

Pacific Fishery Management Council
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 27, 2006

CONTACT: Mr. Jim Seger
503-820-2280

***Public Workshop on Trawl Individual Quota Analysis
To be Held April 18-20, 2006***

At an upcoming workshop, the public will have an exceptional opportunity to weigh in on plans for analysis of a possible individual quota program for the West Coast groundfish trawl fishery.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council, sponsor of the workshop, is considering a major overhaul to the way the West Coast trawl fishery for groundfish is managed. Under the proposed program, each vessel would have an amount of fish that it would be allowed to catch any time during the year, and these amounts (individual quotas) would be tradable. As currently designed, the program would allow any United States entity to buy the individual quotas and use them on their own vessel or lend them to a vessel for use, including communities and members of the general public. Initially, quota would be issued for a minimal fee to members of the fishing industry based largely on their participation history.

An environmental impact statement is being drafted on the alternatives being considered. Often the public does not have a chance to comment on the contents of an environmental impact statement during the drafting of the document. This workshop is intended to provide a midway look at the effects being evaluated and how the effects are being measured.

Public comment will be solicited on questions such as: “Do the analytical plans cover important potential impacts?” “Will the proposed methods get at the effects of public concern?” “Are the data sets and information sources on which analysts rely sound?”

Often members of industry and the public have important ideas and information about what might cause a particular impact and limitations of available data. This workshop provides an opportunity for information exchange.

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
866-806-7204
503-820-2280
<http://www.pcouncil.org>

The workshop will begin Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at 10 a.m. and may go into the evening to complete business for the day. The workshop will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2006, continuing until business for the day is completed; and reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2006, continuing until 5 p.m.

The workshop will be held at the following location:

Embassy Suites Hotel
Oak Room
7900 NE 82nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97220
503-460-3000

The workshop is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at 503-820-2280 at least five days prior to the meeting date.

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