

Development of the West Coast Limited Entry Trawl DAP

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Today's Presentation

- The Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering a multispecies individual fishing quota program for its limited entry trawl groundfish fishery
- This presentation :
 - 1) Provides an overview of the West Coast limited entry trawl groundfish fishery
 - 2) Provides a status report on the Council's process for evaluating implementation of a DAP regulatory regime
 - 3) Discusses key data needs that would be created by implementation of DAP program in a multispecies fishery

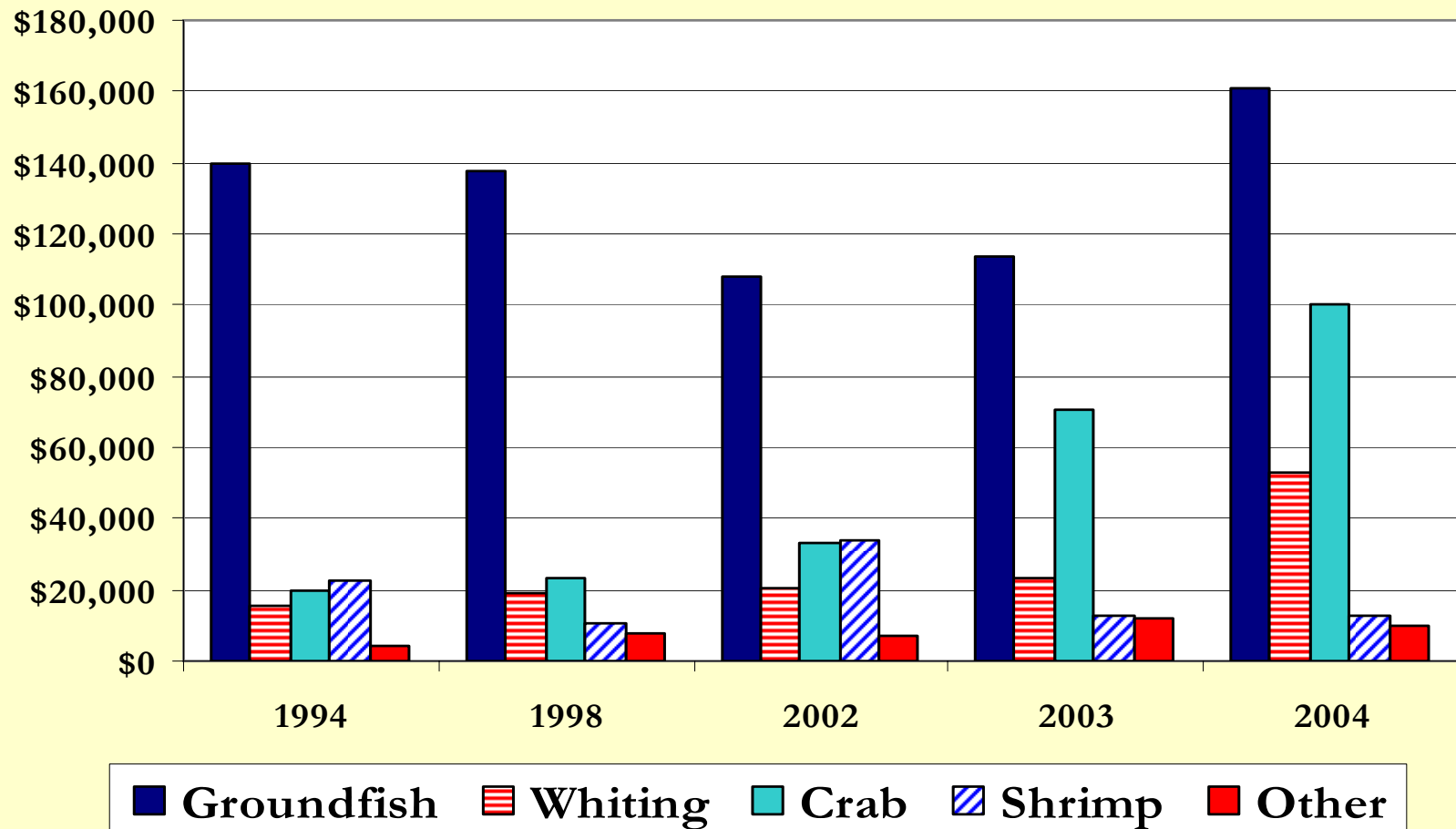
West Coast Groundfish Fishery Characteristics

- Annual West Coast groundfish landings
 - \$103 million over 1984-2003
 - \$61 million 2004
- Must have a limited entry permit with a trawl endorsement in order to land groundfish with trawl gear
- Limited entry trawl fleet accounts for about 70% of West Coast ex vessel groundfish revenue
- 80+ species of groundfish are currently managed through measures including cumulative catch limits, area restrictions, seasonal closures, and gear restrictions

West Coast Limited Entry Trawl Regulatory Issues

- The need to rebuild overfished species has been a key factor determining total allowable catch for many species
- A mandatory program for observing at-sea discards was implemented in 2001
- The 2003 permit buyback program:
 - Reduced the number of limited entry permits with a trawl endorsement from 274 to 183
 - Required surrender of crab and shrimp permits associated with the vessel and prohibited the vessel from future commercial fishing

West Coast Limited Entry Trawl Fleet Earnings Per Vessel from WOC Landings



DAP Evaluation Process To Date

- The Pacific Fisheries Management Council initiated scoping for a trawl individual quota program in September 2003
- Alternative DAP systems were developed by the Trawl Individual Quota Committee --- representatives of the whiting and nonwhiting sectors, shoreside and at-sea processors, communities, and environmentalists
- The Council voted in June 2005 to analyze five alternative regulatory regimes (including three transferable quota systems) covering the harvest of West Coast groundfish in an EIS
- Timeline for progressing on the draft EIS will depend on available funding

The EIS Will Consider Alternative Regulatory Regimes and Allocation Plans

The five regulatory regimes are:

- 1) Status quo
- 2) DAP for groundfish trawl target species
- 3) DAP for all groundfish except Other Species
- 4) DAP for all groundfish
- 5) Permit stacking

The three allocation plans are

- 1) 50/50 harvester/processor
- 2) 100/0, or 100/0 non-whiting and 50/50 whiting, or 90/10
- 3) 75/25 harvester/processor

Data Needs with DAPs

- Effective monitoring of total catch is essential for controlling bycatch with a DAP in a multispecies fishery
- Estimated cost of the at sea observer program under a DAP program with 100% coverage is \$11.5 million if there are no restrictions on vessel trips. Restrictions on vessel trips could lower this figure considerably.
- Economists must adjust their data collection before analysis of a potential DAP program begins
- Data collection should support ex ante estimation of revenue gains/harvest cost reductions from DAPs which can be compared in BCA with projected changes in monitoring, enforcement and administrative costs

Data Needs with DAPs

Cost Earnings Data

- The NWFSC began fielding a cost earnings survey of limited entry trawlers in November 2005.
- Because of a low response rate (14%) to a 1999 cost earnings survey, survey design placed a high priority on obtaining an improved response rate
 - In-person interviews
 - Short questionnaire
 - Industry support
- Response rate to date is about 60%
- Survey costs are slightly below \$1000 per completed interview

Cost Earnings Survey Design Issues of Particular Interest with DAPs

- Who are the owner(s) of permits and vessels? How do we know if one individual/company has formal or informal business arrangements with another individual/company?
- Which costs are incurred in the DAP fishery versus other fisheries the vessel participates in? How do we collect individual cost information on each fishery a multi-fishery vessel participates in without making the survey burdensome and lowering the response rate?
- What is vessel participation in fisheries for which we can not access landings/revenue data?
- What is the cost of voluntary versus mandatory data collection on a regular basis from all survey populations required to assess impacts of the DAP program?