



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



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the Pacific Trawl IFQ  
Program:

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Trawl IFQ](#)

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### Catch Share Spotlight No. 17

## Pacific Groundfish Trawl Rationalization

### Vital Stats

Implemented: January 2011

Type of Catch Share Program: IFQ and Harvest Cooperatives

Management units: Over 90 different species of groundfish, including 64 species of rockfish; 12 species of flatfish; six species of roundfish, and three other species.

There are twenty-nine categories of IFQ covering most of these species and tracked to individual permits and vessels. Harvest cooperatives target Pacific whiting and have allocations for five groundfish species (Pacific whiting, darkblotched rockfish, POP, widow rockfish, canary rockfish)

Vessels / Gear type: Trawl

### Available Trend Data

Ex-vessel value:

Before Program (2009): \$42.4 million (\$30.5 million for non-tribal, non-whiting trawl sector; \$11.9 million for non-tribal, whiting trawl sector (Catcher/Processor (CP) = \$3.9 million, Mothership (MS) = \$2.7 million, and Shoreside = \$5.3 million)

Stock status:

Before Program: Four stocks in the program are listed as overfished in the NMFS Fish Stock Sustainability Index<sup>1</sup> with four additional stocks in the rebuilding stage for a total of eight: Bocaccio, canary rockfish, cowcod, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, Petrale sole, widow rockfish, yelloweye rockfish. No stocks under this program are listed as undergoing overfishing.

### Nature of Harvest Privilege

Eligibility:

For the IFQ fishery: To qualify to receive a quota share (QS) permit, a person or entity must be the current owner of a Pacific Coast Groundfish trawl-endorsed limited entry permit with landing history; or must be a whiting shoreside processor that received deliveries of  $\geq 1$  metric ton of whiting from whiting trips in each of any two years from 1998-2004. QS permits consider landings history and bycatch ratios for overfished species. Individual Bycatch Quota (IBQ) for Pacific halibut exist; halibut may be caught but not retained.

At-sea whiting harvest cooperatives: must have an MS permit, an MS/Catcher Vessel (CV)-endorsed limited entry trawl permit, or a C/P-endorsed limited entry trawl permit. To qualify for initial issuance of an MS permit, a person must own, or operate under a bareboat charter, a vessel on which at least 1,000 mt of Pacific whiting was processed in the mothership sector in each year for at least two years between 1997-2003.

Duration: Open ended. Council can end program through the normal Council process.

Accumulation: Individual species and aggregate quota share accumulation limits are in place, but the plan requires those above the limits to divest by the end of 2014. Vessels have limits on the amount of quota pounds (QP) that can be registered to a vessel at any one time and cumulative over the year. The mothership sector of the at-sea whiting cooperatives limit the amount a vessel may catch to no more than 30% of the whiting allocation to the mothership sector and limit the mothership processor to processing no more than 45% of the whiting allocation to the mothership sector.

**Initial Allocation:** Qualified owners of limited entry trawl permits will receive 90% of the non-whiting QS. The remaining 10% of the QS for non-whiting species is set aside for use in the Adaptive Management Program under development by the Council. In years 1 and 2 of the program, the QP associated with the 10% allocated to the AMP will be distributed to all QS owners in proportion to their QS. Qualified owners of limited entry trawl permits will also receive 80% of the whiting QS. Eligible shoreside processors will receive the remaining 20% of the whiting QS.

**Transferability:** For the first two years of the program, QS cannot be transferred, although QP may be transferred. The QS (after two years) and QP are fully transferable among eligible persons or entities.

### Management

**Identified Costs:** Management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement will be paid for, in part, by cost recovery fees. Industry is required to cover the costs of at-sea observers and dockside catch monitors, although (subject to appropriations) NMFS is reimbursing monitoring costs in the first 3 years of the program.

**Cost recovery:** Fees up to 3% of exvessel value, consistent with MSA 303A(e) will be assessed.

### Summary

The groundfish fishery management plan includes over 90 different species, most of which live on or near the bottom of the ocean. Whiting, the largest volume component of the fishery, is a midwater species. While the trawl fishery harvests the largest percentage of groundfish in the fishery, other gear types include troll, longline, hook and line, pots, and gillnets. Groundfish are managed through a number of measures including harvest guidelines, quotas, trip and landing limits, seasonal closures, gear restrictions, and area restrictions such as the Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs). RCAs are areas where fishing is prohibited to specific gears or sectors. All sectors of the groundfish fishery are currently constrained by the need to rebuild groundfish species that have been declared overfished, and rebuilding plans have been developed to help these species recover. In the near-term, the overall groundfish harvest has been significantly reduced because of the low quotas necessary to rebuild stocks.

The trawl rationalization program is a limited access privilege program under the MSA with 100% monitoring of the catch through at-sea observers and dockside catch monitors. It consists of: 1) an IFQ program for the shore-based trawl fleet; and 2) two distinct cooperative programs for the mothership and catcher-processor trawl fleets. The trawl rationalization program is intended to increase net economic benefits, create individual economic stability, provide full utilization of the trawl sector allocation, consider environmental impacts, and achieve individual accountability of catch and bycatch.

The program continues to be adjusted as the Pacific Fishery Management Council develops trailing actions to address topics including, but not limited to: cost recovery, safe harbors/community fishing associations, and development of the Adaptive Management Program.



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<sup>i</sup><http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/2010/fourth/Q4%202010%20FSSInonFSSISRockStatus.pdf>