/} |
| 2 | 48°10' N. lat. - 45°46' N. lat. | 75 fm line ^{6/} - modified ^{7/} 200 fm line ^{6/} | 75 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/} | 75 fm line ^{6/} - 150 fm line ^{6/} | 100 fm line ^{6/} - 150 fm line ^{6/} | 75 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/} | 75 fm line ^{6/} - modified ^{7/} 200 fm line ^{6/} |
| 3 | 45°46' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. | | | 75 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/} | 100 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/} | | |
| <p>Selective flatfish trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all bottom trawl gear (large footrope, selective flatfish trawl, and small footrope trawl gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA. Large footrope and small footrope trawl gears (except for selective flatfish trawl gear) are prohibited shoreward of the RCA. Midwater trawl gear is permitted only for vessels participating in the primary whiting season. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery limits in this table, regardless of the type of fishing gear used.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>See § 660.60, § 660.130, and § 660.140 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.70-660.74 and §§ 660.76-660.79 for Conservation Area Descriptions and Coordinates (including RCAs, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.</p> | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Minor nearshore rockfish & Black rockfish | 300 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 6 | Whiting | | | | | | |
| 7 | midwater trawl | Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. – During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.131 for season and trip limit details. – After the primary whiting season: CLOSED. | | | | | |
| 8 | large & small footrope gear | Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip. – During the primary season: 10,000 lb/trip. – After the primary whiting season: 10,000 lb/trip. | | | | | |
| 9 | Cabezon | | | | | | |
| 10 | North of 46°16' N. lat. | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 11 | 46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. | 50 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 12 | Shortbelly | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 13 | Spiny dogfish | 60,000 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 14 | Longnose skate | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 15 | Other Fish^{5/} | Unlimited | | | | | |

TABLE 1b (North)

5/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include sharks (except spiny dogfish), skates (except longnose skate), ratfish, morids, grenadiers, and kelp greenling.

6/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours, and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to the RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

7/ The "modified" fathom lines are modified to exclude certain petrale sole areas from the RCA.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

March Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held March 5-10, 2011, at the Hilton Vancouver, in Vancouver, Washington. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on February 10** will be included in the briefing books mailed to Council members prior to the March meeting. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on February 27** will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the March meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

Groundfish Table 2. Council-recommended RCA structure and landing allowances for non-IFQ species and Pacific whiting coastwide south of 40° 10' N. latitude under a rationalized trawl fishery

| | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{6/}: 1 South of 40°10' N. lat. | 100 fm line ^{6/} - 150 fm line ^{6/ 7/} | | | | | |
| All trawl gear (large footrope, selective flatfish trawl, midwater trawl, and small footrope trawl gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA. Large footrope trawl gear and midwater trawl gear are prohibited shoreward of the RCA. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery limits in this table, regardless of the type of fishing gear used. | | | | | | |
| See § 660.60, § 660.130, and § 660.140 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.70-660.74 and §§ 660.76-660.79 for Conservation Area Descriptions and Coordinates (including RCAs, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs). | | | | | | |
| State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California. | | | | | | |
| 2 Longspine thornyhead | 24,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 3 South of 34°27' N. lat. | | | | | | |
| 4 Minor nearshore rockfish & Black rockfish | 300 lb/ month | | | | | |
| Whiting | | | | | | |
| midwater trawl | Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.131 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED. | | | | | |
| large & small footrope gear | Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip. -- During the primary season: 10,000 lb/trip. -- After the primary whiting season: 10,000 lb/trip. | | | | | |
| 5 Cabezon | 50 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 6 Shortbelly | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 7 Spiny dogfish | 60,000 lb/ month | | | | | |
| 8 Longnose skate | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 9 California scorpionfish | Unlimited | | | | | |
| 10 Other Fish^{5/} | Unlimited | | | | | |

TABLE 1b (South)

5/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include sharks (except spiny dogfish), skates (except longnose skate), ratfish, morids, grenadiers, and kelp greenling.

6/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours, and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to the RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

7/ South of 34°27' N. lat., the RCA is 100 fm line - 150 fm line along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm line around islands.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Coming Up at the March 2011 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Vancouver, Washington on March 5-10, 2011. The advance Briefing Book will be posted on the Council website in late February (www.pcouncil.org).

Groundfish

- NMFS report and Amendment 20 (catch shares) update
- Consider delay in 2011-12 management and emergency rule for 2011 overfished species
- Adopt final 2011 Pacific whiting harvest specifications and management measures
- Inseason adjustments

- Amendment 20 trailing amendments (halibut allocation, severability, other issues as needed)

Salmon

- Review 2010 fisheries and act on 2011 stock abundance estimates
- Identify stocks not meeting conservation objectives
- Sacramento River fall Chinook overfishing assessment

- 2011 management
- NMFS report

Halibut

- Review preliminary alternatives for changes to halibut allocation & bycatch retention in groundfish fisheries

Habitat, Marine Protected Areas, and Ecosystem Management

- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review

- Current habitat issues
- Preliminary development of ecosystem-based fishery management plan

Coastal Pelagic Species

- Consider exempted fishing permits for public review

Other

- Annual US Coast Guard fishery enforcement report
- Appointments

Groundfish Table 3. Council-recommended RCA structure and trip limits for 2011 in the event that rationalization is not in place January 1, 2011

| | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{6/}: | | | | | | |
| 1 | North of 48°10' N. lat. | shore - modified ^{7/} 200 fm line ^{6/} | shore - 200 fm line ^{6/} | shore - 150 fm line ^{6/} | | shore - 200 fm line ^{6/} |
| 2 | 48°10' N. lat. - 45°46' N. lat. | 75 fm line ^{6/} - modified ^{7/} 200 fm line ^{6/} | 75 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/} | 75 fm line ^{6/} - 150 fm line ^{6/} | 100 fm line ^{6/} - 150 fm line ^{6/} | 75 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/} |
| 3 | 45°46' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. | | 75 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/} | 100 fm line ^{6/} - 200 fm line ^{6/} | | 75 fm line ^{6/} - modified ^{7/} 200 fm line ^{6/} |
| <p>Selective flatfish trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all bottom trawl gear (large footrope, selective flatfish trawl, and small footrope trawl gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA. Large footrope and small footrope trawl gears (except for selective flatfish trawl gear) are prohibited shoreward of the RCA. Midwater trawl gear is permitted only for vessels participating in the primary whiting season. Vessels fishing groundfish trawl quota pounds with groundfish non-trawl gears, under gear switching provisions at § 660.140, are subject to the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery limits in this table, regardless of the type of fishing gear used.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>See § 660.60, § 660.130, and § 660.140 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.70-660.74 and §§ 660.76-660.79 for Conservation Area Descriptions and Coordinates (including RCAs, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).</p> | | | | | | |
| State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California. | | | | | | |
| 5 | Minor nearshore rockfish & Black rockfish | 300 lb/ month | | | | |
| 6 | Whiting | | | | | |
| 7 | midwater trawl | Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.131 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED. | | | | |
| 8 | large & small footrope gear | Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip. -- During the primary season: 10,000 lb/trip. -- After the primary whiting season: 10,000 lb/trip. | | | | |
| 9 | Cabezon | | | | | |
| 10 | North of 46°16' N. lat. | Unlimited | | | | |
| 11 | 46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. | 50 lb/ month | | | | |
| 12 | Shortbelly | Unlimited | | | | |
| 13 | Spiny dogfish | 60,000 lb/ month | | | | |

Acronyms

| | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| ABC | acceptable biological catch (see below) | NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| ACL | annual catch limit (see below) | ODFW | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| CPS | coastal pelagic species | OFL | overfishing limit |
| EFH | essential fish habitat | OY | optimum yield |
| EFP | exempted fishing permit | RCA | Rockfish Conservation Area |
| EIS | environmental impact statement | SDC | status determination criteria |
| fm | fathom | SSC | Scientific and Statistical Committee |
| FMP | fishery management plan | STAR | Stock Assessment Review |
| HG | harvest guideline (see below) | STT | Salmon Technical Team |
| IATTC | Inter-American Tropical Tunas Commission | SWR | Southwest Region (NMFS) |
| IFQ | individual fishing quota | SWFSC | Southwest Fisheries Science Center (NMFS) |
| LIDAR | Light Detection And Ranging (an optical remote sensing technology) | WCPFC | Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission |
| mt | metric ton | WDFW | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife |
| NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service | | |

Upcoming Events

For more information on this meeting, please see our website (www.pcouncil.org/events/csevents.html) or call toll-free (866) 806-7204.

Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review Committee Work Session

Purpose: To develop recommendations for the process and scope of the groundfish EFH periodic 5-year review, and for the role of the EFH Review Committee in that review.

Dates: December 20, 2010

Location: Hyatt Place Hotel Portland Airport

Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov)

CPS Methodology Review

Purpose: To review methodologies for potential inclusion in sardine assessments.

Dates: February 2-5, 2011

Location: NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla

Contact: Kerry Griffin (kerry.griffin@noaa.gov)

CPS Management Team Meeting

Dates: January 31-Feb. 1, 2011

Location: NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla

Contact: Kerry Griffin (kerry.griffin@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dates: March 5-10, 2011

Location: Hilton Vancouver Washington

Contact: Don McIsaac (donald.mcisaac@noaa.gov)

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