

ON THE CHARTS

Petrale still overfished, Widow Rockfish poised to become target fishery in 2013?

Wanted: Fishing Images & Video

The OTC is asking for fishermen to share their images of Oregon's trawl fleet depicting the nautical life. The Commission has a need for still images and video for use in promotional material, media outreach, and will be posted on the OTC web site, possibly highlighting a picture of the week. 300 dpi for stills and Hi-def for video are preferred. Your assistance would be most appreciated.

School Lunch Pilot Program

The Trawl Commission recently approved funding a pilot project to introduce trawl products into Oregon's public school lunch program and to educate students about our fisheries at the same time. This opportunity was bolstered by Oregon's 2011 legislature, who voted to provide an additional \$.15 per school meal, if the food products were from Oregon. That incentive, coupled with a growing awareness of seafood's nutritional value made this kind of opportunity feasible. The program will run for 3 months, beginning next spring.

This year's stock assessment cycle is over and the results have been a mixed bag. While most of the stocks are trending up, the variability of the B Zero estimate makes the long term stability of management tricky, at best. With that, here is the short version (depletion level in parenthesis) on the assessment results that effect Oregon's trawl fleet:

Black Cod (33%) - Look for quota reduction in 2013-14. How big a cut will depend on how much information can be provided to the Council in November on the strength of the 2008 and 2010 year class.

Dover (83%) - More Dover than the fleet will ever catch. Look for quota to remain stable for a long time.

POP (19%) - The 28 year rebuilding saga continues. Not much change expected.

Petrale (18%) - The overfished debacle continues. However, the quota should increase significantly in 2013-14.

Spiny Dogfish (63%) - 1st time assessment will likely produce a quota that minimizes any targeting in the future.

Widow (50%) - If the Mop-up panel results pass PFMC muster; look for a return of the widow rock fishery in 2013

Administrative Rules Hearing Set

Due to the newly implemented Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Catch Share Program allowing trawl vessels to switch gears types and use pots and longline gear to harvest species identified as part of the trawl quota, the OTC will hold an Administrative Rules hearing to modify their assessment language. Since the current assessment definition doesn't address this issue, the proposed language will modify the definition so that all trawl quota is treated equally for assessment purposes. If any fisherman wishes to testify on this issue, the hearing will be held October 24th at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Building, located at 2127 SE Marine Science Dr, in Newport.

Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Review Committee to meet

The PFMC Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Review Committee (TRREC) will meet October 27th in Portland. The first priority for the TRREC is to review regulations (a) making it permissible to stack both a limited entry trawl and fixed gear permit on a single vessel at the same time, (b) modifying the season opening date for whiting, (c) allowing vessels to carry multiple gears at the same time, and (d) modification of several identified trawl gear regulations that

impair increased efficiency and selectivity. As a secondary priority, the TRREC may focus on other regulations made obsolete by implementation of the new trawl rationalization program in 2011. Other topics may be discussed as time allows. The meeting is open to the public. Paul Kujala (OR), David Jinks (Whiting), Marion Larkin (WA), and Travis Hunter (CA) are the shoreside fishermen representatives on the TRECC.

Trawl Fisheries Update

Shrimp

We've all heard the old-timers talk about the good old days, well; the participants of the 2011 shrimp fishery will be able to join in those discussions when they retire. How good is this season? Even if October landings limp across the finish line, the 2011 season should be in the top 5 in pounds landed. Shrimp prices have also been good, averaging \$.51/lb, a 50% increase over last year. However, what makes 2011 really stand out is the catch rates, as the record CPUE's (Catch Per Unit Effort) of the past season continues. With the desired trifecta of high volume, price and CPUE, 2011 will be long remembered by the fleet as a very good year.

Groundfish

The first year of a rationalized fishery has seen some speed bumps, but even though the landings are down, the value of the fishery is almost the same as last year. With that, a couple of things really stand out, discards rates and overfished rockfish landings. For as long as one can remember, the trawl industry has taken a hit on discards, both regulatory and hi-grading. That is all in the past, as the fishery is now experiencing a 97% retention rate. That number is truly remarkable, as anything better than 95% is considered outstanding on a global scale. As for overfished rockfish species, we're over 9 months into the year and the fleet has only taken 25% of the total available combined quota. While one can say the reason is that few people are fishing the shelf, Darkblotch, a slope species, is only at 17%. The same can be said for Halibut mortality, as 74% of that quota remains unused. It seems that individual accountability really does make a difference.

Whiting

Big quota, small fish, strong market is the short summary for this year's fishery. With an increased quota and a large 2008 year class in the water, the fleet started the season with an air of uncertainty on what the season might be like. 4 months into the fishery and those concerns were for naught, as almost 134 million pounds have come across the Oregon's docks through the end of September. Even with the smaller fish, ex-vessel prices are up \$.02/lb over last year, with prices averaging \$.11/lb. Fish have been concentrated on the north coast with Astoria leading the charge, accounting for almost 2/3 of Oregon's landings. Retention in the fishery is over 99%, which makes the whiting fishery one of the cleanest fisheries in the world.

Scholarship winner

Dillon Moreland of Knappa was the recipient of the OTC's *Joe Easley Memorial Scholarship*. Dillon, whose father John Moreland owns the Ocean Beaut out of Astoria, will receive \$500 to assist him in his studies at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls this fall. Congratulations Dillon. Each year, two \$500 scholarships are available to Oregon residents who are dependents of licensed Oregon trawl fishermen or crew. Students who are interested in applying next year should reference the Oregon Student Assistance Commission Scholarship Guide or visit their website at: www.osac.state.or.us

Safety Classes offered

Safety classes are being offered free of charge to commercial fisherman this fall, courtesy of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission and the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA). Fishermen wishing to participate should contact the respective port reps at the numbers provided below.

Newport, November 8-9 • Englund Marine Supply

• Contact: Patty 541-574-6534 ext 11

Charleston, November 3-4 • OIMB, Invert. Classroom

• Contact Mike/Curt: 503-240-9337/9373

Port Orford, October 25-26, 27 • American Legion Hall

• Contact Julie: 541-332-0627

Brookings, November 1-2 • Harbor Fire/Water Building

• Contact Kathy H. 541-469-7830

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