



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE: Northwest Region



The Northwest Region is responsible for collecting scientific data and managing marine resources and habitats in federal waters off the states of California, Oregon, and Washington (the area comprising the California Coastal Current Large Marine Ecosystem) as well as coastal and inland waters utilized by species protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.

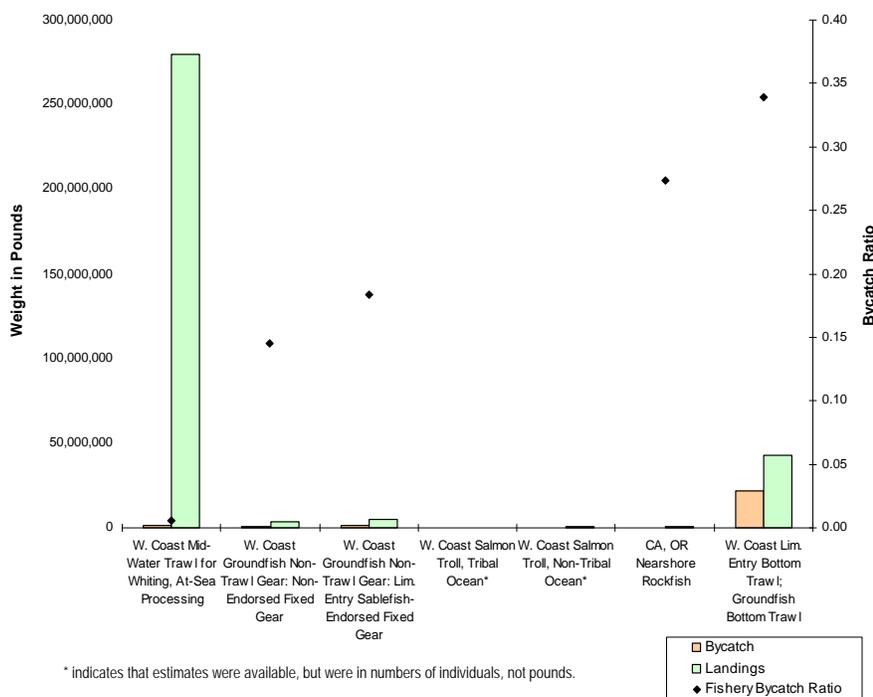
The National Bycatch Report: Northwest Region

Reducing fisheries bycatch is a top priority for NOAA Fisheries and is required under guiding legislation and international laws. Monitoring and reducing fisheries bycatch promotes healthy marine ecosystems and the best use of the nation's living marine resources. NOAA Fisheries new report, the National Bycatch Report, provides bycatch estimates by fishery and species for each of the six NOAA Fisheries Regions. The Pacific Fishery Management Council, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries, is responsible for managing fisheries in the Northwest Region.

Northwest Region Fast Facts

- 30 commercial fisheries (federal, state, tribal, and international) are included in this report for the Northwest Region.
- 2 fishery management plans regulate the harvest of federally managed species in the Northwest Region.
- Landings from Oregon and Washington commercial fisheries included in the report were valued at nearly \$281 million dollars in 2005.
- Observer programs are currently in place for 9 of the 30 fisheries.
- Fish bycatch estimates were available for 7 fisheries and 53 species in 2005. Estimates are not available for the remaining 2 fisheries due to limited data.
- Protected species (marine mammals, seabirds, and sea turtles) bycatch estimates were available for 5 fisheries and 13 species/groups in 2005.

Northwest Region 2005 Fish Bycatch and Landings by Fishery



The National Bycatch Report



National Bycatch Report: Northwest Region Bycatch Reduction Success Stories

- Bycatch caps instituted in the Pacific hake fishery ensure that bycatch of rebuilding rockfish stocks remains within target levels.
- Trawl gear regulations, such as footrope size limitation and the mandatory use of selective trawl net designs, assisted in reducing depleted rockfish species bycatch in the groundfish fisheries.
- Area- and depth-related closures in the groundfish fisheries further reduce bycatch of depleted rockfish species.
- Measures such as permit stacking and permit/vessel buyback reduced fishing capacity in the groundfish fisheries to better match the amount of fishing effort needed to harvest available resources, and therefore reduced overall bycatch.
- Conservation engineering scientists worked with the fishing industry to introduce a new bycatch reduction device (BRD) that will reduce Chinook salmon and rockfish bycatch in the Pacific hake (whiting) fishery.



NWFS/NOAA



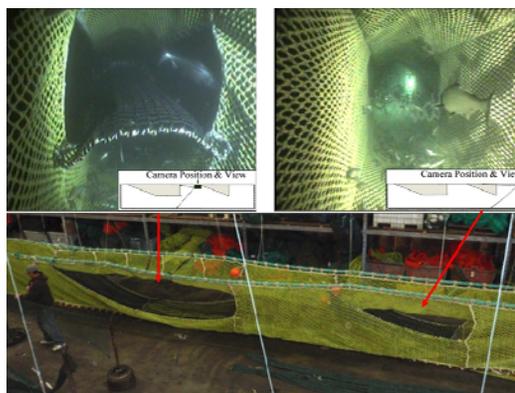
NWFS/NOAA



Dr. Brandon Southall/NOAA

Chinook salmon and rockfish BRD developed for use in the Pacific hake fishery. The upper images depict Chinook salmon exiting the BRD. The bottom image depicts a port-side view of the BRD.

Credit: NWFS/NOAA and PSMFC



Black and yellow rockfish.
Credit: Claire Fackler, CINMS, NOAA.

View the complete
National Bycatch Report
at:

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/bycatch.htm