

AMENDMENT 6 (LIMITED ENTRY)
TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH

INCLUDING
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND REGULATORY IMPACT REVIEW

ADOPTED BY
THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
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Prepared by the Staff of the Pacific Fishery Management Council
and Limited Entry Advisory and Drafting Committees

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COVER SHEET

() Draft

(X) Final Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement

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Proposed Action

Approval and implementation of Amendment 6 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Plan (FMP).

Abstract

The proposed action is to implement an amendment to the fishery management plan which governs the groundfish fisheries off the coast of Washington, Oregon and California under the provisions of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 as amended. The amendment (Amendment 6) would implement a license limitation system, adding the limited entry program to the FMP as a fourteenth chapter. Owners of vessels using groundfish trawl, longline and fishpot gear to catch groundfish managed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council would be required to hold a federal limited entry permit registered for the vessel. Vessel owners using all other gears would continue to harvest under an open access system and an allocation would be made between open and closed access fisheries as necessary. The license limitation system would be based on transferable permits; however, the permits issued to some lower priority entrants would be nontransferable. A description of the affected marine, coastal and human environments is included along with the impacts of proposed and alternative actions on these environments. This supplement supports the conclusion in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement which accompanied the Pacific Coast Groundfish Plan when it was submitted in 1982: "The proposed action will help protect the long-term productivity of the groundfish resources and will involve no irreversible or irretrievable commitments of the groundfish resources."

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ADDENDUM

After review the National Marine Fisheries Service has revised the "classification" section on Amendment 6. The amendment is now considered to be a significant action under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). Therefore the title of the document has been revised to indicate that in addition to being a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Regulatory Impact Review the analysis provided also serves as an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA). The new title is:

Amendment 6 (Limited Entry) to the Fishery Management Plan for Pacific Coast Groundfish Including Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Regulatory Impact Review, and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis.

Because the document was initially prepared in anticipation of a possible finding that the program would be found to be significant under the RFA no additional revision is required to meet the requirements for an IRFA.

PFMC
8/7/92

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ACRONYMS

ABC	acceptable biological catch
Council	Pacific Fishery Management Council
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DAP	domestic annual processing
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FMP	fishery management plan
GMT	Groundfish Management Team
GNP	gross national product
INPFC	International North Pacific Fisheries Commission
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
ITQ	individual transfer quota
JV	joint venture
JVP	joint venture processing
LE permit	limited entry permit
LEADOC	Limited Entry Amendment Drafting and Oversight Committee
LEC	Limited Entry Committee
MFCMA	Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act
MLR	minimum landing requirements
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MSY	maximum sustainable yield
mt	metric tons
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OY	optimum yield
PacFIN	Pacific Coast Fishery Information Network
RDB	research data base
RFA	Regulatory Flexibility Act
RIR	Regulatory Impact Review
SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
TALFF	total allowable level of foreign fishing