

Northwest Region Bycatch Implementation Plan Action Items (FY08 and FY09) and Accomplishments (FY07)

Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/07	2008	2009	How Programs will be Measured and/or Monitored Milestone	Milestone Completion Date	
Monitoring						
<i>Expand WCGOP coverage to ancillary fleets making groundfish landings.</i>	Vessel selection for observer coverage of the nearshore rockfish fleet data was maintained in 2007 and increased for open access fixed gear fleet in 2007.	Complete DQ/DA checks, analysis and release of nearshore and open access data collected in 2007. Update sampling rate as necessary.	Further build upon lessons learned from 2008 coverage and continue to collect, analyze and release observer data for use in management.	Observer data analyses released as per the schedule arranged with management.	Observer report posted on NWFSC website.	Nov 07, Sep 08, Sep 09
<i>Implement mandatory catch monitoring program for shore-based whiting fishery, possibly with camera or other technological observation systems</i>	Electronic monitoring systems were tested on the entire shore-based hake fishery (functioning under an EFP) for the 2004-2007 seasons and are in process of being incorporated as mandatory for future seasons.	Dependent upon funding and final rule, electronic monitoring will be deployed as compliance tool on the shore-based fleet during the 2008 season.	Continue to utilize systems aboard fleet as compliance tool for Enf use.	Electronic monitoring of the fleet will be maintained and used by enforcement.	Electronic monitoring systems active and used by Enforcement.	Apr 08, Apr 09
<i>Expand the vessel monitoring system program to cover commercial open access and fleets that target groundfish</i>	Proposed rule to implement VMS expansion to open access fisheries published 8/8/07 (72 FR 44469). Final rule publication expected early December 2007.	Public informed of new requirements via Small Entity Compliance Guide and possible public meetings in December 2007 - February 2008.	Open access vessel tracking underway to detect potential closed area incursions, if any.	Publication of proposed and final rules.	VMS units up and running for open access fishery, detecting vessel tracks into Northwest Office of Law Enforcement.	28-Feb
<i>Update NWFSC bycatch model with 2001-2007 WCGOP data to improve precision of bycatch rate estimates</i>	Bycatch model updated with recent observer program data.	Annual update.	Annual update.	Annual update of bycatch model with most recent available observer data.	Bycatch model update and results incorporated into management process.	Jan 08, Jan 09
<i>Work with the states to improve the landings receipt system, possibly moving to electronic fish tickets</i>	Field testing of electronic fish tickets completed this summer in shore-based hake fishery. States adding additional fields to better link with fisheries and landings (e.g. permit numbers on fish tickets)	Update input and changes from 2007 electronic fish ticket test and expand into other fisheries as needed. States to maintain additional fish ticket fields.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.
<i>Aid in creating a comprehensive National Bycatch Report</i>	Aided in developing comparable bycatch data sets and criteria across the regions for creation of a comprehensive national bycatch data report. Provided bycatch estimates in monitored federal fisheries.	Finalize data sets, format report and review content for eventual release.	To Be Determined.	Release of public report.	Release of public report.	Dec 08
Research						

<i>Conduct further observer data analysis to refine the program's sampling design and fleet monitoring strategies.</i>	Changes in sampling design incorporated in Jan 07. No other needed at this time.			Review of the sampling design will be completed and any needed sampling plan changes will be incorporated.		COMPLETE
<i>Conduct testing of electronic monitoring equipment on small fixed gear vessels.</i>	Contract in place to begin testing in summer 08.	Testing and verification of EM vs. observer data on smaller fixed gear vessel.		EM systems deployed, tested and results compiled.		Oct 08
<i>Conduct testing of equipment to record trawl tracks to better represent areas trawled.</i>	Research and develop of GPS data logger.	Deploy prototype data logger and update design based upon input from field testing.	Dependent upon success of testing, deploy logger across all observed trawl fleet.	Deployment of logger, further R&D.	Deploy GPS logger.	Oct 08
Management						
<i>Continue to monitor the bycatch of ESA listed salmonids in the West coast groundfish fishery for compliance with provisions of current biological opinion</i>	The biological opinion on Chinook take in the whiting fishery and on the groundfish trip limit fishery was completed in Mar 2006.	NWFSC and NWR working together to update information on Lower Columbia River coho and green sturgeon bycatch to determine whether consultation is needed.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.
<i>Draft Biological Assessment on effects of West Coast groundfish and halibut fisheries on ESA-listed seabirds, marine mammals, and sea turtles</i>	Data compiled and draft report completed.	NMML analysts and observer program staff to jointly analyze and release data for incorporation into Biological Assessment.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.	Completion of Biological Assessment.	Dec 08
<i>Implement a full retention program for the shorebased whiting fishery</i>	Draft regulations prepared.	Regulations put in place for shore-based hake fishery.	Any needed regulation changes identified in 2008 incorporated in 2009.	Regulations prepared, released for public comment and finalized.	Regulations in place for shore-based hake fishery.	Apr 08
<i>Work with PFMC in their efforts to develop an ITQ program for the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery</i>	Participate in PFMC TIQ analytical team and numerous other IQ meetings with stakeholder groups. Bycatch analyses provided for IQ processes.	Participate in TIQ analytical team.	Dependent on outcomes of analyses and committee considerations of 2008.	Analyses and committee meetings necessary to forward the TIQ EIS drafted and held, respectively. Regular reports to PFMC.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.
<i>With PFMC, develop an FMP amendment to support the Council's preferred alternative in the completed Bycatch FEIS.</i>	Final rule to implement Amendment 18 published on 11/13/06.					COMPLETE

<i>Explore capacity reduction programs for the open access fisheries</i>	This program has been on hold as a lower-priority item for PFMC consideration. PFMC set a control date of Sept 06 for license limitation program and plans to next review issue in March 2008.	Begin PFMC discussions and develop analytical documents on open access permitting.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.	To Be Determined.
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Education/Outreach

<i>Develop Groundfish Closed Areas website for NWR</i>	Website complete and regularly updated: http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Groundfish-Closed-Areas/Index.cfm					COMPLETE
<i>Solicitation and discussion of bycatch data release format with constituents</i>	Meetings held with constituent groups and individuals. Changes incorporated in total mortality report released in early 2007.	Hold additional meetings as needed.		Compiling of suggestions and requests to incorporate in observer data reports.	Additional changes will be incorporated into forthcoming total mortality report.	Feb 08