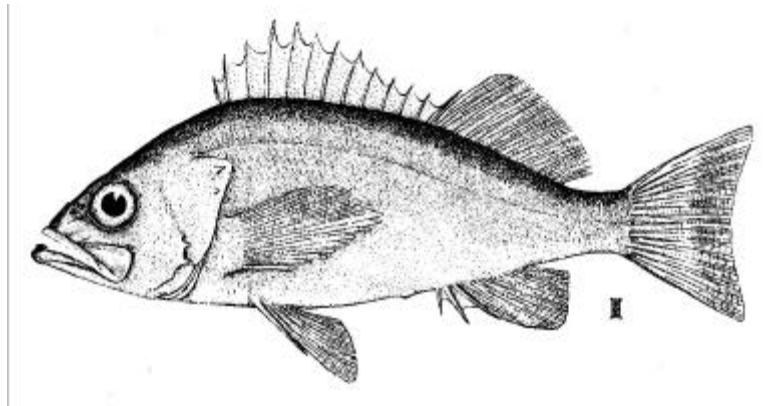


PACIFIC REGION

**INTEGRATED FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

GROUNDFISH TRAWL

**APRIL 1, 2003
TO MARCH 31, 2004**



Yellowtail Rockfish: *Sebastes flavidus*



**Fisheries and Oceans
Canada**

**Pêches et Océans
Canada**

Canada

This Integrated Fisheries Management Plan is intended for general purposes only. Where there is a discrepancy between the Plan and the regulations, the regulations are the final authority. A description of Areas and Subareas referenced in this Plan can be found in the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada Internet Sites

Pacific Region Groundfish Home Page

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Pacific Region General Home Page

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

National Head Quarters Home Page

www.ncr.dfo.ca

2. GLOSSARY

AFS	Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS), Fisheries and Oceans Canada's comprehensive program for co-operative management of First Nations harvesting in federally managed fisheries.
Area	As in Section 2 of the <i>Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations</i> , available through the Internet at: www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/fishmgmt.htm
beam trawl	A type of trawl net in which the mouth of the net is held open by a "beam" or "pole". The beam is held horizontal across the mouth of the net while under tow.
by-catch	Incidental or unintentional catch of non-targeted stocks or species.
cod-end	The narrow-necked bag at the end of a trawl net.
CCQ	Code of Conduct Quota: allocated as individual vessel quota to licensed trawl vessels on the basis of the individual vessel owners adherence to the Groundfish Development Authority established principles designed to ensure fair treatment of crew and safe vessel operation.
Communal Commercial Licence	Issued to First Nations' organizations pursuant to the <i>Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations</i> for participation in the general commercial fishery. Licences issued are equivalent to the capacity of licences that have been retired under the AFS Licence Retirement/Allocation Transfer Program.

communal licence	Issued to First Nations' organizations pursuant to the <i>Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations</i> , to carry on fishing and related activities.
designated service bureau (DSB)	The service bureau designated to undertake the Groundfish Trawl Dockside Monitoring Program, and for the period of this plan, means Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. ("Archipelago" or "AMR") of Victoria B.C.
DMP	Dockside Monitoring Program: program that verifies the landed weight and species composition of all fish landed at a dock.
exclusion grate, device or panel	A grate, device or panel that when inserted properly into a trawl net reduces the amount of non-target species in the catch.
fishing hail-out number	A unique number issued by the DSB to a vessel master as confirming the receipt of the vessel hail prior to commencement of fishing.
fishing hail number	A unique number issued by the DSB to a vessel master upon completion of a fishing hail as confirmation of making a fishing hail.
fishing trip	That period when the vessel departs from a dock to engage in fishing until fishing ceases and catch is offloaded.
fixed exploitation rate	Is the proportion of the fishable population that is taken as catch. With a fixed rate, the harvestable quota varies with the population size.
GDA	Groundfish Development Authority; an advisory board established in 1997 to provide advise to the Department on the allocation of 20 % (as GDA and CCQ) of the annual available Trawl quota. The GDA is comprised of seven representatives of industry stakeholders representing the Coastal Community Network, Crewmembers, non-licence holding fishers, the Provincial Government and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
GDQ	Groundfish Development Quota: allocated as IVQ to licensed trawl vessels on the basis of the advice of the GDA.
GFE	A Groundfish equivalent is the term used to reflect the conversion of all species of groundfish IVQ to a common factor. GFE's are used to measure total IVQ holdings of a licence against its cap, and for quota swapping purposes. GFE's are based on price relative to Pacific ocean perch (Pacific ocean perch = 1.00).

GSIC	Groundfish Special Industry Committee: a subcommittee of Groundfish Trawl Advisory Committee (GTAC) appointed by the Department comprised of selected GTAC members and other stakeholders in the industry. GSIC provides specific advice to the Department and GTAC on possible refinements or changes to the IVQ program and trawl fishery.
GTAC	Groundfish Trawl Advisory Committee: a consultative body made up of representatives from a cross-section of the groundfish including seats for First Nations and other non-fishing industry stakeholders.
harvested	Referring to any animal caught by any means.
landed or landing	The transfer of catch from a licensed vessel to land (including docks and wharves).
landing hail-in	That report required by licence condition as notification prior to landing or offloading catch at the end of a fishing trip.
landing hail number	A unique number issued by the DSB to the vessel representative as confirmation of the receipt of a landing hail.
observer	An individual who has been designated as an observer by the Regional Director General for Pacific Region pursuant to section 39 of the <i>Fishery (General) Regulations</i> .
offloading	The landing or removal of catch from the licensed vessel.
on board	Referring to that which takes place or exists on the licenced fishing vessel as compared to on land.
otter trawl	A type of trawl net in which the mouth of the net is held open and towed by means of otter boards or doors.
product	A general term for final form of catch after processing either done onboard or dockside.
PSARC	Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee
recruitment	The process whereby young fish are added to a fishable stock or population.
RPA	Rockfish Protection Area
sectoral committee	A committee providing a forum for the exchange of information and views between the clients and Fisheries and Oceans Canada on issues

important to the management of a fishery.

selective fishing	The ability to avoid known, non-target species and stocks or, if encountered, to release them alive and unharmed.
selectivity device	A general term that refers to a device that when added to a trawl net will reduce the amount of non-target species in the catch.
SFAB	Sport Fishing Advisory Board
Species Management Areas (SMA)	A term used to describe a management unit used in the groundfish trawl fishery that is based on location of fishing grounds and/or known groundfish stocks. These units are used in allocating IVQ is licenced trawl vessels.
SMA “Area 3C”	Those waters comprising Areas 21, 23, 24, 121 and 123 and Subareas 124-1 to 124-3 and 125-6 combined.
SMA “Area 3D”	Those waters comprising Areas 25, 26 and 126 and Subareas 27-2 to 27-11, 124-4, 125-1 to 125-5, 127-1 and 127-2 combined.
SMA “Area 5A”	Those waters comprising Areas 11 and 111 and Subareas 12-14, 27-1, 127-3, 127-4 and 130-1 combined.
SMA “Area 5B”	Those waters comprising Areas 7 to 10 and 108 to 110 and Subareas 102-3, 107-2, 107-3, 130-2 and that portion of Subarea 130-3 that lies south of the parallel passing through 51°56’ north latitude combined.
SMA “Area 5C”	Those waters comprising Areas 6 and 106 and Subareas 2-1 to 2-19, 102-2, 105-2 and 107-1 combined.
SMA “Area 5D”	Those waters comprising Areas 3 to 5, 103 and 104 and Subareas 1-2 to 1-5, 101-4 to 101-10, 102-1 and 105-1 combined.
SMA “Area 5E”	Those waters comprising Area 142 and Subareas 1-1, 2-31 to 2-100 and 101-1 to 101-3 and that portion of Subarea 130-3 that lies north of the parallel passing through 51°56’ north latitude combined.
SMA “Area 4B”	Those waters comprising Areas 13 to 20, 28 and 29 and Subareas 12-1 to 12-13 and 12-15 to 12-48 combined.
offshore hake area	Those waters comprising Areas 1 to 11, 19 to 21, 23 to 27, 101 to 111, 121, 123 to 127, 130 and 142 combined.
gulf hake area	Those waters comprising Areas 12 to 18 and 29 when used in connection

	with fishing for pacific hake.
gulf pollock area	Those waters comprising Areas 13 to 20 and 29 when used in connection with fishing for walleye pollock.
species cap	The maximum percentage of coast-wide IVQ of a species allowed to be held by any individual licence.
stakeholder	Used interchangeably with the term “resource-user”, to include all users of fisheries resources including First Nations, recreational and commercial harvesters of fish, marine mammals and aquatic plants. Depending on the fishery, it may also include crewmembers, members of coastal communities, or the public in general and other parties that provide involved or supporting to the groundfish industry.
stock	A biologically discrete population.
stock assessment	Analyses of fisheries and research data used to estimate stock abundance and health or evaluate the effects of fishing on a stock or population and predict the reactions of populations to alternative management choices.
Subarea	As in Section 2 of the <i>Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations</i> available through the Internet at: www.pac.dfp-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/fishmgmt.htm
TAC	Total allowable catch. The amount of catch that may be taken from a stock determined using analytical procedures and acceptable scientific methodology, to achieve management objectives.
tonne	Metric tonne, 1000 kg, or 2204.6 lbs.
tranship	The transfer of fish from one vessel to another vessel.
trawl fishing logbook (logbook)	Used in the Groundfish trawl fishery to record details of a vessel fishing activity including catch, releases, gear and location.
trawl net	Any bag-type net that is dragged in the water by a vessel for the purpose of catching fish under the <i>Fisheries Act and Regulations</i> .
trawl quota status report (QSR)	A record issued to a trawl vessel after each landing. This report indicates trip and cumulative catch of a vessel against IVQ holdings.
validation	The verification, by an observer, of the weight of fish landed.

verification

Verification includes any or all of the following activities: estimating, weighing, sampling all species, inspection of fishing records, and/or interviewing the vessel master.

3. INTRODUCTION

This document is an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for the commercial groundfish trawl fishery that occurs off the west coast of Canada for the fishing year April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.

The Regional Director General, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region, approved the plan.

Details of the rules and policies that govern the commercial trawl fishery can be found in the Commercial Trawl Harvest Plan (Appendix 1) attached to this plan.

Groundfish are also harvested in commercial, recreational and First Nations' fisheries by traps and by hook and line gear. Law prohibits the use of trawl gear for recreational fishing. Please refer to the other Pacific Region IFMPs for information on commercial fisheries for sablefish, halibut, hook and line rockfish inside, hook and line rockfish outside, and hook and line other species (Schedule II). Information regarding First Nations and recreational fisheries is included in these IFMPs.

Information presented here and links to other sources of information relating to groundfish and related fisheries can be found on the Internet at Fisheries and Oceans Canada Groundfish Trawl Homepage:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/Groundfish/GFTrawl.htm

IFMPs are available from the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region web site or from any Pacific Fishery Licence Unit (see Contact section above).

4. PROSPECTS FOR THE 2003/2004 SEASON

The overall prospects for the 2003/2004 commercial groundfish fishery have not changed in recent years. Harvest levels presented in this plan continue to be set on the basis of the most recent scientific advice and input of industry stakeholders. Management of the fishery will continue for the seventh consecutive year using individual vessel quota (IVQ). The IVQ program for this fishery helps ensure stability and economic viability for the commercial groundfish trawl industry in B.C. This management regime provides effective means for the industry to ensure harvest levels remain within set total allowable catch (TAC) and continue to improve utilization of catch.

5. RESEARCH

5.1. Stock Assessment Advice

Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff, and in conjunction with industry through co-management arrangements, conduct stock assessments of marine fish resources on the west coast of Canada. The assessments are reviewed through the Pacific Scientific Advice Review Committee (PSARC) process. PSARC is responsible for the review and evaluation of all scientific information on the status of living aquatic resources and their ecosystems, and the biological aspects of stock management. PSARC also provides internal and external clients with scientific information and comprehensive advice on stock and habitat status, and potential biological consequences of fisheries management actions and natural events.

The PSARC process includes a forum for peer review that evaluates scientific research and literature as well as traditional ecological knowledge. The forum involves departmental staff, members of the non-government science community, and industry representatives.

Stock Assessment advice has been provided for over 30 commercially exploited groundfish stocks. Science personnel, in association with fishery managers and groundfish industry representatives, establish assessment priorities and timing schedules for assessments.

Existing assessment documents and status reports are available on request from the PSARC Secretariat (250) 756-7208, e-mail: psarc@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca, from departmental Science personnel (see section 1), or the Internet at:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/psarc/Default.htm

Additional information on Fisheries and Oceans Canada scientific activity can be found on the Department's Pacific Region Science home page:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/Default.htm

5.2. Biological Research in Support of Groundfish Stock Assessment

In addition to work directed at providing annual stock assessment on a rotational basis, Science staff, in collaboration with Resource Management staff, conducts routine data collection and compilation and specialized research on the general biology of groundfish in support of stock assessment.

The routine work includes:

- a) Collection and archiving of current catch data from fisher logs, observer logs and unloading slips.
- b) Collection and archiving of current biological specimen data from dockside, at-sea and research cruise sampling.
- c) Archiving of historical biological data collected from departmental and contract sources.

6. CURRENT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

6.1. General

6.1.1. Pacific Cod Stock Conservation Measures

The 2001/2002 assessment of the Pacific cod stock in the northern waters of Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance indicated the stock was at near historic low levels of abundance. A conservation strategy was developed in 2001/2002 in co-operation with the industry to address this conservation concern. This strategy, which will continue again for the 2003/2004 season, provides additional protection for the spawning biomass, expected increases in biomass, and includes a detailed monitoring program.

6.1.2. Protection of Unique Sponge Reefs

The Department, with the full support of the groundfish trawl industry, implemented measures to preserve four unique sponge reefs located in waters off central and northern B.C.

These sponge reefs discovered only 10 years ago, are the only known example of living Hexactinellid sponge reefs in the world today. The reefs cover nearly 1,000 square kilometres of seabed in eastern Queen Charlotte Sound and Hecate Strait. These living fossil structures can reach more than 15 metres in height and are thought to be formed approximately 10,000 years ago. Due to the fragile skeleton nature of the reefs it is believed that the sponge skeletons are susceptible to damage with minor physical contact from fishing and in particular trawling activity. Additionally the dense coverage of sponges provides habitat for a variety of invertebrate and fish species.

Effective July 19, 2002, groundfish trawl fishing around the four sponge reef areas was closed by the Department. The B.C. groundfish trawl fleet supports this action as a means to protect this unique sponge reef ecosystem.

The Department will continue to monitor fishing activity in adjacent areas to ensure current measures are providing protection to these reefs.

6.1.3. Inshore Rockfish Conservation Concerns

In 2002, the Department implemented a comprehensive conservation strategy for inshore rockfish in the Pacific Region. The strategy is based on four measures: implement area closures for the protection and rebuilding of rockfish stocks, reduce harvest rates, increase and improve catch monitoring and improve stock assessments. As the Department continues to evolve its conservation strategy for species of concern, it may result in additional management measures (i.e. area closures) being identified and implemented in-season.

6.1.4. Bocaccio Rockfish Designation

The status of Bocaccio rockfish was designated as “threatened” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in November 2002. The designation was based on a new status report that indicated a combination of low recruitment and impact by harvest has resulted in severe declines and low spawning abundance of this species. The Department will work with stakeholders to address the obligations associated with this designation.

For further information, refer to Environment Canada’s Species at risk Internet site:

www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/index_e.cfm

The COSEWIC website is:

www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct5/index_e.cfm

6.1.5. Pacific Fishery Monitoring and Reporting Framework

Fisheries and Oceans Canada released the Pacific Fishery Monitoring and Reporting Framework in February 2002. This framework outlines the department’s goals, objectives and requirements for catch monitoring. Timely and accurate catch information is needed to assess the status of fisheries resources, and to ensure their conservation and long-term sustainability. The data is integral to resource management and the enforcement of fisheries regulations, and serves to ensure responsible fishing. Accurate and timely catch reporting is also fundamental to meeting Canada’s international and other reporting obligations for fisheries. The Department is currently working with fishery sectors to assess the current methods of fishery monitoring and setting standards to improve accuracy and timeliness of catch reporting.

A copy of the framework is available at:

www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/consultations/fisheriesmgmt/reportingframework/default_e.htm

6.2. Recreational

6.2.1. Catch Estimates

Although estimation procedures for certain areas in Pacific Region have been well documented and reviewed, data gaps continue to exist in the coverage of the recreational fishery. Improvements in estimates of recreational groundfish catch are expected as a result of the Rockfish Conservation Strategy and with the establishment of standards under the Pacific Fishery Monitoring and Reporting Framework.

6.3. First Nations

6.3.1. Catch Estimation

Limited information is available on the extent of First Nations' harvest of groundfish for food, social and ceremonial purposes. This information is required for stock assessment and management purposes. The Department will continue to strive towards improving catch monitoring methods for First Nations' fisheries.

6.4. Commercial

6.4.1. Better Usage of Catch

Concerns exist with the level of at-sea releases of groundfish occurring in all groundfish fisheries. The Department and the groundfish trawl industry wishes to reduce at-sea releases of non-marketable/non-desired catch.

With the implementation of IVQ and 100% at-sea observer coverage, all at-sea releases by the trawl fleet are enumerated. The overall IVQ program provides an opportunity for the industry to organize fleet and processing operations to make better use of catch and reduce at-sea releases. The collective vision of the industry is to reduce at-sea releases through improved selective fishing practices, new gear technology, modified IVQ management policies and/or development of new products and markets.

6.4.2. Individual Vessel Quota Program Modifications Effective 2004/2005

Groundfish Special Industry Committee (GSIC) first completed an initial review of the IVQ program in 1999. Though found successful, certain elements of the IVQ/Groundfish Development Authority (GDA) plan were identified for further review. This task was again assigned to GSIC with the objective to provide advice for the future modification/continuation of the IVQ program. GSIC has completed its review of the existing IVQ and GDA elements of the program over that past two years. Consensus has been reached and formal recommendations governing how both temporary and ongoing reallocations of IVQ within the licenced fleet are carried out have been submitted to the Department for consideration which are proposed to come into effect for the 2004/2005 season.

6.4.3. Inter-sector Reallocations for Fisheries Operating Under Individual Vessel Quota Programs.

Further discussions between commercial fishing sectors are planned to develop a more comprehensive and integrated approach to the overall management of groundfish resources. A specific objective is to develop a framework that will allow reallocation of IVQ quota between fishing sectors and allow each sector to fully utilize the available harvestable stocks and reduce by-catch impacts. Agreement between the groundfish trawl and sablefish commercial fishing sectors on a pilot program that allows temporary reallocations of IVQ between these two sectors will continue for a second year.

6.4.4. Uncertainty with Reported Groundfish Catch in Commercial Fisheries

Although most groundfish trawl fishing is covered by 100% at-sea observer coverage, the estimates of released groundfish catch by fleets only subject to partial

at-sea observer coverage required improvement. Vessels involved in both the Option B trawl fishery and mid-water trawl fishery for hake are subject to mandatory coverage of 10% of all fishing activities.

6.4.5. Inshore Rockfish Conservation

To meet management goals intended to reverse inshore rockfish population declines and to ensure stock rebuilding, the Department expanded the management initiatives in place for the Groundfish Trawl fishery to better address inshore rockfish conservation concerns including:

- (a) Maintaining reduced levels of inshore rockfish TACs.
- (b) The continued application of Interim Rockfish Protection Areas (RPA) for Area 4B implemented in August 2002.

Through the at-sea observer program it has been shown that catches by the trawl fleet of inshore rockfish are minimal. In addition, a full relinquishment policy has been part of the IVQ plan since its inception in 1997 which removes any financial benefit to the fisher arising from incidental inshore rockfish landings. Consultations with the trawl sector will continue in 2003/2004 to meet the objectives and goals of the Inshore Rockfish Conservation Plan.

6.4.6. Commercial Trawling by the Option B Fleet in Area 4B

The small trawl vessel fleet operating within the inside waters (Queen Charlotte Strait, the Johnston Strait, the Strait of Georgia, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca), harvest groundfish stocks for which the Department has little ability to assess accurately. This fleet services primarily the live fish market in Vancouver with catches of flat fish and cabezon (sculpins). Dockside landings are 100% verified through the Dockside Management Program (DMP); in addition there is a mandatory requirement for 10% at-sea observer coverage to verify the accuracy of species composition being retained or released and actual fishing locations. There is a need for continuous evaluation of the Option B trawl fishery for use in the development of specific management measures for the fleet and industry.

7. SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

7.1. General

- 7.1.1. To ensure conservation and protection of the various groundfish resources through the application of management principles applied in a risk averse and precautionary manner based on the best scientific advice available. To continue implementing measures for the conservation and rebuilding of inshore rockfish stocks, including areas closures, catch monitoring, improved stock assessment, data management and continuation of measures to reduce total mortality of inshore rockfish.

Performance Measure: Through consultation and discussions with industry, other stakeholders, and First Nations evaluate measures taken to address the groundfish conservation concerns.

- 7.1.2. To continue to apply specific conservation measures for stocks when required (i.e. pacific cod stocks).

Performance Measure: Continue with the conservation strategy adopted for pacific cod stocks found off the lower West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI), and in Hecate Strait and Dixon Entrance by maintaining reduced harvest levels and spawning areas/ time closures. The management objective was to rebuild the spawning biomass of each stock by 7% and 37% respectively in 2002/2003 and continue rebuilding by a minimum of 2% for the WCVI stock in 2003/2004. The success of the measures for the Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance stock will be evaluated as part of the continuing program assessment and the monitoring program again planned for 2003/2004.

7.2. First Nations

- 7.2.1. Continue to provide opportunities for First Nations to harvest Pacific groundfish for food, social and ceremonial purposes in a manner consistent with the *Sparrow decision*. Further information, contact Treaty and Aboriginal Policy Directorate staff listed in Section 1, or at:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/AFS/Default.htm

Performance Measure: Subject to conservation needs, provide first priority to First Nations for opportunities to harvest fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes and any treaty obligations.

- 7.2.2. In consultation with First Nations, work to improve catch monitoring programs in the First Nations fishery. Catch monitoring programs are being developed in collaboration with some First Nations' organizations with the goal of improving catch monitoring and data collection for their fishery.

Performance Measure: The Department will continue to consult with First Nations to improve the accuracy and timeliness of catch reporting of groundfish fisheries for food, social and ceremonial purposes.

7.3. Commercial

- 7.3.1. To provide opportunity for the commercial trawl sector for a year round harvest of groundfish while employing adequate controls and monitoring to ensure commercial groundfish TAC is not exceeded. This will be achieved through the continued use of the IVQ management approach, at-sea observer coverage, and DMP of all landings.

Performance Measure: Ensure that total groundfish removals and landings by species by the trawl sector are within the commercial TAC and individual quotas. Total landed annual harvest of Groundfish in the commercial fishery is to be $\pm 30\%$ of established TACs. As determined through the commercial data collected through the Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP), fishers' logbooks, and the at-sea observer program.

- 7.3.2. To initiate consultations with industry, other stakeholders and First Nations on future measures aimed at developing a more comprehensive and integrated approach to the overall management of groundfish resources. The goals are to review current management regimes and explore possible measures for a more integrated approach that in turn will promote responsible fishing and management practices.

Performance Measure: Integrated commercial groundfish measures will continue to be developed.

- 7.3.3. To develop and implement with industry measures inseason to improve utilization of catches and reduce the level of at-sea releases.

Performance Measure: The level of at-sea releases of groundfish in 2003 in comparison with previous seasons is reduced. This will be determined through at-sea monitoring, logbook information, and reports from fishers. Utilize these data to identify and foster development of new or innovative approaches that will result in better utilization of catch.

- 7.3.4. To ensure commercial groundfish licence holders are held individually accountable for keeping their catches within the allocated IVQ holdings.

Performance Measure: The individual landing of IVQ groundfish falls within 95% of the quota holdings of that vessel. Individual catches are determined through a combination of at-sea observations, DMP, reported logbook information and managed by IVQ.

- 7.3.5. To account for mortality of all species in the commercial groundfish trawl fishery.

Performance Measure: Catch, both retained and released at sea will be determined using mandatory observer coverage ranging from 100% at-sea observer coverage (estimated 5600 days) for Option A vessels, 10% partial at-sea coverage (estimated 100 days each) for the Option B fishery and mid-water hake fisheries. Additional data is collected through the DMP, and fishers logbook programs.

- 7.3.6. Continue to develop further measures necessary to fulfill the Department's overall mandate, and in particular its Inshore Rockfish Conservation Plan in 2003/2004.

Performance Measure: Development and implementation of measures that takes into account both spatial and temporal commercial groundfish catch information collected through the DMP, logbook, and the at-sea observer programs.

- 7.3.7. To develop mechanisms to support the research and management of the groundfish fisheries during 2003/2004. The longer-term vision is to move towards industry-supported arrangements with arms length representative groups/organizations. In the interim it is recognized there is a need to work together with fishers/stakeholders in a co-management spirit to help develop management and assessment strategies to address areas of concern.

Performance Measure: Promotion, co-ordination of an Industry led incentives that could lead to the development of Joint Project Agreements and/or Co-management Funding Arrangements which further support Departmental assessment and management needs for the groundfish resources off the west coast of Canada.

7.4. Recreational

- 7.4.1. Take steps in the existing creel programs to improve the collection of groundfish and in particular inshore rockfish catch data. In addition, improve co-ordination of catch data by standardization and documentation.

Performance Measure: Catch monitoring measures were implemented in the recreational fishery to improve the collection of groundfish data. These measures included improved training for groundfish identification by observers and improved estimation techniques.

- 7.4.1. Provide opportunities for recreational harvest of groundfish using management measures such as daily catch limits and daily possession limits.

Performance Measure: Openings for the harvest of groundfish species by recreational fishery were provided and based on management measures such as catch and possession limits.

8. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1. Commercial Fishery

Industry Program Costs	
Dockside Monitoring	\$400,000
At-sea Observers	\$2,000,000
Trawl Licence Fees	\$750,000
Research	\$500,000+
Total Costs Directly Borne by Industry	\$3,650,000+

In kind costs borne by Fisheries and Oceans Canada include such items as administration salaries for fishery managers, scientists, biologists, support staff, enforcement staff, research vessel, patrol vessel, aircraft, etc.

9. 2002/2003 POST SEASON PERFORMANCE REVIEW RESULTS

In this section, management issues from the 2002/2003 IFMP are evaluated in terms of completion.

9.1. General

Through consultation and discussions with industry, and other stakeholders, and First Nations, a post-season review will be conducted to evaluate measures taken to address the inshore rockfish conservation concerns.

Results: The inshore Rockfish Conservation Strategy is under continual review. Also, in the 2002/2003 season, the Department initiated a process to engage all commercial groundfish advisory committees to produce a proposal on a comprehensive groundfish fishery management framework.

9.2. First Nations

Through the consultative process and Fisheries Agreements with First Nations which sets out fishery management arrangements including the area of harvest levels, gear and other management issues, the Department will assess the groundfish catch monitoring and data collection in the First Nations fishery.

Results: The Department continued to consult with First Nations to improve catch monitoring and data collection in their fisheries.

9.3. Commercial

- 9.3.1. Continue with the conservation strategy adopted for Pacific cod in Hecate Strait and Dixon Entrance by maintaining reduced harvest levels and spawning areas and time closure to allow for rebuilding of the spawning biomass.

Results: Maintained the Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance monitoring program in conjunction with the industry.

- 9.3.2. Ensure that total groundfish removals and landings by species by the trawl sector are within the commercial TAC and individual quotas.

Results: Landings of groundfish, as determined through a combination of at-sea observations, DMP, reported logbook information, by the commercial trawl fleets are expected to fall within established harvest parameters for the 2002/2003 fishery.

- 9.3.3. Apply GDA operational and compliance guidelines to assess commitments by vessel owners and processors and evaluate subsequent proposals.

Results: 2002/2003 Operational guidelines for the GDA were modified and utilized in the development of recommendations used in the allocation of GDQ to the fleet.

- 9.3.4. Identify the level of reduction of at-sea releases of groundfish in 2002/2003 related to previous years, through at-sea observer information and reports from fishers.

Results: Data on the previous five season landing/releases by species were reviewed with Industry advisors and overall levels were found to be declining.

- 9.3.5. At-sea observer coverage for the groundfish trawl fleet meets the mandated levels of 100% (estimated 5600 days) for Option A fleet, and increased coverage for the Option B fleet above 2001/2002 levels.

Results: 100 % observer coverage (5600 seadays) of the Option A fleet was achieved with 6.7% Observer coverage (67 seadays) for the Option B fleet and 9.5% Observer coverage (94 seadays) for the Offshore mid-water Hake fleet.

- 9.3.6. Prepare a report on the evaluation of the Option B trawl fishery and develop recommendations for future management.

Results: Assessment of the level of catch and effort by the Option B fleet was completed and reviewed with the Option B sector. Ongoing discussions with the sector are planned to formulate future management measures for this fleet.

10. ENFORCEMENT ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

10.1. Overview

As part of the Fisheries Management Branch, the Conservation and Protection (C&P) unit has a large role in facilitating compliance of the acts and regulations associated with Canada's aquatic resource. Through modern community policing practices, C&P uses education, partnering, enforcement and problem solving to assist in the conservation and protection of the fishery resources.

There are approximately 183 fishery officers stationed in the Pacific Region, which encompasses the province of B.C. and Yukon Territory. They are designated as "fishery officers" under Section 5 of the *Fisheries Act* and have full enforcement powers and responsibilities outlined in the *Fisheries Act*, *Coastal Fisheries Protection Act*, the *Criminal Code of Canada* and the *Constitution Act*.

Observers, designated by the Department, perform duties related to monitoring of fishing activities, examination and measurement of fishing gear, recording scientific data, monitoring the landing of fish and verification of the weight and species of fish caught and retained: and biological sampling. Observers are not armed and do not have the powers of search, seizure, or arrest.

Observers working under the DMP conduct dockside monitoring weigh-out inspections at all approved landing locations and document all landing. Observers interview the fisher, assigning catch to the appropriate rockfish stock area, and spot-check harvest logs for consistency with verbal reports and notifies the Department of any incidents seen during the offload process.

Fishery officers are tasked with the responsibility of responding coast wide to calls from the general public, other agencies, observers and other industry users reporting all types of occurrences including commercial groundfish landings. Fishery officers inspect and investigate groundfish vessels for compliance with terms and conditions of licences, *Fishery Act* and related Regulation issues this includes dockside-monitoring requirements. Fishery officers will also be monitoring and enforcing Inshore RPA.

10.2. Enforcement Issues

- 10.2.1. Licensing in the groundfish fisheries is complex, posing challenges to fishery officers for accessing real-time information in regards to each individual vessel profile and options. Vessel options, species allowed, IVQ remaining and open areas are just few of the issues fishery officers must investigate on an individual vessel basis.
- 10.2.2. Fishery officers do board vessels in various conditions at dockside or at sea in order to determine whether a fisher is in compliance with terms of his/her licence the need exists for visual inspection of licence documents.
- 10.2.3. The option for Option A vessels to offload fish for the same product form (fresh and or frozen) at more than one designated offloading location (“split offloads”) will continue for a second consecutive year. This practice provides vessel operators with greater flexibility in management of delivery of catch and to reduce at-sea releases. Rules governing split offloads is set out in the terms and conditions of groundfish trawl licence. This privilege will continue to be monitored by fishery officers and industry partners for both compliance and ensure proper accounting, control and management of the fishery is being achieved.
- 10.2.4. Incidental and prohibited by-catch is an enforcement concern for the proper conservation, protection and management of various species. Participants are asked to conduct their fishing in a responsible manner and comply with the terms and conditions of their licences.

10.3. Priorities for 2003/2004

- 10.3.1. Fishery officers will be reviewing compliance with the mandatory dockside monitoring for all groundfish landings and following up with investigations and enforcement on an as need basis.
- 10.3.2. Fishery officers will continue to monitor and enforce the illegal retention of prohibited species.
- 10.3.3. Fishery officers will continue to set a high priority on investigations of illegal/unlicensed groundfish sales. The dedicated groundfish fishery officers in partnership with the Groundfish Enforcement Co-ordinator and Special Investigations Unit will monitor the groundfish trawl fishery, developing intelligence, investigating occurrences, co-ordinating resources, educating partners and laying charges where applicable. Fishery officers will target effort to investigate allegations/files to confirm or refute reported illegal activity. Suspects found in violation of the *Fisheries Act* will be apprehended and legal action will be taken to address the issue.
- 10.3.4. Fishery officers will continue to enforce prohibitions/restrictions through the monitoring of vessel activity within and adjacent to closed areas.

10.3.5. Groundfish enforcement activities will take into account the priorities and top conservation concerns in the Pacific Region for 2003/2004.

10.4. Fishery Patrol Vessels

All at-sea patrols will be conducted using program vessels (mostly 7.33 meter and 9.2 meter rigid hull inflatable vessels) and Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) vessels. They are staffed and operated by CCG staff, fishery officers, native guardians and marine enforcement officers.

10.5. Air Surveillance

Patrol coverage using chartered aircraft is utilised to identify concentrations and distribution of fishing vessels. In large geographical areas this allows for better coverage. Air surveillance resources are utilized throughout the summer and longer depending on availability and requirements. Flight reports, photographs and other data collected from the overflights are readily available to departmental managers and fishery officers through an internet-based flight information system. Digital images of vessels will be collected and added to a web-based licence system, providing fishery officers ready access to recent photographs to assist in investigations.

10.6. Information Systems

Fishery officers will use computer based web reports and information systems such as hail out reports to assist in monitoring groundfish-fishing activity.

11. MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE DURATION OF THE PLAN

11.1. First Nations

First Nations access to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes are managed through a communal licence that permit the harvest of groundfish. Additional information and other AFS programs can be found at:

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/afs/commlic.htm

11.2. Commercial Plan

See Appendix 1.

11.3. Recreational

Recreational fishing for groundfish is limited to hook and line gear only. The use of trawl gear when recreational fishing is prohibited by law. Details of the rules and regulations that govern the recreational fishery can be found in the British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide available at:

www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/english/recreation/sfg0001/default.htm

12. ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: Commercial Harvest Plan

Appendix 2: Groundfish Species

Appendix 3: Groundfish Trawl Species Management Areas

Appendix 4: Example of Groundfish Trawl Fishing Logbook

Appendix 5: In-season Groundfish Trawl Closures

Appendix 6: Sponge Reef Protection Areas

Appendix 7: Rockfish Protection Areas

Appendix 8: Interim Areas of Restricted Fishing

Appendix 9: Appendix 9: Groundfish Development Authority Operational Plan

Appendix 1: Groundfish Trawl Commercial Harvest Plan

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1. MANAGEMENT CHANGES FOR 2003/2004

- 1.1. The groundfish trawl individual vessel quota (IVQ) fishery governed by this plan commences April 1, 2003 and remains open until March 31, 2004.
- 1.2. Total allowable catch (TAC) has been established for the commercial groundfish trawl fleet for the 2003/2004 fishing year. These levels of harvest are based on scientific advice received through the Pacific Science Advice Review Committee (PSARC) process and stakeholder advice provided through the Fisheries and Oceans Canada consultative processes.
- 1.3. Management actions to address inshore rockfish conservation concerns remain under development. In-season changes to this 2003/2004 Groundfish Trawl Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) are anticipated and may require modification or establishment of new area closures/measures to ensure the protection of inshore rockfish.
- 1.4. New TAC has been established for silvergray rockfish for each Species Area Groups. TAC levels are based on scientific advice received through the PSARC process and inter-sector allocation agreements in place between the trawl and hook and line commercial fishing sectors.
- 1.5. The Pacific Cod Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance Conservation Strategy And Monitoring Program will continue for a third year. This program is conducted in conjunction with the Canadian Groundfish and Research Society and will provide data for use in the ongoing assessment of the pacific cod stock in the Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance area.
- 1.6. To address rebuilding of the pacific cod stock off the lower West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI), the TAC is set at 500 tonnes for the 2003/2004 season. Carry-over provisions suspended for the 2001/2002 season have been reinstated.
- 1.7. The opportunity to allow trawl vessels to conduct limited split offloads of fish of the same product form (fresh and/or frozen) will be continued for a second year. This measure provides increased flexibility to address operational requirements of the fleet leading to further reduction in level of at-sea releases.
- 1.8. A trial program that allowed limited reallocation of sablefish IVQ quota between the groundfish trawl and Sablefish commercial sectors will continue for the second consecutive year.
- 1.9. Offshore pacific hake management measures are not included in the IFMP and will be released in-season as an addendum to this plan. A provisional TAC of 39,900 tonnes, based on the 2002/2003 season, will be used to calculate licence fees.
- 1.10. Sponge reef closures that were implemented during the 2002/2003 season will be in effect for 2003/2004.
- 1.11. The sablefish TAC for 2003/2004 will be based provisionally on the 2002/2003 TAC and will be subject to in-season adjustment.

2. APPLICATION

The management strategies and TAC contained in this plan apply to vessels operating under the authority of a 2003/2004 groundfish trawl licence fishing by means of bottom and/or mid-water trawl off the West Coast of Canada.

3. OPEN TIMES

With the exception of those seasonal and permanent closures noted in this plan or closures announced in-season as deemed necessary by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the groundfish trawl fishery will be open from April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. Refer to Appendix 3: “Map of the Management Areas” in this management plan for a general location of the major areas referred to in the plan.

3.1. Notice of In-season Closures and Changes

Canadian Coast Guard Radio (MCTS) broadcasts fishery announcements and notices of commercial groundfish and shellfish closures, openings or boundary changes on live marine radio channel broadcasts once weekly. A pre-announcement prior to the actual broadcast is announced on Channel 16 VHF (International Safety and Distress), the live voice broadcast read over the appropriate Coast Guard VHF Weather Channel in your area. Fishery Broadcast schedules is as follows:

Tofino MCTS	Mondays at 1315 hrs PST	(1415 hours PDST)
Comox MCTS	Tuesdays at 0720 hrs PST	(0820 hours PDST)
Prince Rupert MCTS	Tuesdays at 1105 hrs PST	(1205 hours PDST)

4. SPECIES CLOSURES

The following species **closures (non-retention)** shall be in effect for the following trawl vessels.

4.1. Lingcod in the Johnstone Strait, Strait of Georgia and Juan de Fuca Strait

Closed year-round in Areas 12 to 20 and 29.

4.2. Rockfish in the Johnstone Strait, Strait of Georgia and Juan de Fuca Strait

Closed year-round in Areas 12 to 20 and 29.

4.3. Wolf-eels Coast-wide

Closed year round.

5. IN-SEASON TRAWL AREA CLOSURES

The following area closures shall be in effect for all trawl vessels in 2003/2004. See Appendix 5 for a graphic illustration of each closed area.

A full description of Areas and Subareas referenced in this plan can be found in the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations*.

5.1. Queen Charlottes

Closed year-round in Subareas 2-1, 2-63 to 2-68 and those portions of Subarea 2-69 Hunter Point to Fame Point shoreward of the 50-fathom contour line as shown on CHS Chart No. 3869. The intent of the closure is to reduce harvesting pressure on localized stocks of fish and to provide improved access to food, social and ceremonial fish for the Haida First Nations.

5.2. McIntyre Bay/Masset

Closed to all trawling year-round in Management Subareas 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6. The intent of this closure is to reduce harvesting pressure on localized stocks of fish, minimize the catch of juvenile halibut and to provide improved access to food fish for the local First Nations.

5.3. Tide Marks

Closed to all trawling from April 1, 2003 through May 31, 2003 and October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004 in Subareas 130-2, and those portions of Areas and Subareas 108-2, 109, 110, 111 and 130-1 westerly of a line connecting the following co-ordinates: 51°47'N 129°37'W thence to 51°28'N 129°48'W thence to 51°13'N 129°28'W thence to 51°04'N 129°28'W thence to 50°52'N 129°36'W. The intent of this closure is to reduce harvesting pressure on Pacific Ocean perch stocks during the spawning period.

5.4. Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance - Protection of Pacific Cod

Closed to all trawling from April 1, 2003 to April 30, 2003 and from January 1, 2004 through April 30, 2004 in area 105, and those portions of area 101, south of 54 degrees 12 minutes north latitude and those portions of 102, 104, and Area 4 south of 54 degrees 10 minutes north latitude, and Subareas 4-3, 5-10, 5-11, 5-20 to 5-22, 106-1 and that portion of 102-2 north of 52 degrees 51 minutes north. This action is to protect the spawning biomass of Pacific cod found in Hecate Strait and Dixon Entrance.

5.5. Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance - Protection of Soft Shell Crabs

Closed from June 1, 2003 through July 15, 2003 to bottom trawling in Subareas 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 102-1 and 104-5; that portion of Subarea 101-7, south of 54°11'N, and east of 132°43'W; those portions of Subareas 101-10 and 104-4, south of 54°15'N; that portion of Subarea 102-2, that is both north of 53°00'N, and west of 131°10'W; that portion of Subarea 104-2, that is both south of 54°15'N, and west of 131°10'W; that portion of Subarea 104-3, that is west of 131°10'W; that portion of Subarea 105-1, that is west of 131°10'W; that portion of Subarea 105-2, west of 131°10'W. The intent of this closure is to protect crabs during the soft-shell period.

5.6. Lower West Coast Vancouver Island - Protection of Pacific Cod

Closed from January 1, 2004 through to March 31, 2004 to both bottom and mid-water trawling in those portions of Subareas 123-3, 123-4, 123-5, 123-6, 124-1 and 124-3 that are found within the area bounded by a line that begins on the Vancouver Island shore near Amphitrite Point lighthouse at 48°55'N. lat. 125°32'W. long; then westerly to 49°04'N. lat. 125°44'W. long; then southerly to 48°55'N. lat. 125°50'W. long; then southerly to 48°47'N. lat. 125°46'W. long; then easterly to 48°44'N. lat. 125°32'W. long; then easterly to 48°49'N. lat. 125°17'W long; then northerly along the surf line to the point of commencement. The intent of this closure is to reduce the harvesting of pacific cod during the spawning period

5.7. Area 23 (Barkley Sound)

Closed from February 25, 2004 through March 25, 2004 to all trawling in Subareas 23-8 to 23-10. The intent of this closure is to reduce gear conflicts during the roe herring season.

5.8. Area 24 (Clayoquot Sound)

Closed year-round to all trawling in Subareas 24-1, 24-2, 24-4 to 24-12 and 24-14. The intent of this closure is to address shellfish interception and shallow water habitat concerns.

5.9. Johnstone, Georgia and Juan de Fuca Straits

There are a number of Subareas closed to both bottom and mid-water trawling. The closures have been implemented for a variety of reasons including: herring spawn areas, salmon/herring holding areas, conflicts with crab gear, harbour congestion and reduction of harvesting pressure on localized groundfish stocks.

The closures described in the following may change in-season. Current Fisheries Public Notices should be referred to prior to fishing.

5.9.1. Gulf - Bottom Trawl Closures by Subarea

Subarea(s)	Closure Description	Period Closed
12-6	Those portions of Subarea 12-6 inside a line commencing at Red Point on the north-western shore of Harbledown Island, thence north-westerly to 50°38' N and 126°45' W, thence true east to 50°38' N and 126°35' W, thence true south to Dead Point on the northern shore of Harbledown Island, thence westerly along the north shore of Harbledown Island to the point of commencement at Red Point on Harbledown Island.	All year.

Subarea(s)	Closure Description	Period Closed
12-20	Entire Subarea	All year
12-29, 12-34	Entire Subareas	February 16 to April 30
12-39	Those portions of Subarea 12-39 inside a line commencing at Slope Point on the southern shore of Gilford Island, thence north-westerly in a straight line to the navigational light on Duff Islet in lower Fife Sound, thence north-easterly in a straight line to Powell Point on Gilford Island, thence southerly along the western shore of Gilford Island to the point of commencement at Slope Point.	All year
12-42	Entire Subarea	All year
12-46	Entire Subarea	February 16 to April 30
13-1 to 13-17	Entire Subareas	All year
13-33,13-34	Entire Subareas	All year
14-1,14-8	Entire Subareas	All year
14-11,14-14,14-15	Entire Subareas	All year
14-2 to 14-7	Entire Subareas	April 1 to September 30
14-9,14-10,14-12	Entire Subareas	April 1 to September 30
16-3,16-4	Entire Subareas	All year
17-1,17-3,17-7	Entire Subareas	All year
17-9,17-14,17-17	Entire Subareas	All year
17-20,17-21	Entire Subareas	All year
18-2	Entire Subareas	All year
18-7, 18-8, 18-9	Entire Subareas	All year
19-1,19-2	Entire Subareas	All year
19-6 to 19-12	Entire Subareas	All year
20-6,20-7	Entire Subareas	All year
28-1 to 28-14	Entire Subareas	All year
29-3,29-4,29-6	Shoreward of 100 m contour line as shown on CHS charts # 3463 and # 3512	All year
29-7 to 29-17	Entire Subareas	All year

5.9.2. Gulf - Mid-water Trawl Closures by Subarea

Subarea(s)	Closure Description	Period Closed
12-20	Entire Subarea	All year
12-29,12-34,12-46	Entire Subareas	February 16 to April 30
13-1 to 13-17	Entire Subareas	All year
13-33,13-34	Entire Subareas	All year
14-1,14-8	Entire Subareas	All year
14-11,14-14,14-15	Entire Subareas	All year
16-3,16-4	Entire Subareas	All year
17-1,17-7,17-9	Entire Subareas	All year
17-14,17-20,17-21	Entire Subareas	All year
18-7, 18-8	Entire Subareas	All year
18-10	Entire Subareas	All year
19-1,19-2	Entire Subareas	All year
19-6 to 19-12	Entire Subareas	All year
20-6,20-7	Entire Subareas	All year
28-1 to 28-14	Entire Subareas	All year
29-7 to 29-17	Entire Subareas	All year

6. SPONGE REEF PROTECTION AREAS

Closed year round to all trawling, are four reef areas located in waters of the Eastern Queen Charlotte Sound and Hecate Strait. See Appendix 6 for a graphic illustration of each closed area.

6.1. Sponge Reef Number 1

Those waters of Subareas 105-2 and 106-1 that lie inside a line that:

Begins at	53°22.0' N. lat.	130°46.3' W. long.
Then true east to	53°22.0' N. lat.	130°35.0' W. long.
Then to	53°09.5' N. lat.	130°20.2' W. long.
Then to	53°04.5' N. lat.	130°28.2' W. long.
Then to	53°05.0' N. lat.	130°33.0' W. long.
Then to	53°13.0' N. lat.	130°46.2' W. long.
Then to	53°16.0' N. lat.	130°48.5' W. long.
Then to the beginning point.		

6.2. Sponge Reef Number 2

Those waters of Subarea 106-2 that lie inside a line that:

Begins at	52°30.0' N. lat.	129°51.5' W. long.
Then to	52°30.5' N. lat.	129°46.5' W. long.
Then to	52°28.0' N. lat.	129°39.0' W. long.
Then to	52°22.5' N. lat.	129°42.0' W. long.
Then to	52°23.0' N. lat.	129°44.6' W. long.
Then to	52°27.2' N. lat.	129°52.0' W. long.
Then to the beginning point.		

6.3. Sponge Reef Number 3

The waters of Subarea 107-2 that lie inside a line that:

Begins at	52°08.0' N. lat.	129°31.0' W. long.
Then true east to	52°08.0' N. lat.	129°21.0' W. long.
Then true south to	51°54.5' N. lat.	129°21.0' W. long.
Then true west to	51°54.5' N. lat.	129°38.0' W. long.
Then true north to	52°01.5' N. lat.	129°38.0' W. long.
Then to the beginning point.		

6.4. Sponge Reef Number 4

The waters of Area 110 that lie inside a line that:

Begins at	51°23.0' N. lat.	128°56.0' W. long.
Then true east to	51°23.0' N. lat.	128°43.0' W. long.
Then true south to	51°15.5' N. lat.	128°43.0' W. long.
Then true west to	51°15.5' N. lat.	128°56.0' W. long.
Then to the beginning point.		

The intent of these closures is to provide protection for the four unique sponge reef ecosystems. These closures were implemented July 19, 2002.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada will continue to monitor fishing activity in adjacent areas and should current measures not be providing needed protection further modifications to the closed areas or additional management measures may be considered.

7. ROCKFISH PROTECTION AREAS

To address conservation concerns for inshore rockfish the Department, in 2000/2001, initially implemented a series of closed areas referred to as Rockfish Protection Areas for inside waters (Area 4B). These closures continue for the 2003/2004 season and may, subject to ongoing discussions with commercial, recreational, First Nations and other stakeholders, be changed in-season.

The following areas in inside waters (Area 4B) will be closed year-round for rockfish conservation. See Appendix 7 for a graphic illustration of each closed area.

7.1. Satellite Channel/Fulford Harbour

That portion of Subarea 18-7 that is south of a line that:

Begins at	48°47.230'N. lat.	123°33.650'W. long.
Then runs to (Bold Bluff Point)	48°47.263'N. lat.	123°33.243'W. long.

7.2. Satellite Channel/Fulford Harbour

Subarea 18-10 and that portion of Subarea 18-6 that is west of a line:

That begins at (Eleanor Point)	48°45.212'N. lat.	123°23.198'W. long.
Then continues southerly to (Canoe Rock Light)	48°44.012'N. lat.	123°20.403'W. long.
Then westerly to (Coal Island Light)	48°41.472'N. lat.	123°23.287'W. long.
Then westerly to (Swartz Head)	48°41.300'N. lat.	123°24.127'W. long.
Then northerly along the shoreline to the beginning point.		

7.3. Subarea 18-11

Entire Subarea.

7.4. Race Rocks

Those portions of Subareas 19-3 and 20-5 inside the 40 meter contour line surrounding Great Race Rock and Rosedale Rock as shown on CHS Chart L/C 3461 and L/C 3606.

7.5. Subarea 12-11 and 12-12

Entire Subarea.

7.6. Galiano Island/Wallace Island

In Subarea 17-2, those waters of Trincomali Channel inside a line that:

Begins at (Galiano Island)	48°58.810'N. lat..	123°34.1'W. long
Then follows the shoreline south-easterly to (Galiano Island)	48°56.600'N. lat.	123°30.570'W. long.
Then crosses Trincomali Channel to (Panther Point)	48°55.895'N. lat.	123°32.102'W. long.
Then follows the shoreline north-westerly to (Chivers Point)	48°57.398'N. lat.	123°34.453'W. long.
Then crosses Trincomali Channel to the beginning point.		

7.7. Malaspina Strait

Subareas 15-1 and 16-5 to 16-18 inclusive.

7.8. Johnstone Strait

Subareas 12-1, 12-2 and that portion of 12-3 that is east of a line:

That begins at (Cracroft Point Light)	50°32.988'N. lat.	126°40.728'W. long.
Then runs true south to (Vancouver Island)	50°30.850'N. lat.	126°40.728'W. long.

7.9. Ajax Bank

The waters of Ajax Bank inside a line:

That begins at	49°40.00'N. lat.	124°42.20'W. long.
Then south-easterly to	49°38.75'N. lat.	124°40.50'W. long.
Then south-westerly to	49°38.20'N. lat.	124°41.60'W. long.
Then north-westerly to	49°39.55'N. lat.	124°43.10'W. long.
Then to the beginning point.		

7.10. Exeter Shoal

The waters of Exeter Shoal inside a line:

That begins at	49°40.00'N. lat.	124°39.80'W. long.
Then true east to	49°40.00'N. lat.	124°39.55'W. long.
Then south-easterly to	49°36.90'N. lat.	124°34.40'W. long.
Then south-westerly to	49°36.20'N. lat.	124°35.50'W. long.
Then north-westerly to then to the	49°38.10'N. lat.	124°38.90'W. long.
Beginning point.		

7.11. Stubbs Island

Those waters of Subarea 12-18 within one half nautical mile of the high water mark as shown on CHS chart No. 3546 (published by the Canadian Hydrographic Service of the Department) of Stubbs Island.

8. INTERIM AREAS OF RESTRICTED FISHING

In August 2002, the Department closed an additional twenty-nine Interim Areas of Restricted Fishing to bottom trawl fishing to provide additional protection for inshore rockfish. The following year-round closures are in effect for the 2003/2004 season. See Appendix 8 for a graphic illustration of each closed area.

8.1. Stenhouse Shoal

That portion of Subarea 4-1 that lies inside a line that:

Begins at	54°23.5' N	131°02.5' W	
Then to	54°24.15' N	130°55.3' W	Southerly tip of the Connel Islands
Then to	54°18.397'N	130°54.862'W	Brown Passage Light and Whistle Buoy D60
Then to	54°20.0' N	131°01.1' W	then to the beginning point.

8.2. Smith Sound

Those portions of Subareas 10-2 to 10-4 that lie shoreward of a line that:

Begins at	51°22.45' N	127°46.656'W	Cranstown Point
Then to	51°22.015'N	127°48.488'W	Dugout Rocks Light
Then to	51°18.56' N	127°50.66'W	Thorndike Shoal
Then to	51°14.895'N	127°50.025'W	Egg Island Light

Then to	51°15.477'N	127°48.238'W	Table Island
Then to	51°18.283'N	127°41.067'W	Cathcart Island
Then to	51°18.683'N	127°41.25'W	Moss Islands
Then to	51°19.55'N	127°42.004'W	Mainland

8.3. Broken Island Group

That portion of Subarea 23-8 that lies inside a line that:

Begins at	48°55.329'N	125°19.3'W	Eastern tip of Dodd Island
Then to	48°55.767'N	125°17.6'W	Northwest tip of Jarvis Island
Then to	48°56.533'N	125°16.537'W	Western tip of Prideaux Island
Then follows the southerly shoreline to	48°56.4'N	125°15.867'W	Eastern tip of Prideaux Island
Then true east to	48°56.3'N	125°15.6'W	Northwest tip of Nettle Island
Then follows the southerly shoreline to	48°55.463'N	125°15.2'W	Southern tip of Nettle Island
Then true south to	48°55.056'N	125°15.2'W	Gibraltar Island
Then follows the westerly shoreline to	48°54.767'N	125°15.767'W	South-western tip of Gibraltar Island
Then true south to	48°54.4'N	125°15.767'W	Dempster Island
Then follows the easterly shoreline to	48°54.275'N	125°15.833'W	South-eastern tip of Dempster Island
Then to	48°53.5'N	125°16.6'W	
Then to	48°52.853'N	125°18.6'W	North-western tip of Effingham Island
Then follows	48°52.0'N	125°19.0'W	Westerly to the South-western tip of Effingham Island
Then true south to	48°51.9'N	125°19.0'W	Austin Island
Then to	48°51.3'N	125°20.283'W	South-eastern tip of Howell Island
Then follows the northerly shoreline to	48°51.733'N	125°20.817'W	Western tip of Howell Island
Then true west to	48°51.733'N	125°21.186'W	Wouwer Island
Then follows the northerly shoreline to	48°51.85'N	125°22.1'W	Western tip of Wouwer Island
Then to	48°52.833'N	125°22.622'W	Eastern tip of Benson Island
Then to	48°53.317'N	125°22.376'W	Eastern tip of Clarke Island
Then true north	48°54.243'N	125°22.376'W	Southern tip of Lovett Island

through Owens Island to			
Then follows the easterly shoreline to	48°54.472'N	125°22.4'W	Northern tip of Lovett Island
Then to	48°55.4'N	125°20.65' W	Western tip of Dodds Island then follows the southerly shoreline to the beginning point.

8.4. **Dagger Point**

In Subarea 24-2 those waters that lie easterly of a line:

From	49°18.828'N	126°14.242'W	Flores Island
To	49°17.575'N	126°13.626'W	Dagger Point

8.5. **Sydney Inlet**

That portion of Subarea 24-2 that lies southerly of the parallel passing through 49°28.5' north latitude and northerly of the parallel passing through 49°27' north latitude near Darr Island.

8.6. **Holberg Inlet**

That portion of Subarea 27-11 that lies easterly of a line:

From	50°36.117'N	127°45.013'W	Norton Point
To	50°35.6'N	127°45.590'W	Dahlstrom Point and
Westerly of the meridian passing through 127°37.1' west longitude at Thorp Point			

8.7. **West Banks Island**

Those waters of Area 105 that lie inside a line that:

Begins at	53°27.967'N	130°40.0'W	
Then true east to	53°27.967'N	130°35.241'W	southwestern tip of Bonilla Island
Then to	53°15.4'N	130°18.0'W	near North Danger Rocks
Then to	53°12.0'N	130°10.4'W	
Then true west to	53°12.0'N	130°18.0'W	
Then to	53°15.7'N	130°25.7'W	
Then to	53°25.0'N	130°38.0'W	near South Rocks then to the beginning point.

9. GEAR

Subject to licence option selected, species closures, area closures and IVQ holdings a category “T” licence may fish with either bottom and/or mid-water trawl gear.

9.1. Mesh Size

“Mesh size” means the total length of twine measured along two contiguous sides of a single mesh, including the distance across the knot joining those sides but not including any other knots. Where a minimum mesh size is prescribed, no person shall use any device by means of which openings that are smaller in size than the original mesh are created. Mesh size shall be measured when the net is wet.

The above description of gear restrictions is noted for convenience of reference only. The regulations (*Fishery [General] Regulations* and *Pacific Fishery Regulations, 1993*) should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the regulations.

9.2. Gear Restrictions

9.2.1. Trawl Net Size

9.2.1.1. Subject to Sections 6.2.1.2 and 6.2.1.3, the coast-wide mesh size in any part of a bottom trawl or mid-water trawl net, including the cod-end, shall not be less than 76 mm (approximately three inches).

9.2.1.2. In management areas 13 to 19 and 29: the mesh size in a bottom trawl net shall not be less than 108 mm (approximately 4.25 inches) in the final 50 meshes, including the cod-end. In all other parts of a bottom trawl net, the mesh size shall not be less than 76 mm (approximately three inches). In Hecate Strait and Eastern Dixon Entrance: the mesh size in a bottom trawl net shall not be less than 140 mm (approximately 5.5 inches) in the last 100 meshes of the net, including the cod-end. In all other parts of a bottom trawl net, the mesh size shall not be less than 76 mm (approximately three inches). This restriction applies to that area bounded on the south by 52°51'N in Hecate Strait, bounded on the north by the Canada/U.S. International boundary, bounded on the west by 132°00'W in Dixon Entrance, and bounded on the east by the mainland of B.C.

9.2.1.3. All bottom trawl nets and mid-water trawl nets, when used in fishing for pacific hake destined for delivery to a foreign fishing vessel licensed under the *Coastal Fisheries Protection Regulations*, shall have an escape panel fitted to permit the release of unwanted fish (refer to Appendix 2). This panel shall be located in the intermediate portion of the trawl net commencing at a point six feet from where the intermediate is attached to the cod-end. The panel shall be composed of not less than one row of meshes running parallel to the long axis of the intermediate for a distance of not less than six feet. The row(s) of mesh shall be cut and sewn with a

length of twine or similar material having a breaking strength not exceeding 70 pounds.

9.2.2. Cod-end Protection Device

For the purpose of preventing wear and tear to a trawl net, there may be attached to the underside of the cod-end any hides, canvas, netting or similar material. For the purpose of preventing wear and tear to a trawl net, there may be attached to the topside of the cod-end, one of the following topside chafers.

9.2.2.1. Regular Topside Chafer

A rectangular piece of netting that: is at least one and half times the width of the area of the cod-end that is covered, where the width is measured at right angles to the long axis of the cod-end; has a mesh size that is not less than the mesh size of the cod-end and; is fastened to the cod-end only along the forward and lateral edges of the netting in a manner that will permit it to extend where a splitting strap is used, over not more of the cod-end than that part between the fourth mesh forward of the cod line mesh and the fourth mesh forward of the splitting strap, and where a splitting strap is not used, over not more than one-third of the cod-end, measured from not less than the fourth mesh forward of the cod line mesh.

9.2.2.2. Modified Polish Topside Chafer

A rectangular piece of netting that: is made of twine of the same material and size as that of the cod-end, or of any single, thick, knotless twine material; has a mesh size that is twice as large as the mesh size of the cod-end; is attached to the rear portion of the topside of the cod-end; and is fastened to the cod-end along the forward, lateral and rear edges of the netting in a manner that will cause each mesh to exactly overlies four meshes of the cod-end over which it extends.

9.2.2.3. Multiple Flap-Type Topside Chafer

A series of pieces of netting where the aggregate length extends less than two-thirds of the length of the cod-end; and each piece of netting is attached to the topside of the cod-end so that it overlaps the piece of netting immediately to its rear, if any, has a mesh size that is not less than the mesh size of the cod-end, is at least as wide as the cod-end, where the width is measured at right angles to the cod-end, is not more than 10 meshes long, and is fastened by its forward edge only across the cod-end at right angles to its long axis.

10. LICENSING

10.1. Licence Category

A category “T”, groundfish trawl licence is required to harvest groundfish trawl species. Groundfish trawl licence eligibility is limited entry and vessel based. Vessels authorised to fish under the authority of a groundfish trawl licence are also permitted to fish for species described in Schedule II Part 2 of the *Pacific Fishery Regulations 1993* and transport fish caught by other vessels. Conditions of Licence for these species and for transporting fish are included with all groundfish trawl licences. For information regarding the harvest of Schedule II, Other Species, please refer to the IFMP for lingcod, dogfish, sole and flounder, skate and pacific cod. For information regarding transporting please refer to Part III under the Conditions of Licence.

10.2. Licence Fees

Licence fees are based on the combination of a base licence fee of \$500.00 and the IVQ holdings of the licence on April 1, 2003 measured in pounds.

IVQ Licence Fee	Fee Per Pound of IVQ	Fee Per Pound of IVQ
All Rockfish Species	\$15.00	\$.0068
All Sole Species	\$16.00	\$.0073
Lingcod	\$16.00	\$.0073
Pollock	\$7.50	\$.0034
Hake	\$4.00	\$.0018

10.3. Licence Application and Issue

Applications must be completed and submitted with required fees to a Pacific Fishery Licence Unit by March 31, annually.

The vessel owner must sign the application form. If the vessel owner is a company, the Pacific Fishery Licence Unit must have on record a copy of either a Confirmation of Signing Authorities or an amendment to Confirmation of Signing Authorities form advising who the signing authorities for the company are.

Parties authorized to request amendments must be identified on the application.

10.3.1. “T” Licence Option Selection

Prior to Licence issue, categories “T” licensed owner(s) are required to choose a fishing option for the 2003/2004 fishing year. The options are:

10.3.1.1. Option A

- Permitted to fish by bottom trawl in all areas, except management Area 4B (areas 12 to 20 and 29).
- Permitted to fish by mid-water trawl coast-wide.
- Subject to 100% dockside monitoring for all landings.

- d) Subject to 100% onboard observer coverage when fishing with bottom or mid-water gear except when mid-water trawling for hake off the lower WCVI or in Area 4B.
- e) Subject to 10% observer coverage only when the vessel is engaged in mid-water trawling for pacific hake only off the lower WCVI or in Area 4B.
- f) Permitted to fish throughout the year for groundfish species subject to TAC up to the amount of the IVQ specified on the licence.
- g) Permitted to reallocate IVQ holdings subject to the transferability and other rules governing such reallocations.
- h) Limited to 15,000 lb. per trip for all combined rockfish species not subject to TAC.
- i) Permitted to retain incidentally caught mackerel equal to 6% of the offshore pacific hake IVQ portion of quota holdings.
- j) No trip limit for groundfish species (excluding rockfish) subject to TAC.
- k) Not permitted to fish for and retain wolf-eels.
- l) By-catch mortality caps for halibut will be issued and monitored on an individual vessel basis (exceeding by-catch limit results in restrictions against individual vessels, not the fleet).

10.3.1.2. Option B

- a) Permitted to fish by bottom trawl in management Area 4B (Areas 12 to 20 and 29) only.
- b) Not permitted to fish by mid-water trawl in any Area.
- c) Limited to a maximum of 15 landings per calendar month.
- d) Subject to 100% dockside monitoring for all landings.
- e) Subject to 10% onboard observer coverage.
- f) A 15,000 lb. calendar month limit for all groundfish species combined other than dogfish, lingcod and rockfish; of which no more than 200 lbs. shall be sablefish, and of which no more than 200 lbs. shall be petrale sole, and of which no more than 500 lbs. shall be pacific cod.
- g) Not permitted to fish for and retain rockfish.
- h) Not permitted to fish for and retain squid and octopus.
- i) Not permitted to fish for and retain wolf-eels.
- j) Not permitted to fish for and retain lingcod.
- k) No limit on the quantity of dogfish.

10.3.2. In Season Change of "T" Licence Option

Owner(s) choosing Option B are permitted to make a once a year change from Option B to Option A.

Owner(s) choosing Option A may not change their selection for the remainder of the fishing year.

Prior to commencing to harvest under the authority of a groundfish trawl licence, a Request for a 2003 Category "T" licence Amendment form must

be completed and submitted to the groundfish management unit. The owner of a category “T” licensed vessel or the party authorised to request amendments must complete the amendment request form. Contact the Groundfish Quota officer at (604) 666-0010 for further information.

10.4. Licence Documents

Groundfish Trawl licence documents are valid from the date to March 31 of each calendar year.

Replacement for lost or destroyed licence documents may be obtained by completing a Declaration Concerning Licence Documents form. Please contact a Pacific Fishery Licence Unit for further details.

10.5. Vessel Replacement Rules for Groundfish Trawl.

10.5.1. A groundfish trawl licence eligibility may be placed either permanently or temporarily on any commercially registered vessel which does not exceed the length of the vessel that held the licence eligibility as of December 1, 1998 (commonly referred to as the original vessel length) by greater than 20%. This subject to departmental policies governing the placement of other vessel based licence eligibility’s also held on the vessel being replaced.

10.5.2. An application for a temporary replacement may be made where a vessel has been declared a loss, or the vessel is out of service due to an accident or unforeseen damage. Written confirmation from an insurance company, shipyard or marine engineer explaining why the vessel is inoperative is required. **Vessels that are in disrepair at the time of purchase, vessels with engine problems, delays in annual maintenance or rebuilds do not qualify for a temporary transfer.**

10.5.3. Where single groundfish trawl licence eligibility is being placed on a shorter vessel, there remains a future opportunity to place the licence eligibility on a commercially registered vessel up to 20% longer than the length of the vessel that held the licence eligibility as of December 1, 1998.

10.5.4. A groundfish trawl licensed vessel with multiple vessel based licence eligibility’s is not allowed to separate these licence eligibility’s except where swapping occurs.

10.5.5. Groundfish trawl licensed vessel owners are allowed to swap groundfish trawl eligibility’s within the groundfish trawl fleet subject to the length guidelines set out above. Where this occurs, the IVQ and holdings caps follow each licence eligibility.

10.5.6. Vessels involved in the swapping of groundfish trawl licence eligibility’s are able to hold and fish under the authority of the swapped “T” licence eligibilities in the same fishing year.

10.5.7. Once a vessel has commenced fishing under the authority of a groundfish trawl licence, that vessel not hold another groundfish trawl licence in the same fishing year, except in those cases where swapping set out above has occurred.

10.5.8. For further information on vessel replacement policies, please contact one of the Pacific Fishery Licence Units or any of the groundfish trawl management contacts listed in Section 1 of the IFMP to which this harvest plan is attached.

11. GROUNDFISH SPECIES AND ALLOWABLE CATCHES

11.1. Species Allowed to be Fished

Groundfish (see Appendix 2 for a complete list).

11.2. Prohibited Species

The following species of vertebrate fish are not allowed to be fished or retained when fishing under the authority of a category “T” licence.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Pacific Halibut	<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>
Salmon Species	<i>Onchorhynchus sp.</i>
Pacific Herring	<i>Clupea harengus pallasii</i>
Green Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>
White Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser transmontus</i>
Wolf-Eel	<i>Anarrhichthys ocellatus</i>

11.3. Inter-sector Rockfish Allocations

An agreement reached amongst the commercial groundfish industry has established the allocation of the rockfish species between the commercial groundfish trawl and groundfish hook and line sectors in the following proportions.

Rockfish Species	Trawl %	Hook and Line %
Pacific Ocean Perch	99.98%	0.02%
Widow	98.21%	1.79%
Redstripe	97.23%	2.77%
Yellowtail	98.91%	1.09%
Yellowmouth	96.77%	3.23%
Shortspine Thornyheads	95.40%	4.60%
Longspine Thornyheads	95.35%	4.65%
Canary	87.70%	12.30%
Silvergrey	88.43%	11.57%
Shortraker	52.30%	47.70%
Rougheyeye	55.80%	44.20%
Yelloweye	2.54%	97.46%
Quillback/Copper/China/Tiger	2.56%	97.44%

11.4. Annual Total Allowable Catches

TAC listed below has been set for the commercial groundfish trawl fishery for the 2003/2004 fishing season.

In some cases, the coast-wide total differs slightly from the amount obtained by summing the Species Management Areas values. This difference is due to the TAC being expressed in whole numbers within the table. For the exact TAC values, please contact a member of the Groundfish Management Unit (see Section 1).

Species	Management Area	TAC¹(tonnes)
Yellowtail Rockfish	3C ⁵	995
	3D, 5A/B, 5C/D/E ⁵	3,427
	Coast-wide total	4,422
Widow Rockfish	Coast-wide total	2,316
Canary Rockfish	3C/D	529
	5A/B	265
	5C/D	101
	5E	151
	Coast-wide total	1,046
Silvergrey Rockfish	3C/D	216
	5A/B ⁷	421
	5C/D	382
	5E	248
	Coast-wide total	1,267

Species	Management Area	TAC ¹ (tonnes)
Pacific Ocean Perch	3C	300
	3D	230
	5A/B	2,070
	5C/D ²	2,818
	5E ²	730
	Coast-wide total	6,146
Yellowmouth Rockfish	3C	219
	3D, 5A/B	1,135
	5C/D ²	685
	5E ²	325
	Coast-wide total	2,365
Rougheye Rockfish	Coast-wide	530
Shortraker Rockfish	Coast-wide	105
Redstripe Rockfish	3C	173
	3D, 5A/B	772
	5C/D	330
	5E	246
	Coast-wide total	1,521
Shortspine Thornyheads	Coast-wide	736
Longspine Thornyheads	Coast-wide ⁶	405
Yelloweye Rockfish	Coast-wide ⁴	7
Quillback, Copper, China And Tiger Rockfish	Coast-wide ⁴	5
Pacific Cod	3C/D	500
	5A/B	260
	5C/D/E	200
	Coast-wide total	700
Dover Sole	3C/D	1,375
	5C/D/E	1,100
	5A/B	598
	Coast-wide total	3,073

Species	Management Area	TAC ¹ (tonnes)
Rock Sole	3C/D	102
	5A/B	875
	5C/D	673
	Coast-wide total	1,650
Lemon Sole	3C/D, 5A/B	186
	5C/D/E	544
	Coast-wide total	730
Petrale Sole	Coast-wide	479
Lingcod	3C	800
	3D	220
	5A/B	862
	5C/D/E	580
	Coast-wide total	2,462
Dogfish	4B	1,600
	Rest of Coast	3,840
	Coast-wide total	5,440
Sablefish	Coast-wide	206 ⁸
Pollock	Gulf ³	1,115
	5A/B (includes Area 11, 12)	1,790
	5C/D/E	1,320
	Coast-wide total	4,225
Hake	Gulf ³	10,000
	Offshore	To be announced
Big Skate	5C/D	567
Longnose Skate	5C/D	47

Species	Management Area	TAC ¹ (tonnes)
¹ All quotas are in round weight and metric tonnes.		
² Pacific ocean perch and yellow mouth rockfish caught within Subarea 102-3 and those portions of Subareas 142-1, 130-3 and 130-2 found southerly and easterly of a straight line commencing at 52°20'00"N 131°36'00"W thence to 52°20'00"N 132°00'00"W thence to 51°30'00"N 131°00'00"W and easterly and northerly of a straight line commencing at 51°30'00"N 131°00'00"W thence to 51°39'20"N 130°30'30"W will be deducted from the vessel's 5C/D IVQ for those two species.		
³ TAC for the Gulf apply only to Areas 13 to 18 and 29.		
⁴ Yelloweye, quillback, copper, china and tiger rockfish will not be allocated as IVQ. All landing of these rockfish species will be relinquished and the fishing restrictions for IVQ shall not apply.		
⁵ yellowtail rockfish caught in the offshore pacific hake fishery can be deducted from IVQ coast-wide. The vessel master is responsible for designating the area at the time of the offload.		
⁶ The Department will be developing, in conjunction with industry, a scientific program to gather additional information on coast-wide thornyhead stocks that includes sampling protocols which may provide for additional harvest opportunities during the 2003/2004 season.		
⁷ The Department has adopted the conservative F=M harvest strategy in establishing the silvergrey rockfish TAC for all areas except 5A/B. In 5A/B the TAC will be stepped downward by 60 tonnes annually for each of the 2001/2002, 2003/2004 and 2003/2004 seasons to achieve this harvest strategy.		
⁸ The TAC for 2003/2004 is based provisionally on the 2002/2003 TAC and will be subject to in-season adjustment		

11.5. Groundfish Size Limits

Fishers are reminded of the following groundfish size limits:

11.5.1. Lingcod

Head-on: not less than 65 cm in length, measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail.

Head-off: not less than 50 cm in length, measured along the shortest length of the body to the tip of the tail.

11.5.2. Sablefish

Head-on: not less than 55 cm in length, measured from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail.

Head-off: not less than 39 cm in length, measured from the origin of the first dorsal fin to the fork of the tail.

12. TRAWL INDIVIDUAL VESSEL QUOTA ALLOCATION FORMULA

For the 2003/2004 fishing year, the commercial groundfish trawl TAC are allocated as IVQ accordingly:

- a) 80% of each TAC will be allocated directly to “T” licensed vessels as IVQ based on the percentage of IVQ holdings for each species by species/area group held by each licence holder as of midnight March 31, 2002.
- b) 20% of each TAC will be allocated to individual “T” licensed vessels in-season by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, taking into consideration advice from the Groundfish Development Authority (GDA).

13. GROUND FISH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The GDA was established in 1997 as a result of an agreement reached between Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), to include the Coastal Communities Network (CCN) and fishing industry participants in a process that would continue to provide advice on the evolving west coast groundfish fishery.

The GDA provides advice on groundfish allocations to the Ministers of Fisheries for that portion of the TAC not allocated directly to fishers under the allocation formula. The intent of the recommendations was to allocate TAC in a manner that reflects fair crew treatment, assists in regional development, promotes and attains a stable market, employment conditions and encourages sustainable fishing practices.

The GDA consists of seven members (Board of Directors) and a Standing Committee of nine advisors (formerly called non-voting members of GDA), whose role it is to provide background information and expertise to the Board of Directors.

Details of the operation of the GDA, its members and terms of reference, objectives and criteria are set out in a separate GDA Operational Plan. This plan has been prepared and is set out in Appendix 8 of the plan. For further information, contact Bob Humphreys, the GDA Executive Director at the address, or number, listed in Section 17 of the IFMP to which this harvest plan is attached.

13.1. Groundfish Development Quota

For 2003/2004, 10% of each groundfish trawl TAC will be allocated as Groundfish Development Quota (GDQ). The GDA, on the basis of joint proposals submitted by a processor and one or more “T” licensed vessel owners, provides advice to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada on how best to allocate the to vessels involved in the joint proposals GDQ. The GDA rates each proposal on the merits of the commitments made in the submitted operation plan in addressing the seven objectives of the GDA for the upcoming fishing year.

13.2. Code of Conduct Quota

Fisheries and Oceans Canada allocates 10% of each groundfish trawl TAC as Code of Conduct Quota (CCQ). It is intended to promote fair treatment of crew and safe vessel operation under the IVQ program.

CCQ is initially allocated according to each licence's CCQ rating and in proportion to the IVQ holdings for each species by species/area group on the groundfish trawl licence as of midnight March 31 of the previous fishing year.

Although each groundfish trawl licence has an initial 100% CCQ rating, the Minister may alter this rating as a result of advice from the GDA regarding the vessel compliance with the general principles set for the CCQ. The general principles, guidelines, complaints procedure for CCQ are set out in the GDA 2003/2004 Operations Plan.

14. INDIVIDUAL VESSEL QUOTAS

14.1. Initial Individual Vessel Quota Allocation Formula

In 1997, 90% of the commercial trawl TAC was allocated to "T" licensed vessels as area and species specific IVQ.

The initial formula used to allocate all groundfish species subject to TAC, with the exception of hake, was based 30% on vessel length and 70% on average catch of groundfish (excluding hake) during the five-year term 1988-1992. For this purpose, the length of vessel used in the calculation is the length that was recorded on the Pacific Licensing System on January 31, 1997. The groundfish species included in the catch history calculations are all rockfish, all soles, pacific cod, lingcod, dogfish, sablefish and pollock. For initial allocation purposes, quota catch history is defined as the quantity of fish landed by a vessel holding that category "T" licences at the time of landing.

The hake IVQ allocation formula was based 30% on vessel length, based on the total length of hake vessels only, and 70% on average hake catch history for the five-year term 1987-1991. If a vessel had no history of hake pre-1992, but did participate in the fishery after this date, then they received an allocation based solely on the 30% vessel length. However, no vessel qualified for participation in the 30% vessel length allocation unless its average landings for the 1987-1991 period exceeded 2,000 lb. of hake, or its average landings for the 1992-1996 period exceeded that sum.

Based on the above two formulae, each fisher with a "T" licence received two initial IVQ allocations expressed as percentages; one for groundfish other than hake, and one for hake (which may be zero if they do not meet the qualifying criteria). These percentages were then applied to each area and species specific

TAC to generate a number (approximately 55) of area and species specific IVQ allocations, which can be individually reallocated (subject to reallocation rules).

14.2. Allocation of Individual Vessel Quota for 2003/2004

At the commencement of each fishing year, the percentage of each vessel's IVQ holdings for each species and species/area group as of midnight March 31 of the previous fishing year, will be applied against the 2003/2004 groundfish trawl TAC to determine actual poundage of fish the vessel may fish in the 2003/2004 season.

14.3. Reallocation of Individual Vessel Quota

Rules in place governing the reallocation of IVQ are as follows.

14.3.1. Reallocation Eligibility

All IVQ reallocations must be requested from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. IVQ can only be reallocated between "T" licensed vessels. The Department views any IVQ reallocation as permanent.

Any application for the reallocation of IVQ to/from a vessel not holding a valid "T" licence will not be considered.

Only uncaught IVQ may be reallocated in-season.

All IVQ reallocation requests include a CCQ component, which is affected by the vessel's CCQ rating.

Reallocation requests can be submitted either as a percentage of IVQ of the TAC for that species/species area group or in pounds. Any reallocation request submitted in pounds will be seen to include both the IVQ and CCQ portion of the holding and be subsequently converted to the appropriate percentage of the fishery's TAC.

Overall individual species caps and total licence IVQ holdings caps have been set to inhibit excessive consolidation of IVQ.

A revised licence amendment will be issued to reflect the approved IVQ reallocations and will be valid until March 31, 2003 or until a further reallocation is made.

14.3.2. Sablefish Inter-sector Reallocations

As result of agreement in 2002/2003 season between the commercial groundfish trawl and sablefish sectors temporarily sablefish IVQ can be reallocated from the Sablefish "K" to the groundfish trawl fleet. This agreement allows for reallocations to occur until July 31, 2003 subject to the following guidelines:

14.3.2.1. The maximum amount of Sablefish “K” IVQ that may be reallocated from the Sablefish “K” fleet to the Groundfish “T” fleet is the 2003/2004 Groundfish Trawl TAC (round weight).

14.3.2.2. All reallocations of Sablefish “K” IVQ are temporary in nature and affect the verified remaining quota of the sablefish K vessel for the duration of the current sablefish fishing season.

14.3.2.3. All “K” sablefish IVQ reallocated will be in pound(s) round weight.

14.3.2.4. The minimum quantity of sablefish “K” IVQ that may be reallocated is one pound.

14.3.2.5. The maximum amount of sablefish that may be reallocated from an individual “K” vessel is limited to the amount of **verified remaining Sablefish IVQ** on the Sablefish vessel at the time the reallocation request is processed.

14.3.2.6. The Department will not consider the reallocation of Sablefish IVQ from a Groundfish “T” vessel to a Sablefish “K” vessel.

14.3.2.7. Any reallocation of Sablefish “K” IVQ is considered to be temporary and is valid only for the Groundfish trawl IVQ fishing year when the reallocation was approved.

14.3.2.8. The quantity of Sablefish “K” IVQ that an individual Groundfish trawl vessel may receive and hold shall not exceed the sablefish coast-wide Trawl sablefish IVQ held on the vessel at the time of the reallocation request.

14.3.2.9. Reallocation requests for uncaught Sablefish “K” IVQ holdings amongst vessels holding valid groundfish trawl vessels is allowed.

14.3.2.10. Reallocated Sablefish “K” IVQ will not be included in the calculation of Sablefish trawl IVQ holdings in relation to the established coast-wide IVQ Species Cap.

14.3.2.11. All other rules governing the reallocation of IVQ between vessels holding valid Groundfish trawl licences as set out in this IFMP remain in effect.

14.3.2.12. Landings of sablefish “K” IVQ must occur during the Trawl Fishing Season that the reallocation occurred. Uncaught sablefish “K” IVQ cannot be carried over into the next fishing season.

14.3.3. Reallocation Period

On the basis of the recent reviews of the IVQ/GDA program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has extended the period of time during which unlimited reallocation of IVQ is permitted until June 1, 2004, subject to species and total holdings caps and other reallocation rules set out in this plan. New rules govern both temporary and ongoing reallocations of IVQ within the licensed fleet after this date are currently under Fisheries and Oceans Canada consideration.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada will continue to consult with the Province of B.C. and the industry on the viability of the trawl fishery and on the possible need for further rationalization and/or modifications to the existing plan.

14.3.4. Total Individual Vessel Quota Species Cap

The following species caps are set on a coast-wide basis for all IVQ species, except hake. The hake species caps are individually applied to Gulf hake, offshore hake allocated for onshore delivery.

Species	Individual Species Cap (% of the coast-wide TAC)
Yellowtail Rockfish	5%
Widow Rockfish	5%
Canary Rockfish	4%
Silvergrey Rockfish	4%
Pacific Ocean Perch	5%
Yellowmouth Rockfish	5%
Rougheye Rockfish	7%
Shortraker Rockfish	7%
Redstripe Rockfish	5%
Shortspine Thornyheads	10%
Longspine Thornyheads	10%
Yelloweye Rockfish	4%
Quillback, Copper, China and Tiger Rockfish Combined	4%
Pacific Cod	4%
Dover Sole	5%
Rock Sole	5%
Lemon Sole	6%
Petrale Sole	4%
Lingcod	5%
Dogfish	10%
Sablefish	5% ¹
Pollock	10%
Hake (Gulf of Georgia)	15%

Species	Individual Species Cap
	(% of the coast-wide TAC)
Hake (Offshore)	10%
Big Skate	7.5% ²
Longnose Skate	7.5% ²
¹ For 2003/2004 the species cap for sablefish has been temporarily raised to 7%. Vessels taking advantage of this higher temporary cap will not be issued 2004/2005 licences until reallocation requests have been submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada to reallocate IVQ quota in excess of the 5% level off the licence.	
² When a TAC is established on a coast-wide basis species cap for both skate species will revert to 5%	

14.3.5. Total Individual Vessel Quota Holdings Cap

Each licence is subject to a total holdings cap, set at a level which allows vessel owner(s) to adjust their IVQ holdings to a viable level while ensuring that operators cannot accumulate an unreasonably large amount of IVQ.

A reallocation request which results in one of the licences involved holding more than its total IVQ holdings cap, measured in groundfish equivalents, will not be approved by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

IVQ holdings caps were calculated for each licence, during the first year of the IVQ program. The total IVQ holdings cap for each "T" licence is measured in groundfish equivalents (described below) as a percentage of total groundfish equivalents. These holdings caps determined in 1997 continue to remain in effect. Licence holders seeking further information on their individual holdings cap are requested to contact the Groundfish Trawl Co-ordinator, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, #200 - 401 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3S4, or sent by fax to (604) 666-8525.

14.3.6. Groundfish Equivalents

For the purposes of calculating the total IVQ holdings cap for each licence, for measuring IVQ holdings of a licence against its cap, and for quota swapping purposes, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has set the following groundfish equivalents (GFE). GFE will be based on price relative to pacific ocean perch (pacific ocean perch = 1.00). These GFE values may be updated at the start of each fishing year.

Species	GFE
Yellowtail Rockfish	1.26
Widow Rockfish	0.96
Canary Rockfish	1.19
Silvergrey Rockfish	1.20
Pacific Ocean Perch	1.00

Species	GFE
Yellowmouth Rockfish	1.19
Rougheye Rockfish	1.15
Shortraker Rockfish	1.24
Redstripe Rockfish	0.73
Shortspine Thornyheads	3.38
Longspine Thornyheads	3.38
Yelloweye Rockfish	1.23
Quillback, Copper, China and Tiger Rockfish	1.21
Pacific Cod	1.69
Dover Sole	1.33
Rock Sole	1.65
Lemon Sole	1.37
Petrale Sole	3.22
Lingcod	1.75
Dogfish	0.49
Sablefish	6.30
Pollock	0.66
Hake (Gulf of Georgia)	0.14
Hake (Offshore)	0.22
Big Skate	0.37
Longnose Skate	0.26
For example:	10,000 lb. of pacific ocean perch + 10,000 lb. of lingcod
	= 10,000 lb. GFE + 17,500 lb. GFE
	= 27,500 lb. GFE

14.4. Fishing Restrictions for Quota Overage

In addition to any of the rules set out in this plan, vessels that exceed by 37.5% the area specific IVQ portion of holdings for a species (excluding halibut and pacific Cod in 5C/D and pacific Hake), shall be restricted to mid-water trawl fishing for the area in which the species IVQ has been exceeded for the remainder of the fishing year, or until such time as sufficient IVQ is transferred onto the licence to cover overages in excess of the 37.5% permitted.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada will amend the licence conditions to restrict the vessel to mid-water trawling operations and deliver this amendment to the vessel owner by hand or by registered mail. The amendment will take effect from the date the licence amendment is provided to the vessel owner.

14.4.1. Quota Overage/Underage and Quota Carryover

To accommodate fishers where difficulties have arisen and catches do not meet the exact IVQ holdings in a given area for a given species, a carryover/underage policy has been implemented which allows fishers to

carry uncaught quota forward, or apply catch against its next year's IVQ allocation. For all species of groundfish subject to IVQ, other than Offshore Pacific hake, halibut by-catch, and pacific Cod in 5C/D the carryover/underage limit is 37.5% of the vessels IVQ portion of holdings for that particular species and species area group.

For onshore hake, the carryover/underage limit is 18.75% of the vessels onshore hake IVQ holdings.

For halibut by-catch mortality, the underage limit is 18.75% of the vessel halibut by-catch IVQ holdings. **There is no allowable overage for halibut by-catch.**

For 5C/D pacific cod there is no carryover of the pacific cod IVQ holdings into the following year.

14.4.2. Rules for All Other Carryovers

14.4.2.1. "T" licensed vessels landing up to 37.5% over the species and area specific IVQ portion of holdings for that licence may keep the proceeds from the overage but will have the equivalent poundage of the overage subtracted from the IVQ holdings for the licence in the following year.

14.4.2.2. "T" licensed vessels landing more than 37.5% over the species and area specific IVQ portion of holdings for that licence may keep the proceeds from the landed weight of the first 37.5% of the overage and must relinquish the remainder.

14.4.2.3. Vessels transferring additional IVQ onto the licence following a quota overage and relinquishment will have the total overage (37.5% plus the relinquished amount) subtracted from the IVQ that is added to the licence. The adjustment will be reflected in the "T" licence. Relinquishments for prior overages of more than 37.5% of the IVQ portion of holdings will not be reimbursed. If no further reallocations are done, the total poundage of the overage (the 37.5% plus the extra) will be subtracted from the IVQ holdings for the licence in the following year.

14.4.2.4. "T" licensed vessels may carry forward uncaught species and area specific IVQ holdings of up to 37.5% of their IVQ portion of holdings at the end of the year except for pacific cod in 5C/D. The equivalent poundage of the carry forward will be added to the IVQ portion of holdings of the licence in the following year.

14.4.2.5. IVQ overage (underage) adjustments in the following year will be attributed to the "T" licensed vessel which fished (did not fish) the IVQ and cannot be reallocated to any other "T" licence.

14.4.2.6. All weights are fresh round weights as determined by information collected from the port validators and at-sea observers.

14.4.2.7. Vessels in an overage situation can avoid a relinquishment by reallocating applicable IVQ prior to hailing out for the vessel's next trip or within 30 days, whichever comes first.

15. CATCH MONITORING AND VALIDATION

15.1. Catch Reporting

All "T" licensed vessels are required to accurately record and keep a record of all fishing activities in a Fisheries and Oceans Canada supplied fishing logbook (see Appendix 4 for an example of a logbook page).

The fishing master must ensure that the fishing logbook is available for use, prior to fishing, and that sufficient pages are available to cover any fishing trip. Information must be recorded for each tow, immediately after completion of the tow.

Completed original logbook pages must be submitted to the Department at the time of landing fish at the end of each trip.

15.2. Port Monitoring

A comprehensive industry funded 100% port monitoring program shall continue in the 2003/2004 fishing year.

All category "T" licensed vessels, regardless of the area or species fished, must have all of their groundfish catches validated, whether landed in Canada or in the United States, to ensure that proper sorting and enumeration by species occurs.

A single service provider will be designated for this program and will supply certified observers to provide the port monitoring services. Details of how to make arrangements for observers can be made by contacting the Pacific Region Groundfish Trawl Co-ordinator, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, #200 - 400 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3S4, or sent by fax at (604) 666-8525.

Monitoring requirements in effect for the groundfish trawl IVQ fishery includes hail-out and hail-in requirements and designated offloading locations. The requirement for vessels to hail-out continues in the 2003/2004 IFMP. Detailed catch verification requirements are found in the 2003/2004 Groundfish Trawl Conditions of Licence issued to each trawl vessel.

Following completion of the trip, the service provider will finalize the catch record by assigning offloaded catches to management areas fished. This information will

be forwarded to the vessel owner within 48 hours of the completion of the offload in the form of the Groundfish Quota Status Report. It is the responsibility of the vessel owner to ensure that the Groundfish Quota Status Report is on board the vessel prior to the commencement of the next fishing trip, and is made available, upon request, to a Fisheries and Oceans Canada certified observer.

For the 2003/2004 season there continues the opportunity for Option A vessels to carry out, once per trip, a split offload of fish of the same product type (fresh and or frozen) at different locations/times. Any fish retained on the vessel must be offloaded at the next landing. This measure is to assist fishers and provide greater flexibility in managing their catch and reduce at-sea releases. This option only applies for Option A vessel. Specific rules governing split offloads are set out in the terms and conditions of the Option “A” groundfish trawl licence. This privilege will be monitored by the Department in-season to ensure compliance, proper accounting, and control and management of the fishery, and may be subject to change.

Individual vessels may request modified offloading procedures, which are more applicable to their operation. If this is requested, departmental and/or contract personnel shall determine the feasibility of the modifications. Particulars of allowed offloading procedures are set out in the vessel’s licence conditions.

15.3. At Sea Monitoring

In order to strengthen stock assessment capabilities, to provide for effective area and species-specific management, and to effectively monitor by-catch, the comprehensive joint industry/Department funded at-sea observer program will continue for 2003/2004.

Vessels choosing Fishing Option A shall be required to carry a Fisheries and Oceans Canada certified observer on each trip with the exception when directed mid-water hake fishing off the lower WCVI or in the Gulf of Georgia (4B). Vessels mid-water trawling for pacific Hake off the lower WCVI or in the Gulf of Georgia (4B) are subject to 10% coverage.

A vessel, which is on a dedicated offshore hake trip without an observer is permitted a 3% by-catch allowance of other groundfish, excluding sablefish, halibut and walleye pollock subject to available IVQ holdings. The by-catch allowance for walleye pollock is 10% of the offshore hake landing. Any catch of groundfish (other than hake) in excess of the set allowance must be relinquished. **All by-catch will be deducted from the vessel’s IVQ holdings.** Fishers who may wish to retain more than by-catch allowance while on a dedicated hake trip must carry an observer for that trip.

If a vessel has discontinued fishing and is transiting directly to an offloading port, the observer may disembark in Port Hardy, Victoria, Ucluelet or Prince Rupert. The following requirements shall apply:

- a) A hail-in as described in the Conditions of the 2003/2004 Groundfish Trawl IVQ Licence shall be made to designated service provider;
- b) The use of Port Hardy shall only be considered when the vessel is transiting southbound between Vancouver Island and the mainland of B.C.;
- c) The use of Victoria shall only be considered when the vessel is transiting eastbound to a Canadian landing port or transiting southbound to Blaine, Bellingham or Anacortes in Washington State;
- d) The use of Ucluelet shall only be considered when the vessel is transiting directly to Port Alberni, southbound to a Canadian landing port or to Blaine, Bellingham or Anacortes in Washington State; and
- e) The use of Prince Rupert shall only be considered when a vessel is transiting southbound between Vancouver Island and the Mainland of B.C. to a Canadian landing port or to the ports of Blaine, Bellingham or Anacortes in Washington State.

Vessels fishing under Option B are subject to 10% observer coverage. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has established a random selection process which does not factor in previous coverage into future selections (so vessels may be required to take an observer on back to back trips more or less than the fleet average of 10%) as follows:

- a) At the time of vessel trip hail out the service provider will inform the vessel if they are required to take an observer for that trip.
- b) Fishers must hail out a minimum of 24 hours prior to the vessel's departure from a port.
- c) Once notified of the requirement to take an observer, the vessel owner/operator will be expected to make arrangements for the deployment and hosting of an observer with the service provider. Details include departure date, time and location of vessel, the duration of trip, and the anticipated landing port.

A single service provider will be designated for this program and will supply certified observers to provide the at-sea monitoring services. Details of how to make arrangements for observers can be made by contacting the Groundfish Trawl Co-ordinator, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, #200 - 400 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3S4, or sent by fax at (604) 666-8525.

15.4. Conversion Factors

To facilitate the conversion of product weight to round weight for the purposes of monitoring catches against TAC and IVQ holdings, the Department shall use set conversion factors and ice/slime and glaze allowances.

The factors and allowances that shall be used at the commencement of the 2003/2004 fishery will be conditions of each "T" licence issued. As changes may be made in-season, the conditions of the category "T" licence should be referred to determine what factors and allowances are in effect at any time.

Individual vessels may request in writing to use different conversion factors and/or ice/glaze allowances, which are more applicable to their operation. If this is requested, a quantity of fish, as directed by the Department, shall be supplied at no charge. Testing will be conducted when Departmental and/or contract personnel are available to do so, and licence conditions may be amended to reflect the results. Further testing may be required in-season to verify the continued appropriateness of the amended factors.

16. HALIBUT BY-CATCH MANAGEMENT PLAN

16.1. Halibut Non-retention

Halibut incidentally caught under a “T” licence cannot be retained and must be returned to the water as quickly as possible.

16.2. Halibut Mortality Cap

For the 2003/2004 fishing year, the halibut by-catch mortality cap for the trawl fleet is set at 1,000,000 lb. or 454 tonnes. All estimated halibut by-catch mortality will be deducted from a vessel’s individual cap.

16.3. Reallocation Rules

Halibut by-catch mortality caps can be reallocated, subject to the halibut species mortality cap rule set in this plan, and will not be considered as part of the groundfish equivalents calculations or total IVQ holdings caps.

16.3.1. Halibut Mortality Cap

A halibut species mortality cap rule will apply, whereby no licence can hold more than 4% of the total halibut by-catch mortality cap for the trawl fleet.

Halibut catch in excess of a vessel’s individual halibut by-catch cap will result in an amendment to the vessel’s licence conditions restricting it to trawling for mid-water species coast-wide for the remainder of the fishing year, or until such time as sufficient additional halibut by-catch cap is reallocated onto the licence to cover the overage.

The halibut overage will also be carried over to the following year and deducted from the licence’s halibut by-catch mortality cap allocation. Also “T” licensed vessels may carryover up to 15% of their halibut by-catch mortality underage to 2003/2004.

17. FISH RELEASED AT SEA

For all species of groundfish, other than halibut, that are determined to be unmarketable and that are released at-sea shall not be deducted from IVQ holdings or annual TAC.

17.1. Marketable Size Limits

Marketability shall be determined by size. Lingcod and sablefish marketability is determined by the legislated size limit for each species. A survey of major groundfish processors has provided the following definitions of marketability, which shall be used, for those species with no legislated size limits.

Species	Size
Rock, lemon, petrale and dover sole.	13 inches (33 cm) and larger ¹
Pacific cod.	18 inches (46 cm) and larger ¹
Pollock	18 inches (46 cm) and larger ¹
Rockfish (not including long and short thornyheads).	12 inches (30 cm) and larger ¹
Spiny dogfish.	28 inches (71 cm) and larger ¹
Longspine and shortspine thornyheads.	7.5 inches (19 cm) and larger ¹
Skate	26inches (66 cm) and larger ¹
¹ Although these sizes are used to define marketability for the purpose of enumerating releases, the industry is advised that fish less than the indicated size may legally be retained, landed and processed. Sizes shall be measured from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail, except for skate where the measurement is wingspread. Where there is no fork, length shall be measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail.	

Species other than those listed above will be considered marketable and deducted from IVQ holdings.

All hake releases at sea will be considered non-marketable. However, hake, which is landed, will be deducted from that vessel's quota and rules regarding the overages/underages will apply.

17.2. Mortality rates

Fish determined to be marketable shall have set mortality rates for any fish released, as follows:

Sole And Flounder	10% mortality for the first two hours fished or portion thereof and, 10% for each additional hour ¹ .
Lingcod	10% mortality for the first two hours fished or portion thereof and, 10% for each additional hour ¹ .
Sablefish	10% mortality for the first two hours fished or portion thereof and, 10% for each additional hour ¹ .
Pacific Cod And Pollock	25% mortality for the first two hours fished or portion thereof and, 25% for each additional hour ¹ .

Spiny Dogfish	5% mortality for the first two hours fished or portion thereof and, 5% for each additional hour.
Skate	5% mortality for the first two hours fished or portion thereof and, 5% for each additional hour.
Rockfish	100% mortality regardless of time fished.
Longspine And Shortspine Thornyhead	100% mortality regardless of time fished.
¹ Fishing time is defined as the period following shooting of the gear during which the trawl winches are locked. For periods less than one hour, mortality shall be determined by multiplying that portion of an hour by the applicable mortality rate.	

The above mortality rates do not necessarily reflect true mortality rates of fish released at-sea, but are intended to provide incentives for vessel operators to reduce towing time and avoid by-catch wherever possible.

As in previous years under the dockside monitoring program, all fish landed, whether considered marketable or not, shall be deducted from the appropriate area and species-specific IVQ or by-catch cap.

For halibut, a Fisheries and Oceans Canada certified at-sea observer shall assess the condition of the fish before it is returned to the water, in order to apply the appropriate mortality factor.

18. HAKE FISHERY

The offshore pacific hake fishery will be managed under the general IVQ program in place for the groundfish trawl fishery.

The 2003 hake TAC and further details of the in-season management processes will be set out in a separate announcement/document when finalized.

19. FUTURE USE OF CATCH HISTORY

Commencing in 1991, Fisheries and Oceans Canada issued several notices to groundfish trawl industry participants regarding the use of catch history for determining future allocations of groundfish. Industry is advised that, following the outcome of the Halvorson arbitration process and the implementation of the 1997 IFMP and the trawl IVQ program in general, those notices now cease to have effect.

20. GROUND FISH TRAWL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Department consults on a regular basis with the Groundfish Trawl Advisory Committee (GTAC), which represents groundfish trawl licence fishers and holders, processors and other industry representatives. This committee meets a number of times during the year to review in-season progress of the fishery and receive or make recommendations regarding various management actions.

Vessel owner(s) are urged to communicate any comments or concerns to their respective GTAC representative for discussion at GTAC meetings.

The current GTAC members are as follows:

Name	Address	Phone	Email address
Kelly Andersen	#1502 – 8811 Lansdowne Rd. Richmond, B.C. V6C 3T7	Phone (604) 542-2610 Fax (604) 214-2615	kavikingstorm@shaw.ca
Lawrence Atchison	2101 Graham Ave, Prince Rupert, B.C.	Phone (250) 624-4510 Fax (250) 624-3886	
Bruce Devereux	RR # 6, C-43, Site 676, 4098 Gartley Point Courtney, B.C. V9N 8W9	Phone (250) 334-3789 Fax (250) 334-2929	ddevereux@shaw.ca
Scott Dunn (Alternate for Bruce Devereux)	2730 Old Alberni Highway Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9R 1X1	Phone (250)-752-2870 Fax (250) 752-2870	pagedunn@island.net
Brian Dickens	1130 Robertson Blvd, Parksville, B.C. V9P 1Y2	Phone (250) 248-1018 Fax (250) 954-1310	bldickens@shaw.ca
Bob Ingram	#206-288 E. 6 th St. North Vancouver, B.C. V7L 1P5	Phone/Fax (604) 980-6885	ingramfishing@telus.net
Dave Clattenburg (Alternate for Bob Ingram)	10525 McGarth Road, Rosedale, B.C.	Phone (604) 794-7693 Fax (604) 794-7693	dclattenburg@uniserve.com

Name	Address	Phone	Email address
Brian Mose	641 Hollywood Road Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1M3	Phone (250) 752-2931 Fax (250) 752-1032	bmos@nanaimo.ark.com
Bob Morreau	1417 133A Street, Surrey, B.C. V4A 6M2	Phone (604) 531-0656 Fax (604) 541-9481	
Erling Olsen	Leader Fishing Co. 10663 River Road Delta, B.C. V4C 2R1	Phone (604) 271-4828 Phone (604) 582-2125 Fax (604) 940-6833	erling@leaderfishing.com
Rob Tryon	6980 Seabrook Road Saanichton, B.C. V0S 1M0	Phone (250) 652-5166 Fax (250) 652-2725	
Don Vaccher	#340 – 4 th Ave W. Prince Rupert, B.C. V8J 1P3	Phone (250) 624-6839 Fax (250) 627-4682	
Allan Williams	Fisher Bay Seafoods 10230 Bowerbank Rd Sidney, B.C. V8L 3X4	Phone (250) 656-8157 Fax (250) 656-8159	abaswill@telus.net
Mike Buston	Ucluelet Seafood Processors P.O. Box 589 Ucluelet, B.C. V0R 3A0	Phone (250) 726-7768 Fax (250) 726-4226	mbuston@telus.net
Murray Chatwin	Ocean Fisheries Ltd. 2305 Commissioner St. Vancouver, B.C. V5L 1A4	Phone (604) 254-5751 Fax (604) 254-0957	mchatwin@oceanfish.com
Dan McMillan	J.S. McMillan Fisheries Ltd. 2199 Commissioner St. Vancouver, B.C. V5L 1A4	Phone (604) 216-3040 Fax (604) 255-4600	dmcmillan@jsm.bc.ca

Name	Address	Phone	Email address
Bob Humphreys	GDA 21540 - 121 Avenue Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 3S4	Phone (604) 467-7970 Fax (604) 467-7956	humphreys@telus.net
Stuart Nelson	Deep Sea Trawlers Association. (DSTA) #2 - 11771 Horseshoe Way Richmond, B.C. V7A 4V4	Phone (604) 275-6944 Fax (604) 275-6949	stuart_nelson@telus.net
John Radosovic	United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union/CAW 1st Floor, 326 12th Street. New Westminster, B.C., V3M 4H6	Phone (604) 519-3630 Fax (604) 524-6944	jrados@ufawu.org
Bruce Logan (Alternate for John Radosovic)	UFAWU/CAW 1st Floor, 326 12th Street. New Westminster, B.C. V3M 4H6	Phone (604) 519-3630 Fax (604) 524-6944	bruce@ufawu.org
Bruce Turriss	Canadian Groundfish and Research Conservation Society 333 Third St, New Westminster, B.C., V3L 2R8	Phone (604) 524-0005 Fax (604) 524-0150	bruce_turriss@telus.net

Name	Address	Phone	Email address
Dave Smith	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) P. O. Box 9359 Station Provincial Government 3 rd floor, 780 Blanchard St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M2	Phone (250) 356-7642 Fax (250)356-0358	dave.smith@gems6.gov.bc. ca
Barry Ackerman	Pacific Region Trawl Co-ordinator Fisheries and Oceans Canada RHQ #200 - 401 Burrard Street Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3S4	Phone (604) 666-3991 Fax (604) 666-8525	ackermanb@pac.dfo- mpo.gc.ca

21. INQUIRIES

Please direct all written correspondence to:

Pacific Region Trawl Co-ordinator
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Suite 200, 401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3S4
Fax: (604) 666-8525

Appendix 2: Groundfish Species

Species	Scientific Name
Aurora rockfish	<i>Sebastes aurora</i>
Black rockfish	<i>Sebastes melanops</i>
Blue rockfish	<i>Sebastes mystinus</i>
Bocaccio	<i>Sebastes paucispinis</i>
Brown rockfish	<i>Sebastes auriculatus</i>
Canary rockfish	<i>Sebastes pinniger</i>
Chilipepper rockfish	<i>Sebastes goodei</i>
China rockfish	<i>Sebastes nebulosus</i>
Copper rockfish	<i>Sebastes caurinus</i>
Darkblotched rockfish	<i>Sebastes crameri</i>
Dusky rockfish	<i>Sebastes ciliatus</i>
Greenstriped rockfish	<i>Sebastes elongatus</i>
Harlequin rockfish	<i>Sebastes variegatus</i>
Longspine thornyhead	<i>Sebastolobus altivelis</i>
Northern rockfish	<i>Sebastes polyspinis</i>
Pacific Ocean Perch	<i>Sebastes alutus</i>
Puget Sound rockfish	<i>Sebastes emphaeus</i>
Pygmy rockfish	<i>Sebastes wilsoni</i>
Quillback rockfish	<i>Sebastes maliger</i>
Redbanded rockfish	<i>Sebastes babcocki</i>
Redstripe rockfish	<i>Sebastes proriger</i>
Rosethorn rockfish	<i>Sebastes helvomaculatus</i>
Rougheye rockfish	<i>Sebastes aleutianus</i>
Sharpchin rockfish	<i>Sebastes zacentrus</i>
Shortbelly rockfish	<i>Sebastes jordani</i>
Shortraker rockfish	<i>Sebastes borealis</i>
Shortspine thornyhead	<i>Sebastolobus alascanus</i>
Silvergray rockfish	<i>Sebastes brevispinis</i>
Splitnose rockfish	<i>Sebastes diploproa</i>
Stripetail rockfish	<i>Sebastes saxicola</i>
Tiger rockfish	<i>Sebastes nigrocinctus</i>
Vermilion rockfish	<i>Sebastes miniatus</i>
Widow rockfish	<i>Sebastes entomelas</i>
Yelloweye rockfish	<i>Sebastes ruberrimus</i>
Yellowmouth rockfish	<i>Sebastes reedi</i>
Yellowtail rockfish	<i>Sebastes flavidus</i>
Skate	
Big skate	<i>Raja binoculata</i>
Longnose skate	<i>Raja rhina</i>
Black skate	<i>Raja kincaidi</i>
Starry skate	<i>Raja stellulata</i>

Species**Scientific Name**

Deepsea skate

*Raja abyssicola***Flatfish**

Arrowtooth flounder

Atheresthes stomias

Butter sole

Isopsetta isolepis

C-O sole

Pleuronichthys coenosus

Curlfin sole

Pleuronichthys decurrens

Dover sole

Microstomus pacificus

English sole

Parophrys vetulus

Flathead sole

Hippoglossoides elassodon

Pacific sanddab

Citarichthys sordidus

Petrale sole

Eopsetta jordani

Rex sole

Glyptocephalus zachirus

Rock sole

Lepidopsetta bilineata

Sand sole

Psettichthys melanostictus

Slender sole

Lyopsetta exilis

Speckled sanddab

Citharichtys stigmaeus

Starry flounder

Platichthys stellatus

Yellowfin sole

*Limanda aspera***Tuna**

Albacore

Thunnus alalunga

Bluefin

Thunnus thynnus

Pacific bonito

Sarda chiliensis lineolata

Skipjack

Euthynnus pelamis

Yellowfin

*Thunnus albacares***Smelt**

Surf smelt

Hypomesus pretiosus pretiosus

Rainbow smelt

Osmerus mordax dentex

Night smelt

*Spirinchus starski***Mackerel**

Chub Mackerel

Scomber japonicus

Pacific Mackerel

*Trachurus symmetricus***Roundfish**

Greenlings

Hexagrammos sp.

Lingcod

Ophiodon elongatus

Pacific cod

Gadus macrocephalus

Sablefish

Anoplopoma fimbria

Sculpins

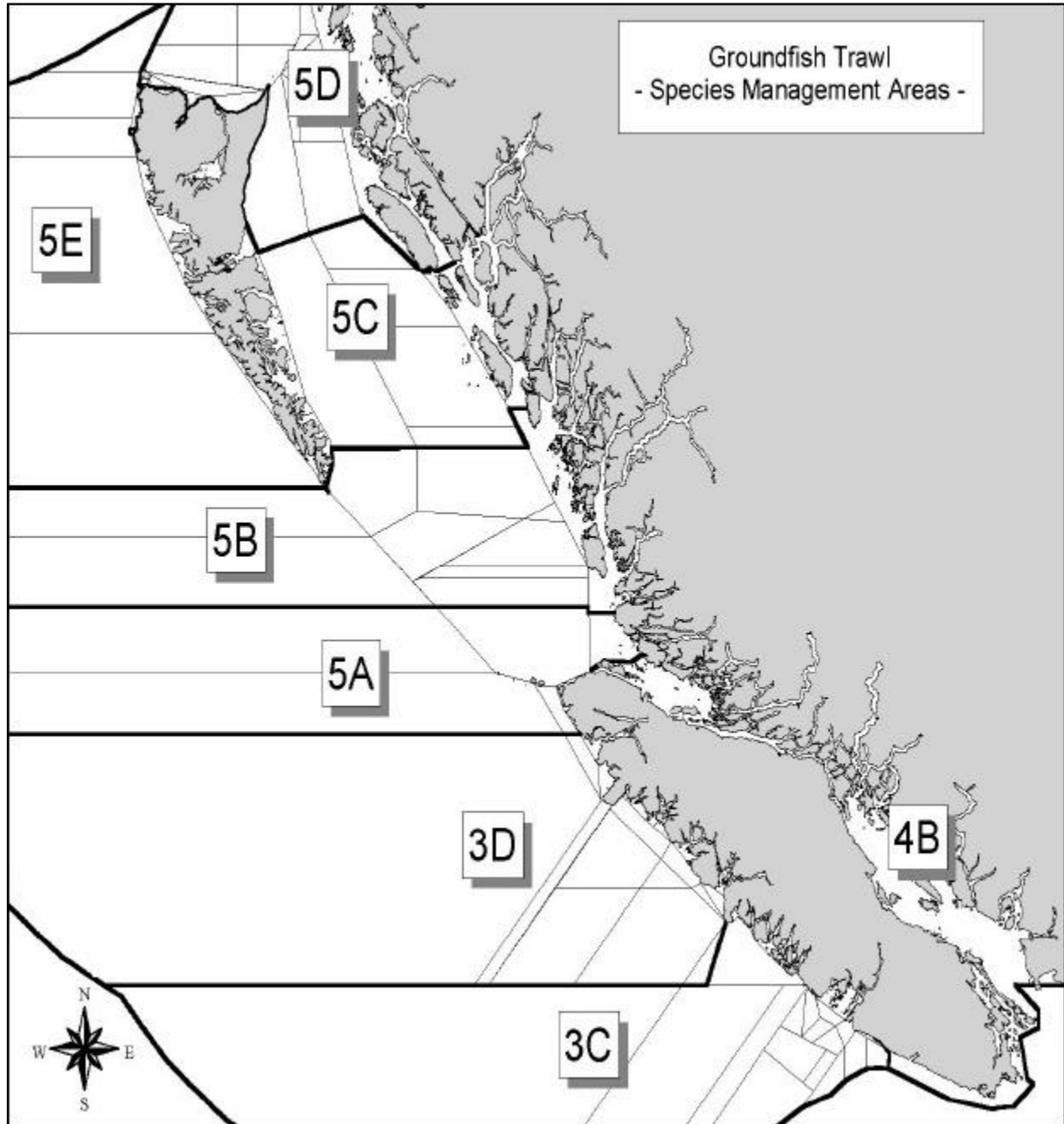
Family Cottidea

Species	Scientific Name
Walleye pollock	<i>Thragra chalcogramma</i>
Pacific hake	<i>Merluccius productus</i>

Any Other Vertebrate Fish Except:

Pacific halibut	<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>
Salmon species	<i>Onchorhynchus sp.</i>
Pacific herring	<i>Clupea harengus pallasii</i>
Green sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>
White sturgeon	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>
Wolf-eel	<i>Anarrhichthys ocellatus</i>

Appendix 3: Groundfish Trawl Species Management Areas



Appendix 4: Example of Groundfish Trawl Fishing Logbook

GROUND FISH TRAWL FISHING INFORMATION LOG											
Vessel Name: SEA WATER		VRN: 29999		T Licence No.: T 0155		Captain: JOHN DOE		Hail Out No.: 21810476		At Sea Observer: DON TRIP Trip No.: 55 Page: 2 of 2	
Departure Date: 20/5/2005		Landing Date: 30/5/2005		Port of Landing: UCL		Offload Location: BORNSTEIN		Hail In No.: 21824596		Buyer/Processor/Company: SEA DRIFT	

Tow Number: 003				Species				Retained (lbs.)				Released (lbs.)			
BTMT: B T				Yellowtail											
Cod End Mesh (in.): 5 3/4				Widow											
Date (dd/mm/yy): 2 6 0 5 0 5				Canary											
Name of Grounds: C. SCOTT SPIT				Silvergray				1 0 0							
MGMT Subarea: 1 2 7 - 0 4				POP				1 0 0 0				1 0 0			
Major Area: 5 A				Yellowmouth											
Set Time (24 hr clock): 0 7 4 5				Rougheye											
Haul Time (24 hr clock): 0 9 5 0				Shortsnout											
Start Latitude: 5 0 4 3 5 1				Redstripe											
Start Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 5 0				Shortspine TH											
Middle Latitude: 5 0 4 2 1 0				Longspine TH											
Middle Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 2 0															
End Latitude: 5 0 4 2 9 1															
End Longitude: 1 2 8 2 7 2 3				Dover Sole											
Start Depth (fms): 4 1				Rock Sole				2 5 0 0							
Mid Depth (fms): 3 6				English Sole				1 4 0 0 0				1 0 0			
End Depth (fms): 3 6				Pinnate Sole											
Tow Speed (kts): 4				Halibut											
Gear Depth/Fish Capers (ft): 3 6				Turbot											
Target Species				1. SILVER GREY											
				2. DOVER SOLE											
				3.											
				4.											
Tow Comments:				WEATHER GETTING BAD GOING TO MAKE ONE MORE TURBOT TOW.											

Tow Number: 004				Species				Retained (lbs.)				Released (lbs.)			
BTMT: B T				Yellowtail				5 0 0				1 0 0			
Cod End Mesh (in.): 5 3/4				Widow											
Date (dd/mm/yy): 2 6 0 5 0 5				Canary											
Name of Grounds: C. SCOTT SPIT				Silvergray				1 1 0 0 0							
MGMT Subarea: 1 2 7 - 0 4				POP				1 5 0				1 0 0			
Major Area: 5 A				Yellowmouth											
Set Time (24 hr clock): 1 1 1 5				Rougheye											
Haul Time (24 hr clock): 1 3 0 0				Shortsnout											
Start Latitude: 5 0 4 8 5 5				Redstripe											
Start Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 2 0				Shortspine TH											
Middle Latitude: 5 0 4 7 8 0				Longspine TH											
Middle Longitude: 1 2 8 2 9 7 2															
End Latitude: 5 0 4 8 5 1															
End Longitude: 1 2 8 2 9 4 7				Dover Sole				1 0 0 0							
Start Depth (fms): 3 8				Rock Sole											
Mid Depth (fms): 4 5				English Sole											
End Depth (fms): 2 5				Pinnate Sole											
Tow Speed (kts): 4				Halibut											
Gear Depth/Fish Capers (ft): 3 4				Turbot				2 4 0 0 0							
Target Species				1. SILVER GREY											
				2. DOVER SOLE											
				3. TURBOT											
				4.											
Tow Comments:				CUT TRIP SHORT BAD WEATHER!											

Tow Number: 003				Species				Retained (lbs.)				Released (lbs.)			
BTMT: B T				Yellowtail											
Cod End Mesh (in.): 5 3/4				Widow											
Date (dd/mm/yy): 2 6 0 5 0 5				Canary											
Name of Grounds: C. SCOTT SPIT				Silvergray											
MGMT Subarea: 1 2 7 - 0 4				POP											
Major Area: 5 A				Yellowmouth											
Set Time (24 hr clock): 0 7 4 5				Rougheye											
Haul Time (24 hr clock): 0 9 5 0				Shortsnout											
Start Latitude: 5 0 4 3 5 1				Redstripe											
Start Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 5 0				Shortspine TH											
Middle Latitude: 5 0 4 2 1 0				Longspine TH											
Middle Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 2 0															
End Latitude: 5 0 4 2 9 1															
End Longitude: 1 2 8 2 7 2 3				Dover Sole											
Start Depth (fms): 4 1				Rock Sole				2 5 0 0							
Mid Depth (fms): 3 6				English Sole				1 4 0 0 0				1 0 0			
End Depth (fms): 3 6				Pinnate Sole											
Tow Speed (kts): 4				Halibut											
Gear Depth/Fish Capers (ft): 3 6				Turbot											
Target Species				1. SILVER GREY											
				2. DOVER SOLE											
				3. TURBOT											
				4.											
Tow Comments:				WEATHER GETTING BAD GOING TO MAKE ONE MORE TURBOT TOW.											

Tow Number: 003				Species				Retained (lbs.)				Released (lbs.)			
BTMT: B T				Yellowtail											
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MGMT Subarea: 1 2 7 - 0 4				POP											
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Start Latitude: 5 0 4 3 5 1				Redstripe											
Start Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 5 0				Shortspine TH											
Middle Latitude: 5 0 4 2 1 0				Longspine TH											
Middle Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 2 0															
End Latitude: 5 0 4 2 9 1															
End Longitude: 1 2 8 2 7 2 3				Dover Sole											
Start Depth (fms): 4 1				Rock Sole				2 5 0 0							
Mid Depth (fms): 3 6				English Sole				1 4 0 0 0				1 0 0			
End Depth (fms): 3 6				Pinnate Sole											
Tow Speed (kts): 4				Halibut											
Gear Depth/Fish Capers (ft): 3 6				Turbot											
Target Species				1. SILVER GREY											
				2. DOVER SOLE											
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				4.											
Tow Comments:				WEATHER GETTING BAD GOING TO MAKE ONE MORE TURBOT TOW.											

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Middle Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 2 0															
End Latitude: 5 0 4 2 9 1															
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Mid Depth (fms): 3 6				English Sole				1 4 0 0 0				1 0 0			
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Middle Latitude: 5 0 4 2 1 0				Longspine TH											
Middle Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 2 0															
End Latitude: 5 0 4 2 9 1															
End Longitude: 1 2 8 2 7 2 3				Dover Sole											
Start Depth (fms): 4 1				Rock Sole				2 5 0 0							
Mid Depth (fms): 3 6				English Sole				1 4 0 0 0				1 0 0			
End Depth (fms): 3 6				Pinnate Sole											
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				2. DOVER SOLE											
				3. TURBOT											
				4.											
Tow Comments:				WEATHER GETTING BAD GOING TO MAKE ONE MORE TURBOT TOW.											

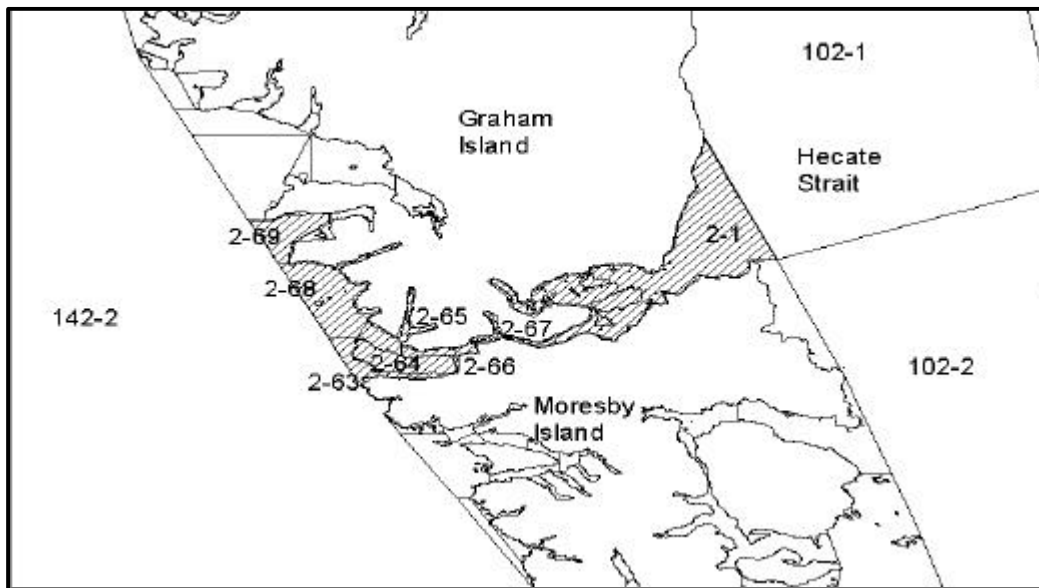
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BTMT: B T				Yellowtail											
Cod End Mesh (in.): 5 3/4				Widow											
Date (dd/mm/yy): 2 6 0 5 0 5				Canary											
Name of Grounds: C. SCOTT SPIT				Silvergray											
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Set Time (24 hr clock): 0 7 4 5				Rougheye											
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Middle Latitude: 5 0 4 2 1 0				Longspine TH											
Middle Longitude: 1 2 8 2 8 2 0															
End Latitude: 5 0 4 2 9 1															
End Longitude: 1 2 8 2 7 2 3				Dover Sole											
Start Depth (fms): 4 1				Rock Sole				2 5 0 0							
Mid Depth (fms): 3 6				English Sole				1 4 0 0 0				1 0 0			
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				3. TURBOT											
				4.											
Tow Comments:				WEATHER GETTING BAD GOING TO MAKE ONE MORE TURBOT TOW.											

Tow Number: 003				Species				Retained (lbs.)				Released (lbs.)			
BTMT: B T				Yellowtail											
Cod End Mesh (in.): 5 3/4				Widow											
Date (dd/mm/yy): 2 6 0 5 0 5				Canary											
Name of Grounds: C. SCOTT SPIT				Silvergray											
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End Longitude: 1 2 8 2 7 2 3				Dover Sole											
Start Depth (fms): 4 1				Rock Sole				2 5 0 0							
Mid Depth (fms): 3 6				English Sole</											

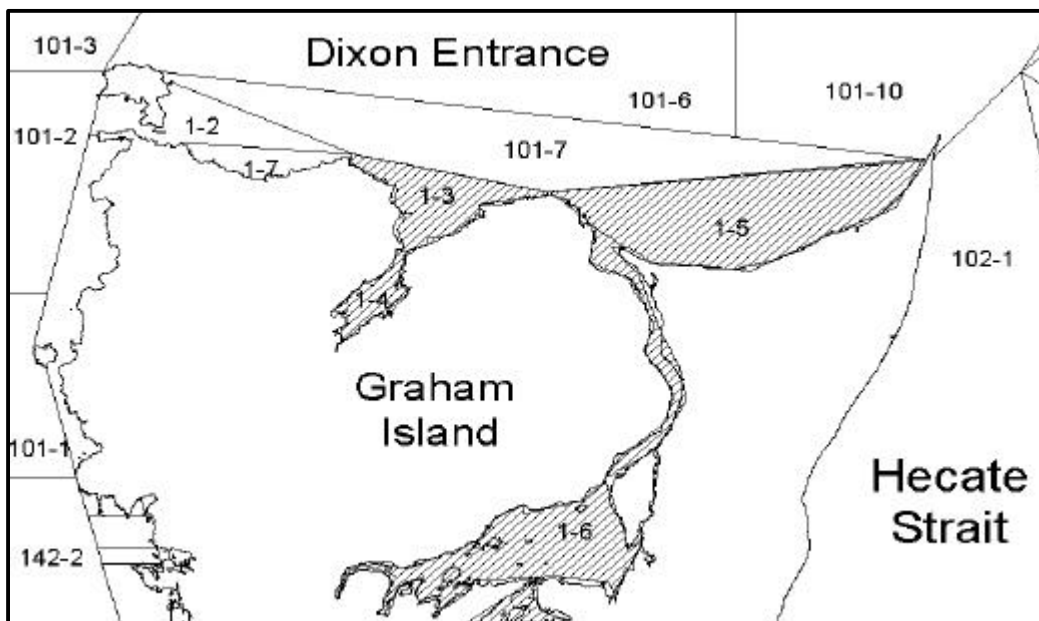
Appendix 5: In-season Groundfish Trawl Closures

The following eight figures are illustrations of the area closures in effect for all trawl vessels at various times during the 2003/2004 season. A full description of the applicable dates and closures co-ordinates are found within Section 5 of Appendix 1 2003/2004 Groundfish Trawl Commercial Harvest Plan. A full description of Areas and Subareas referenced on these figures can be found in the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations*.

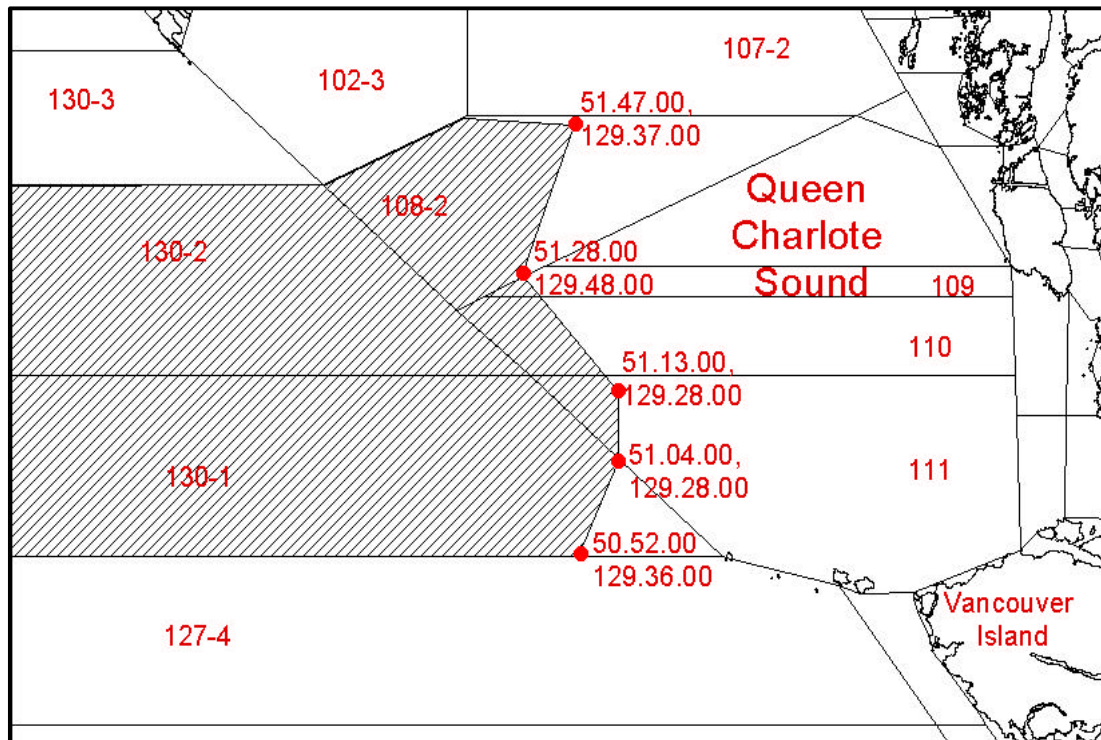
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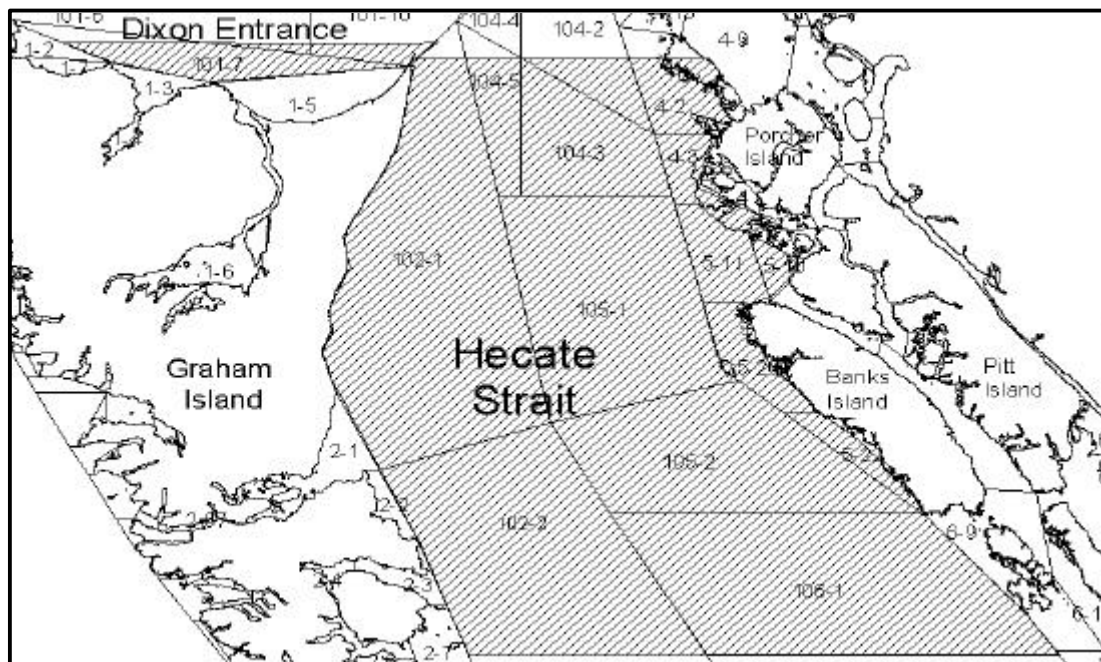
1.2. McIntyre Bay/Masset



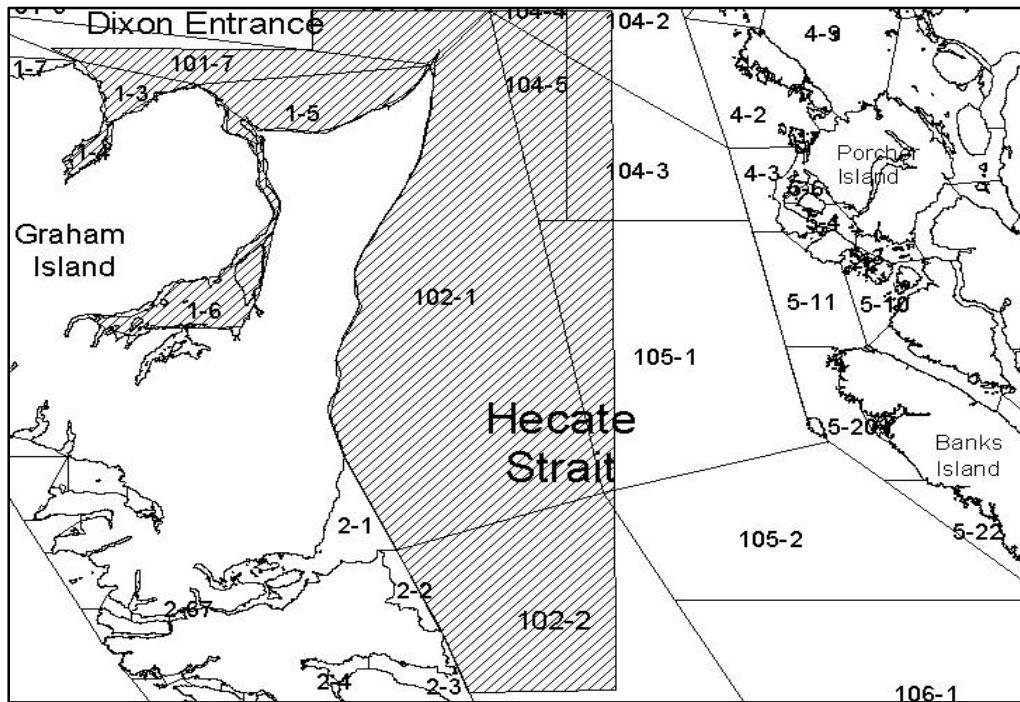
1.3. Tide Marks



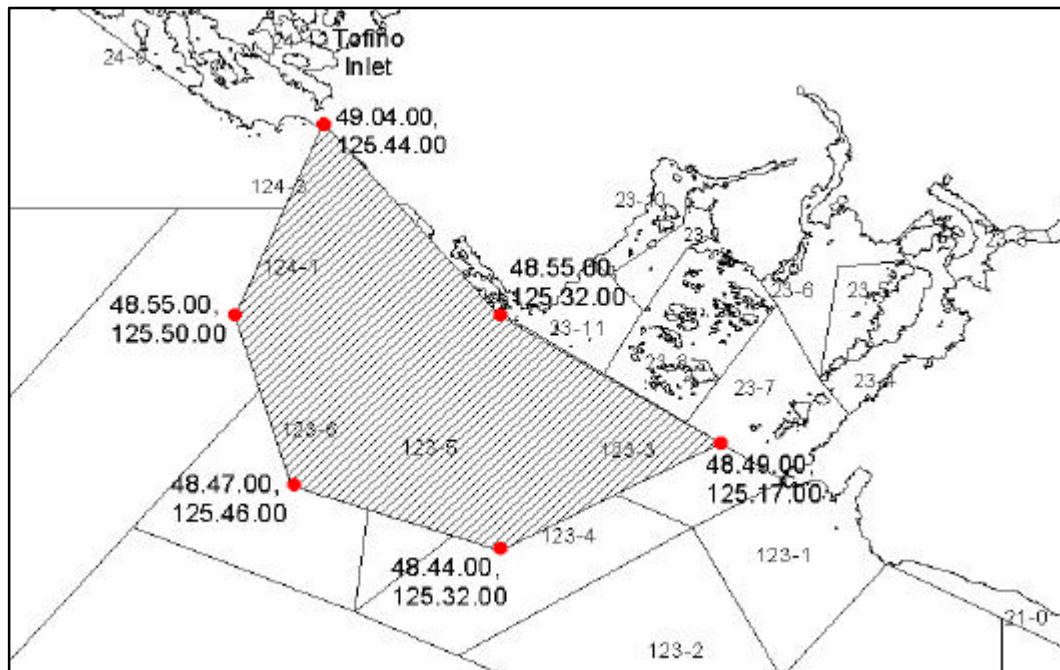
1.4. Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance – Protection of Pacific Cod



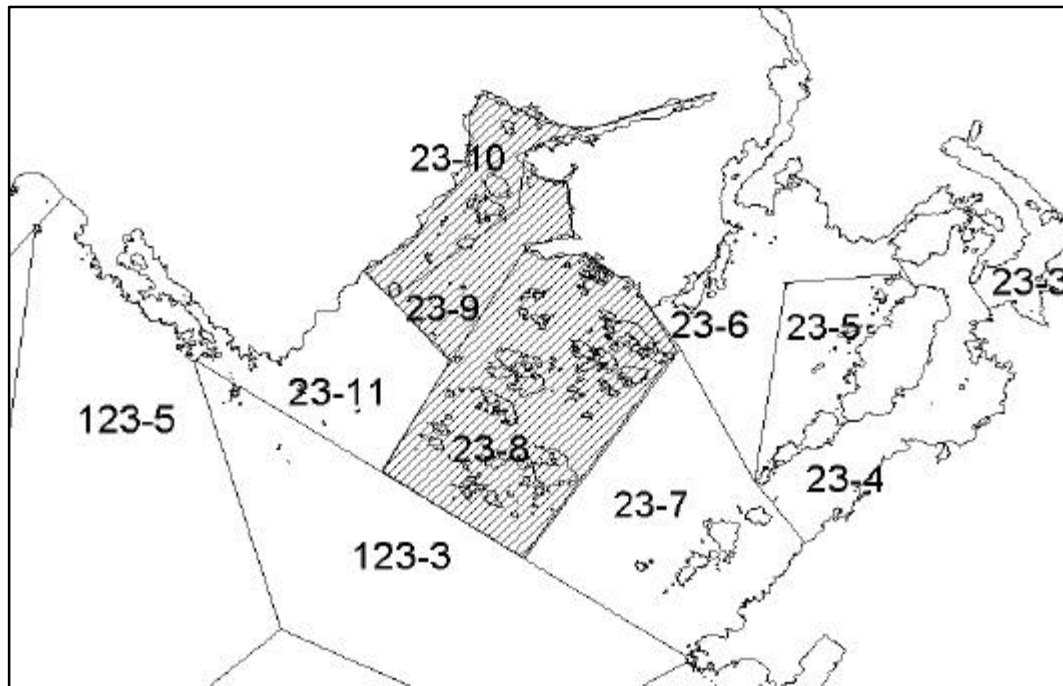
1.5. Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance – Protection of Soft Shell Crabs



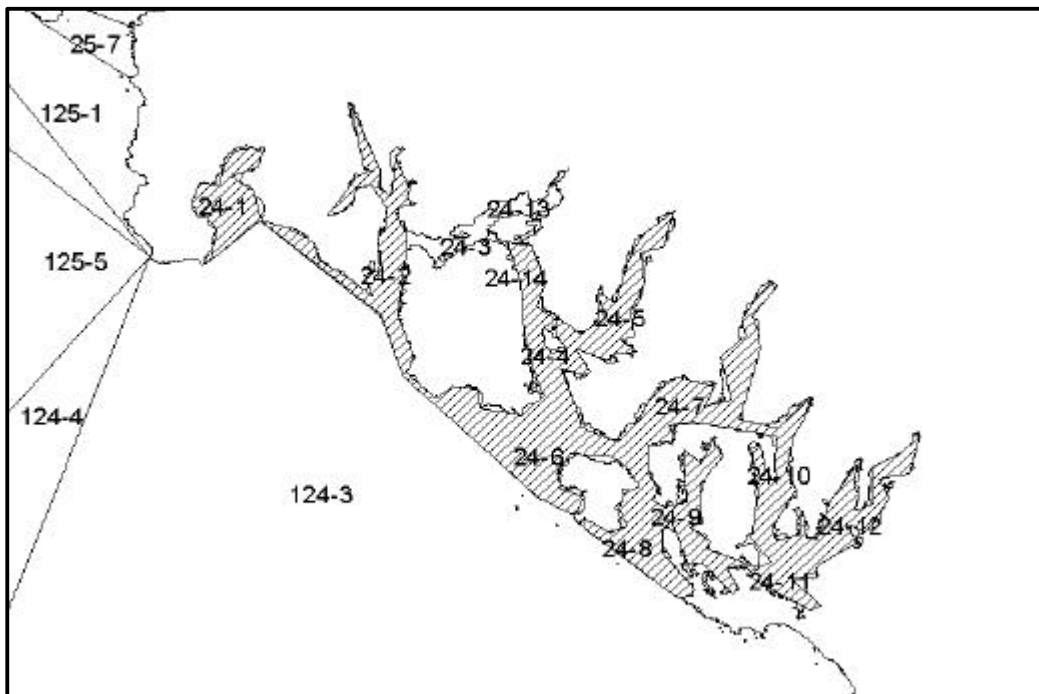
1.6. Lower West Coast Vancouver Island - Protection of Pacific Cod



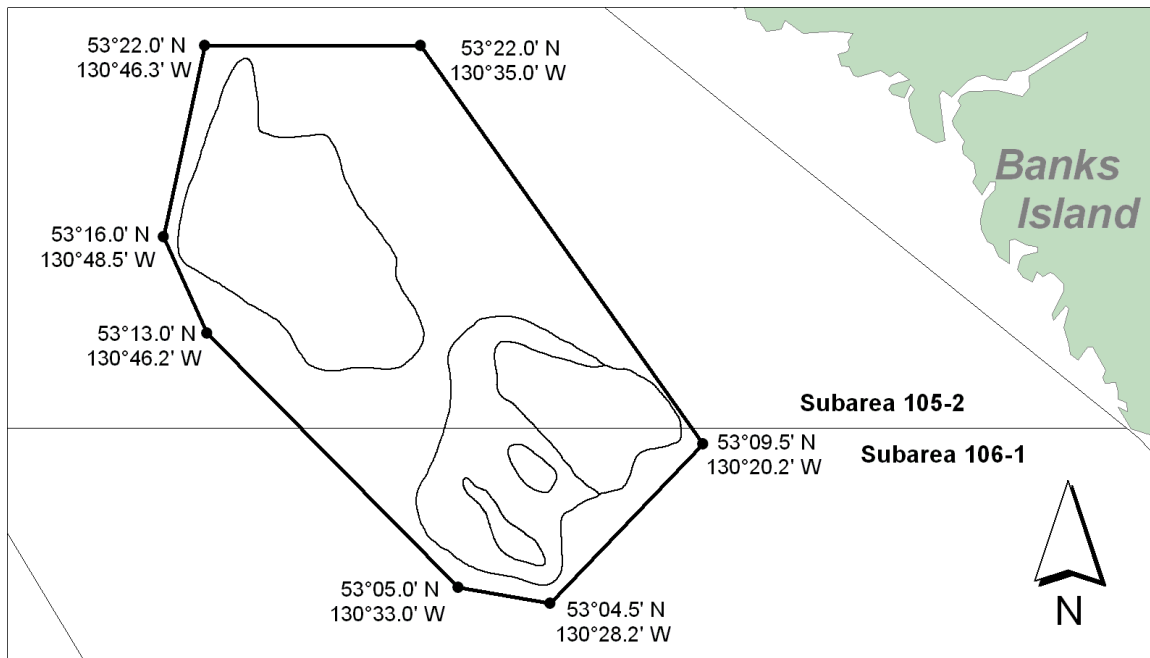
1.7. Area 23 (Barkley Sound)



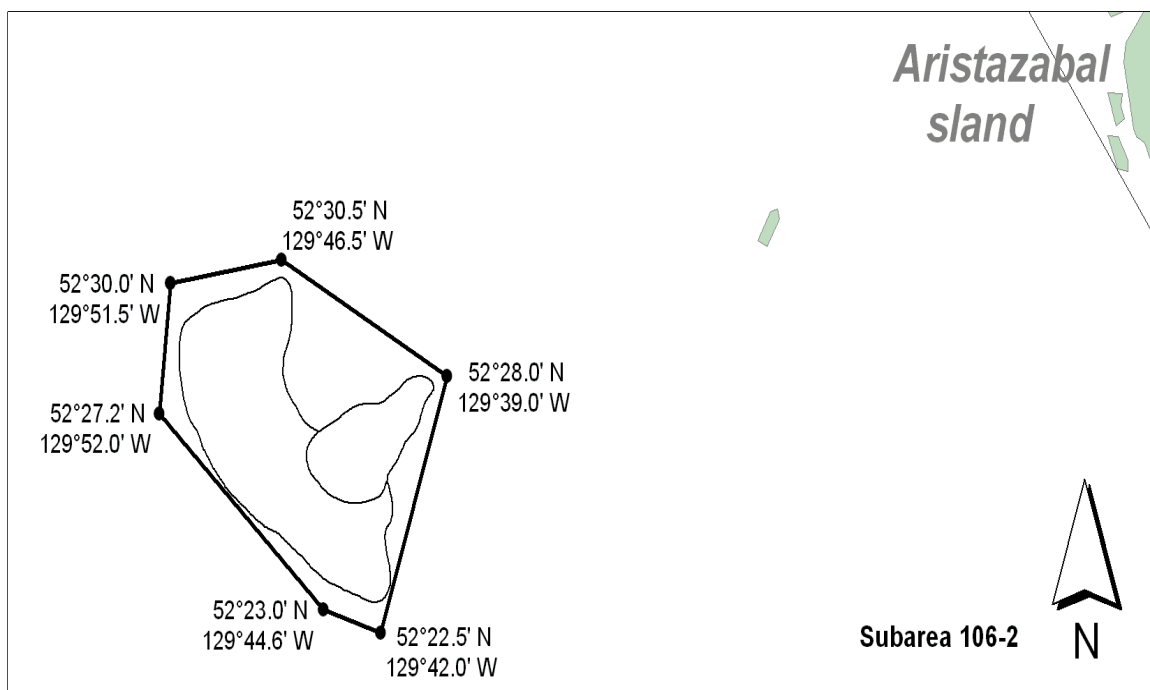
1.8. Area 24 (Clayoquot Sound)



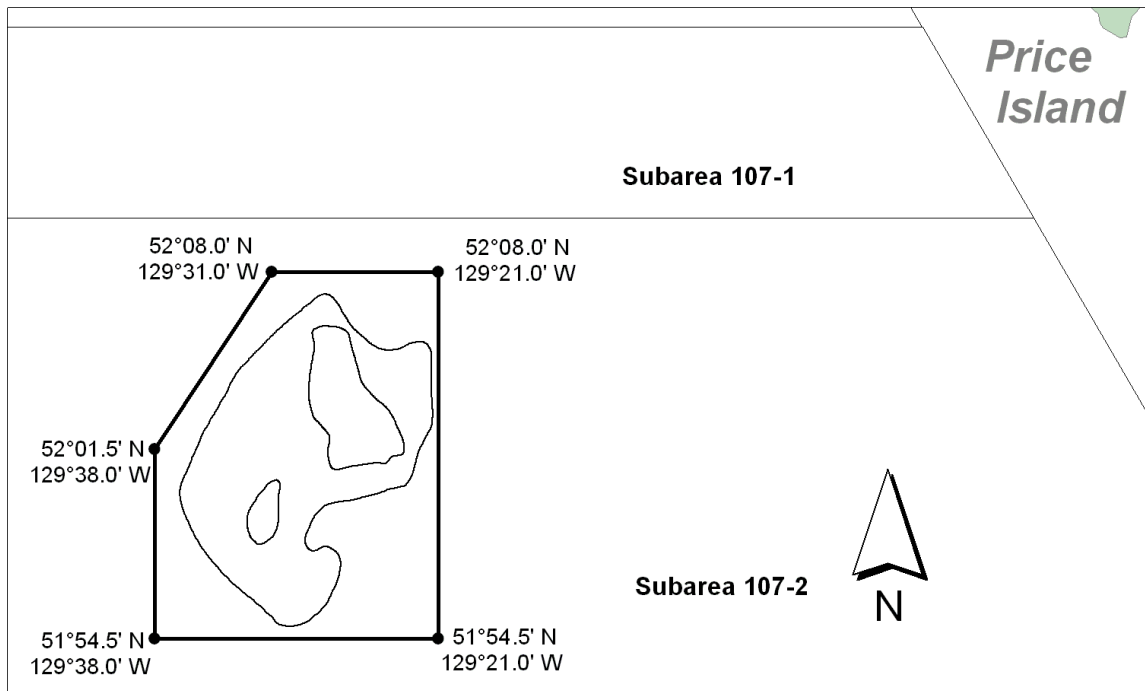
Appendix 6: Sponge Reef Protection Areas



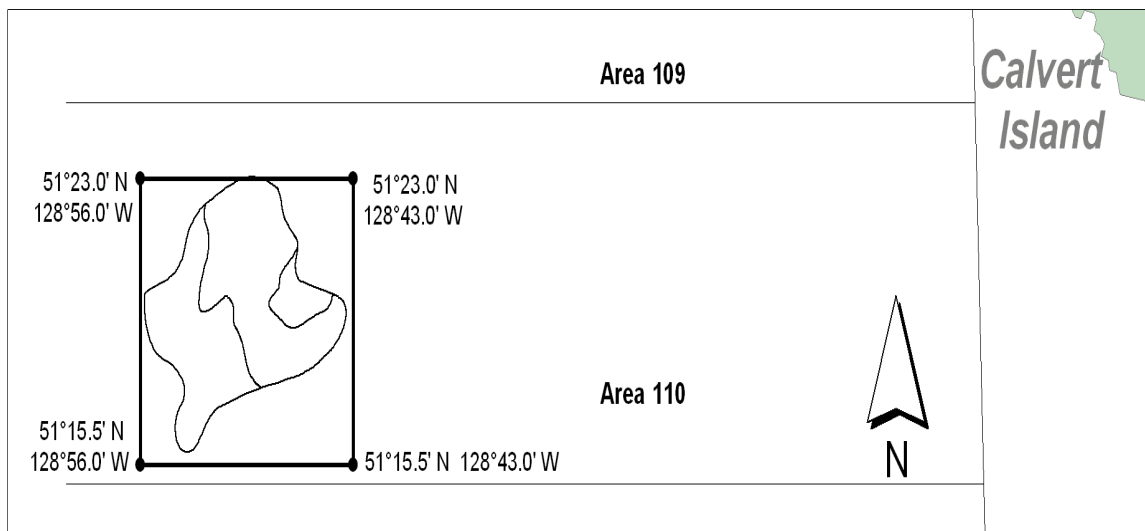
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Sponge Reef No. 2

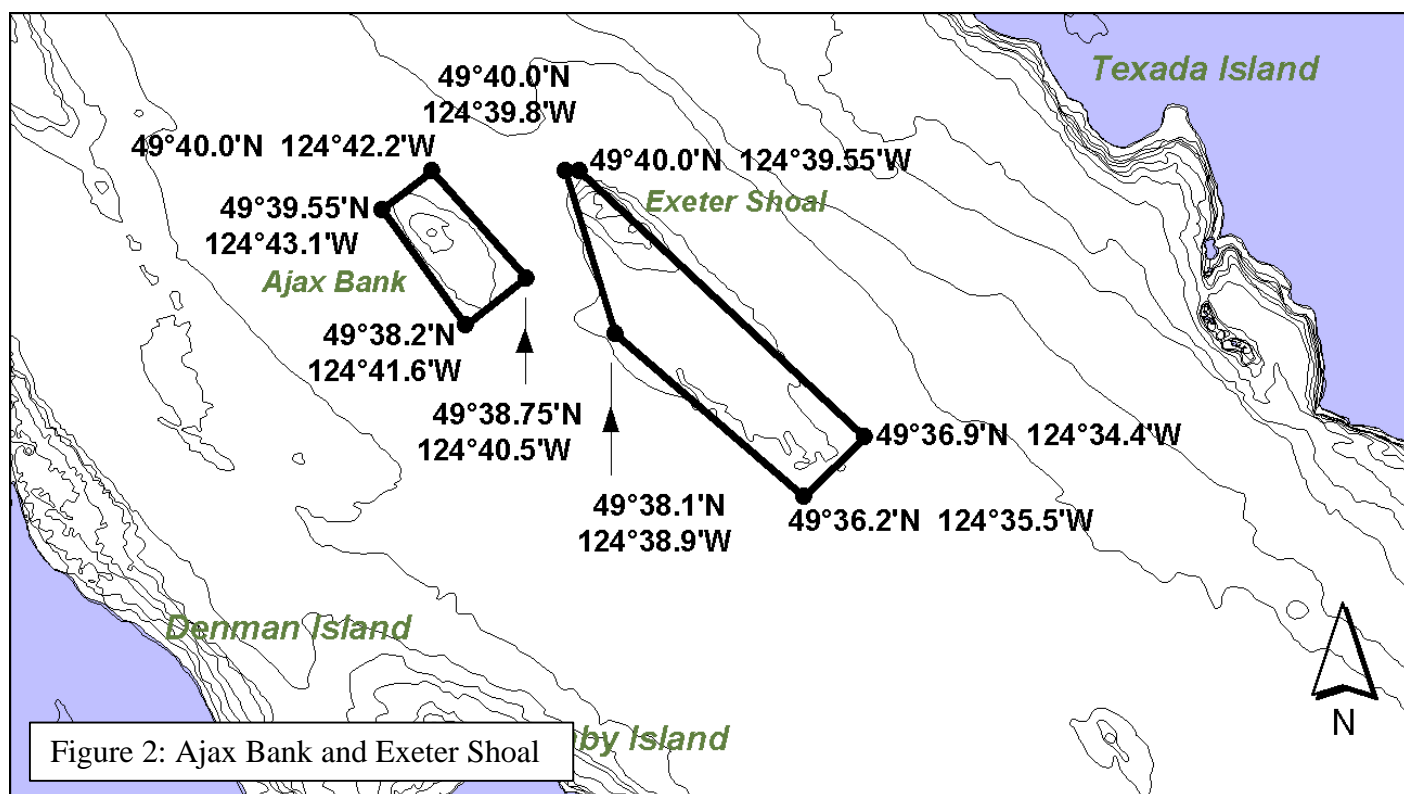
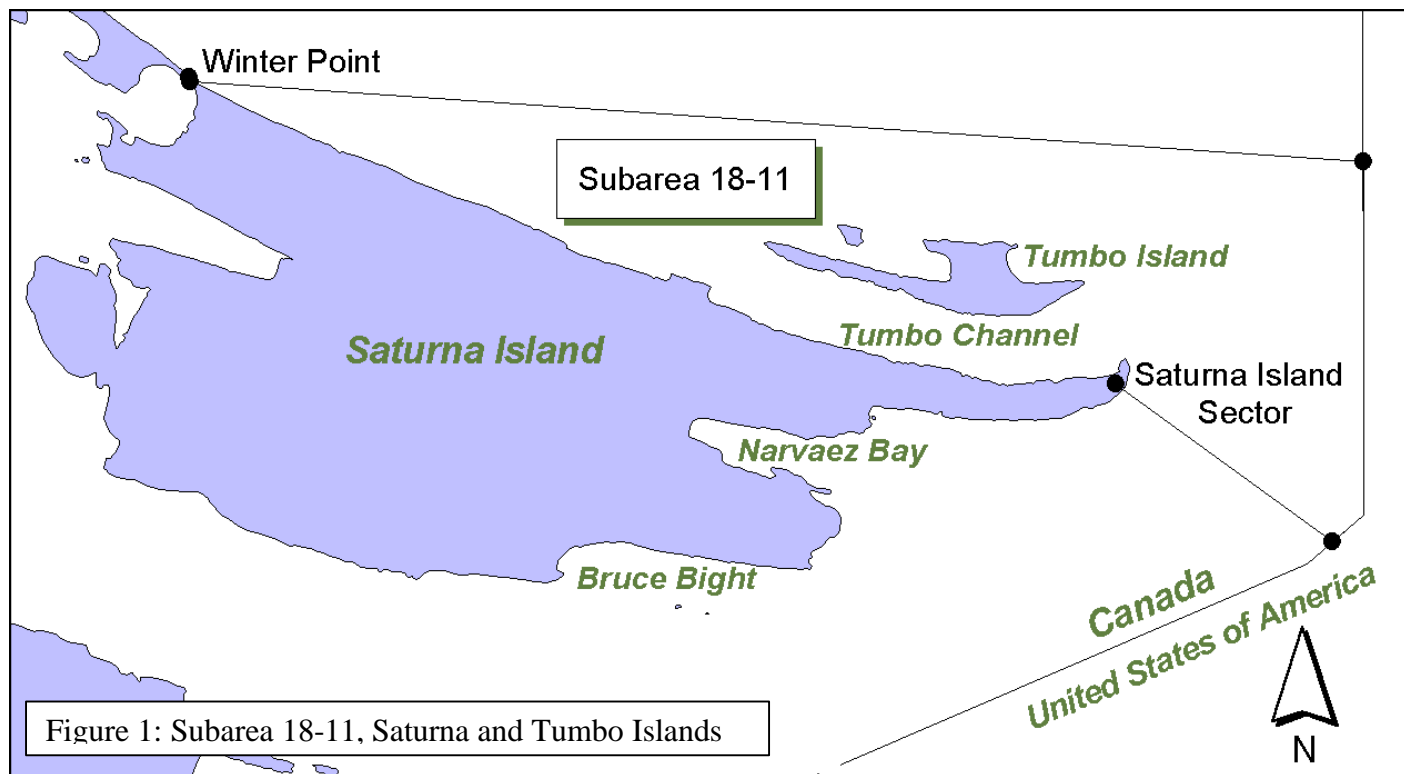


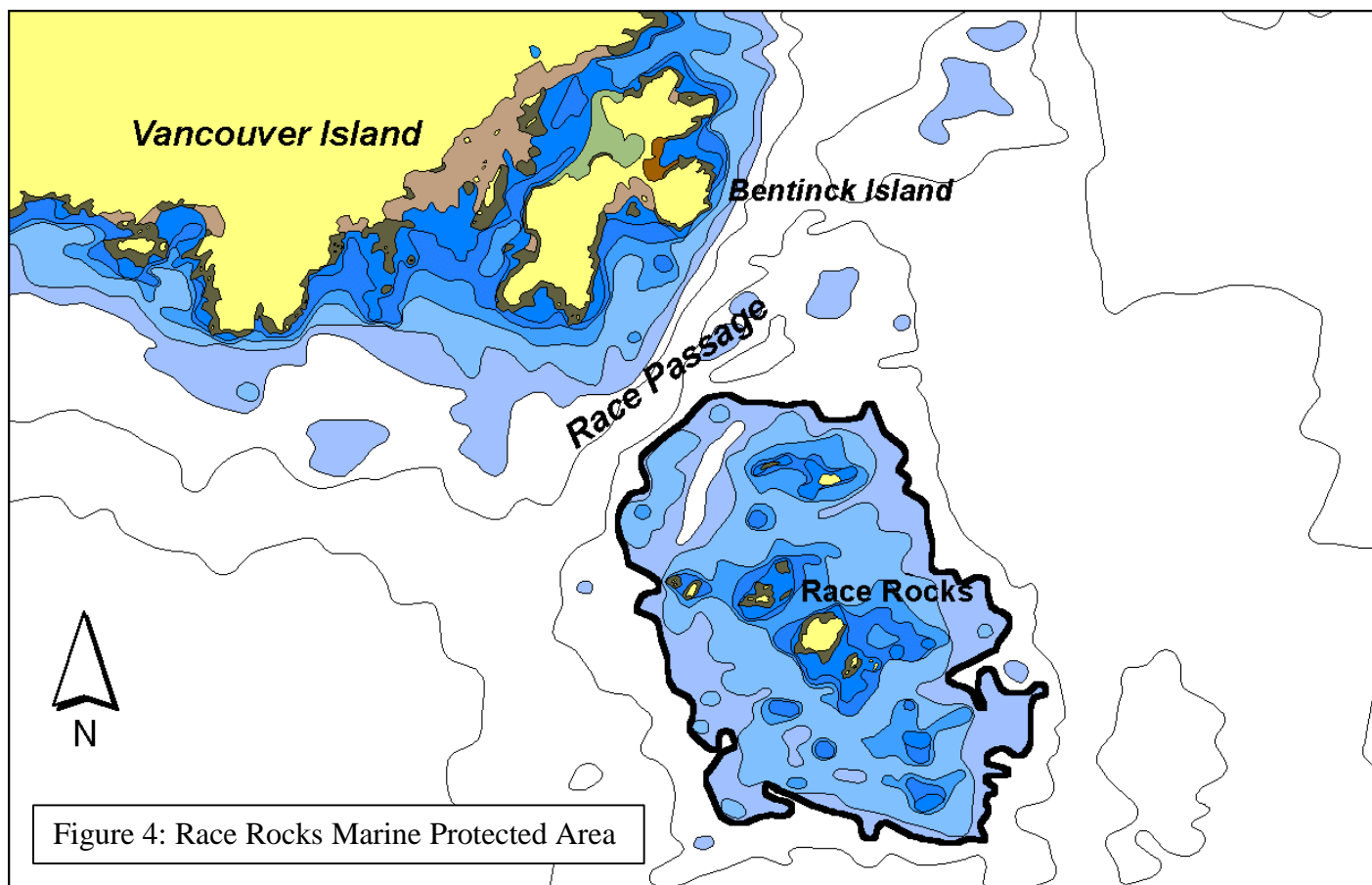
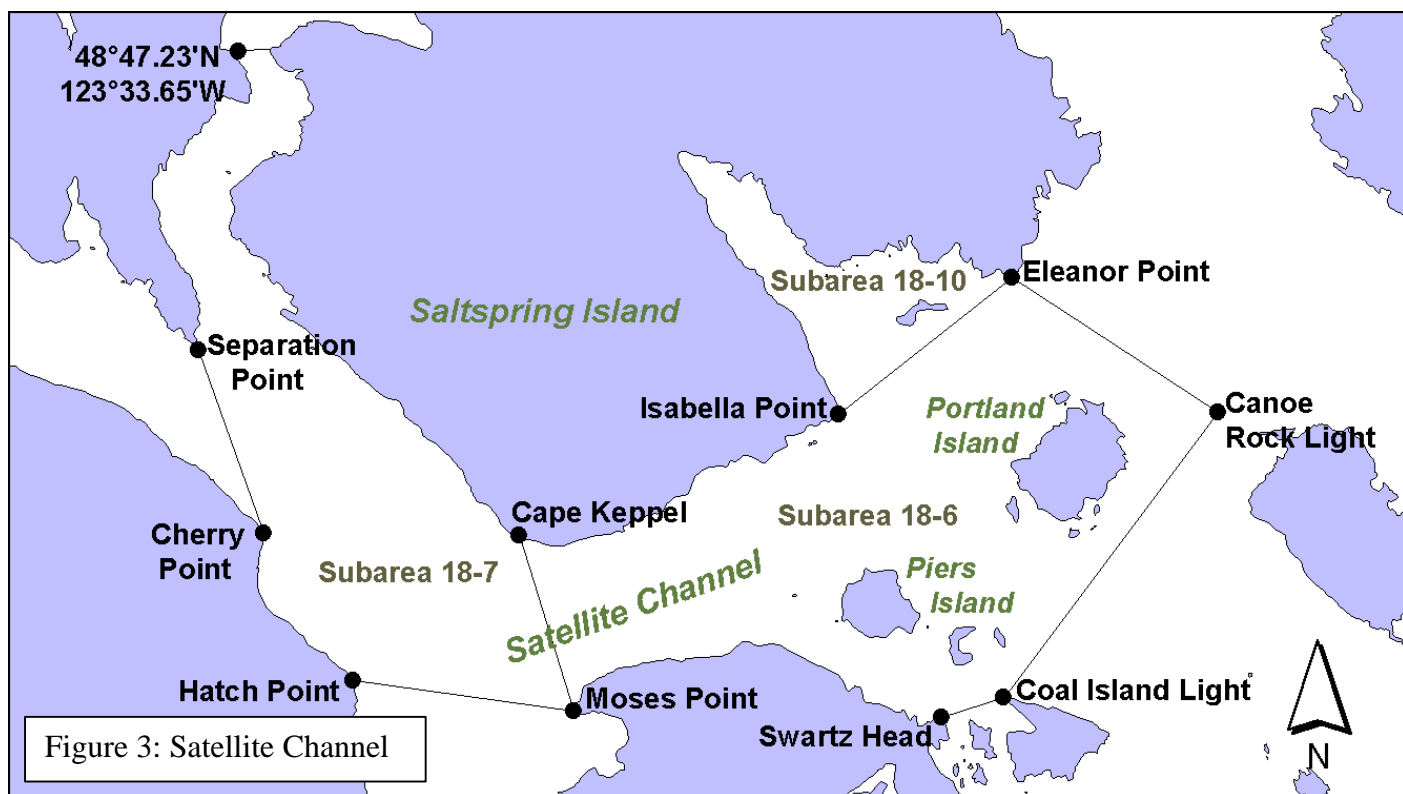
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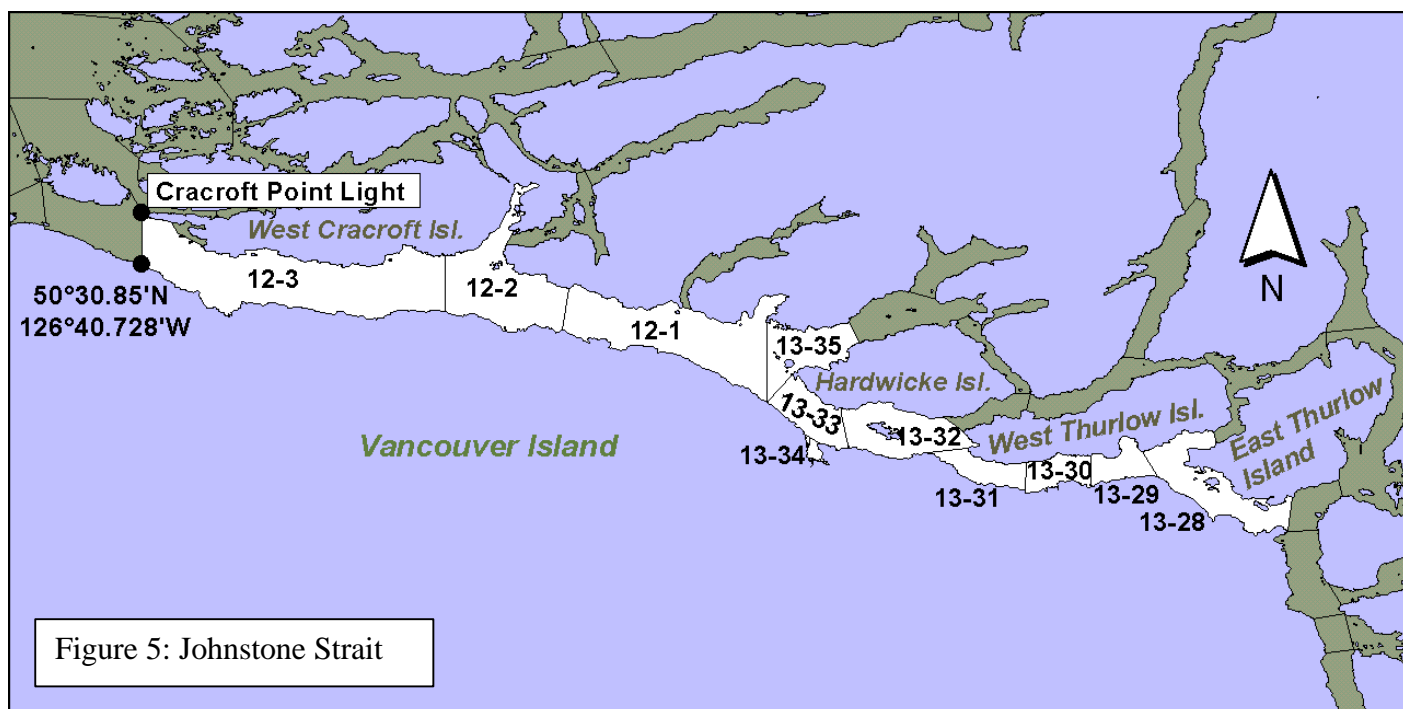
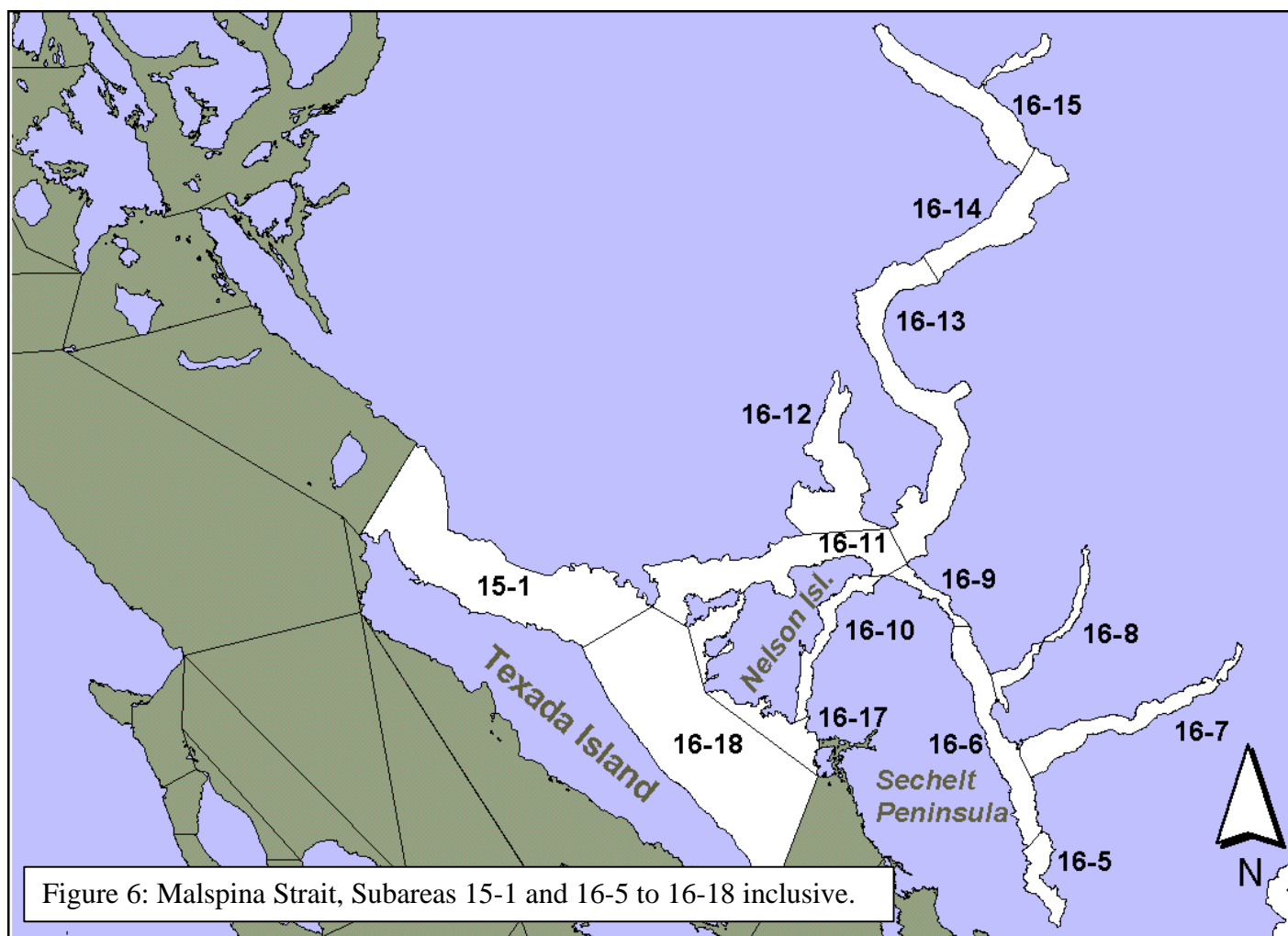


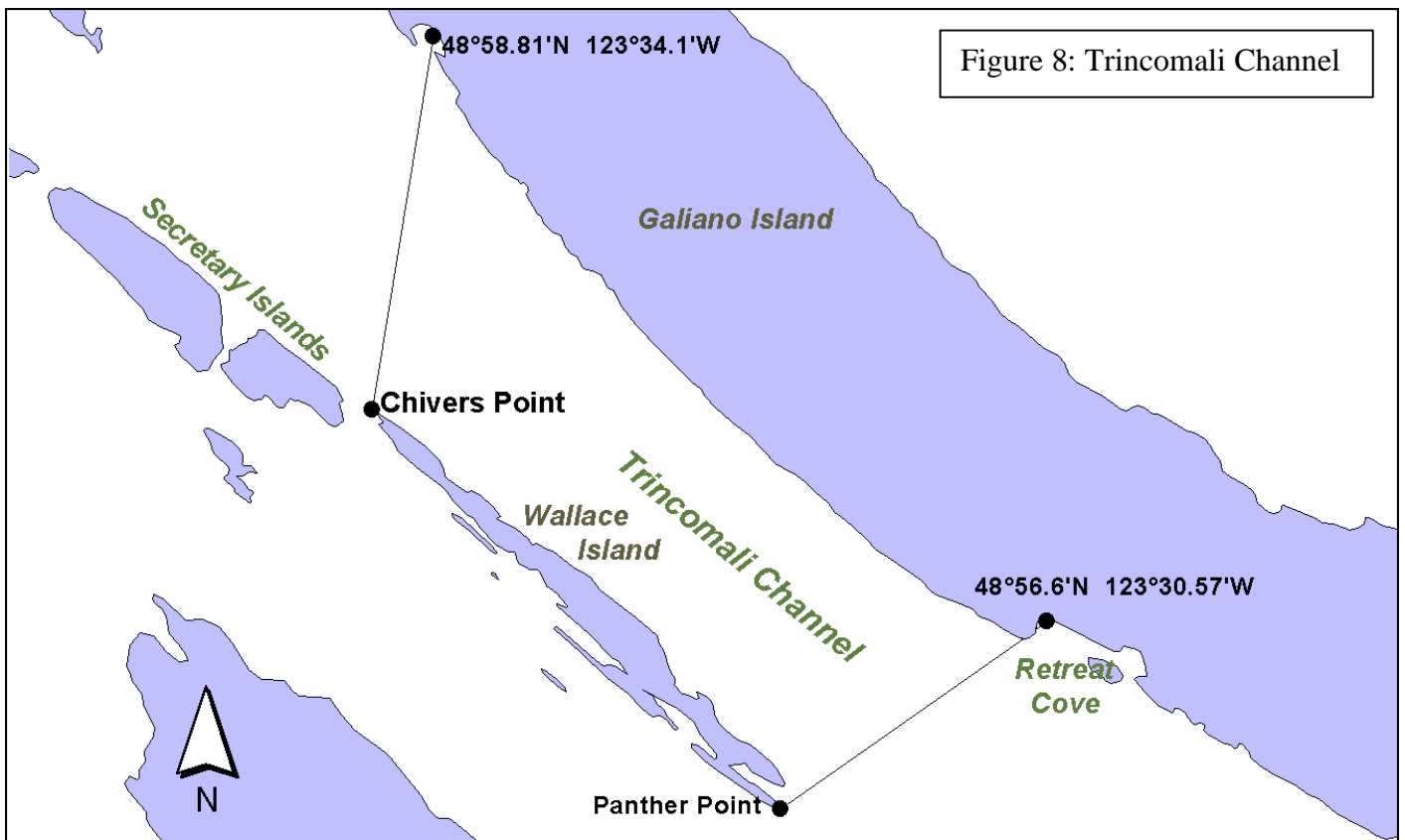
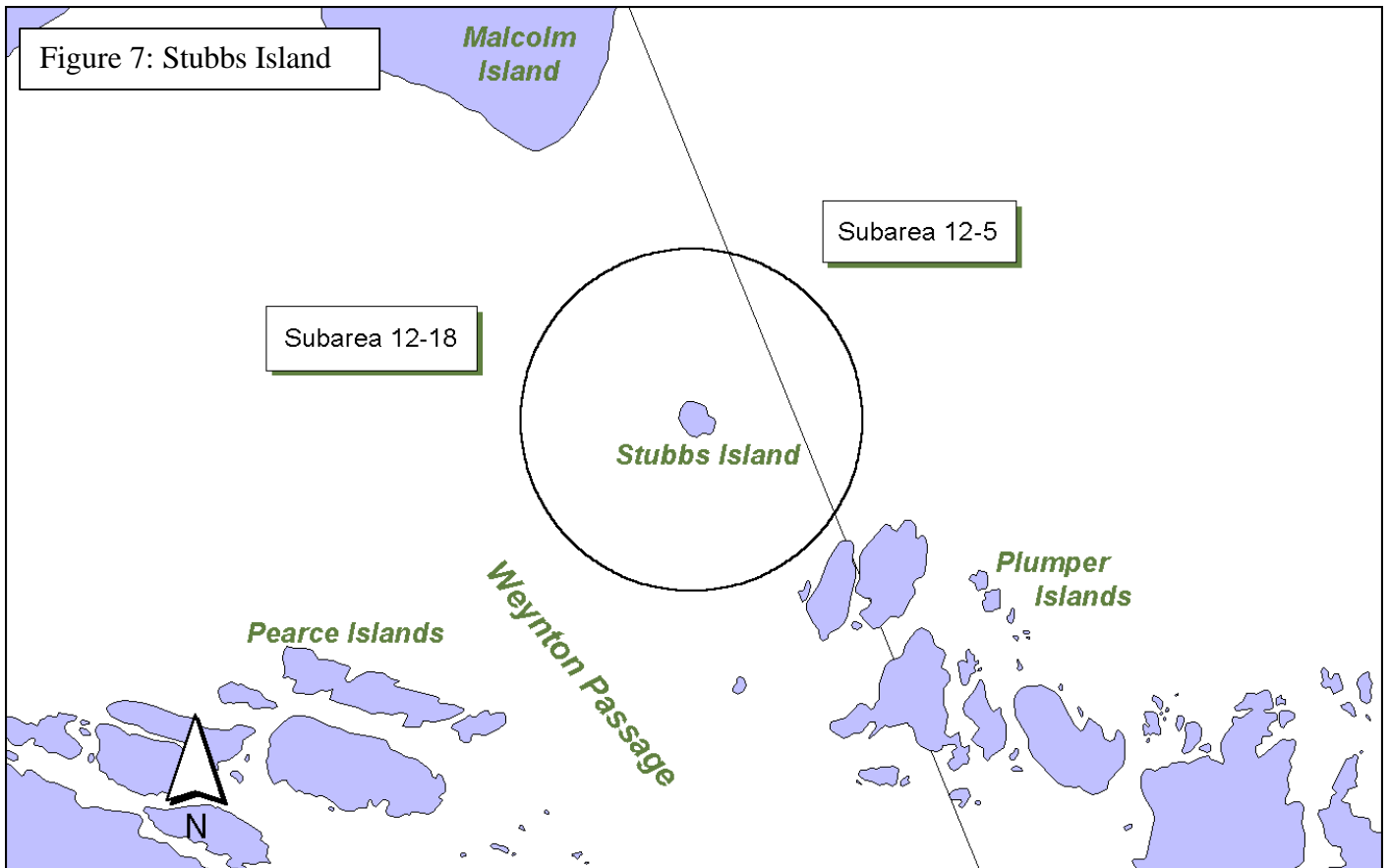
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Appendix 7: Rockfish Protection Areas

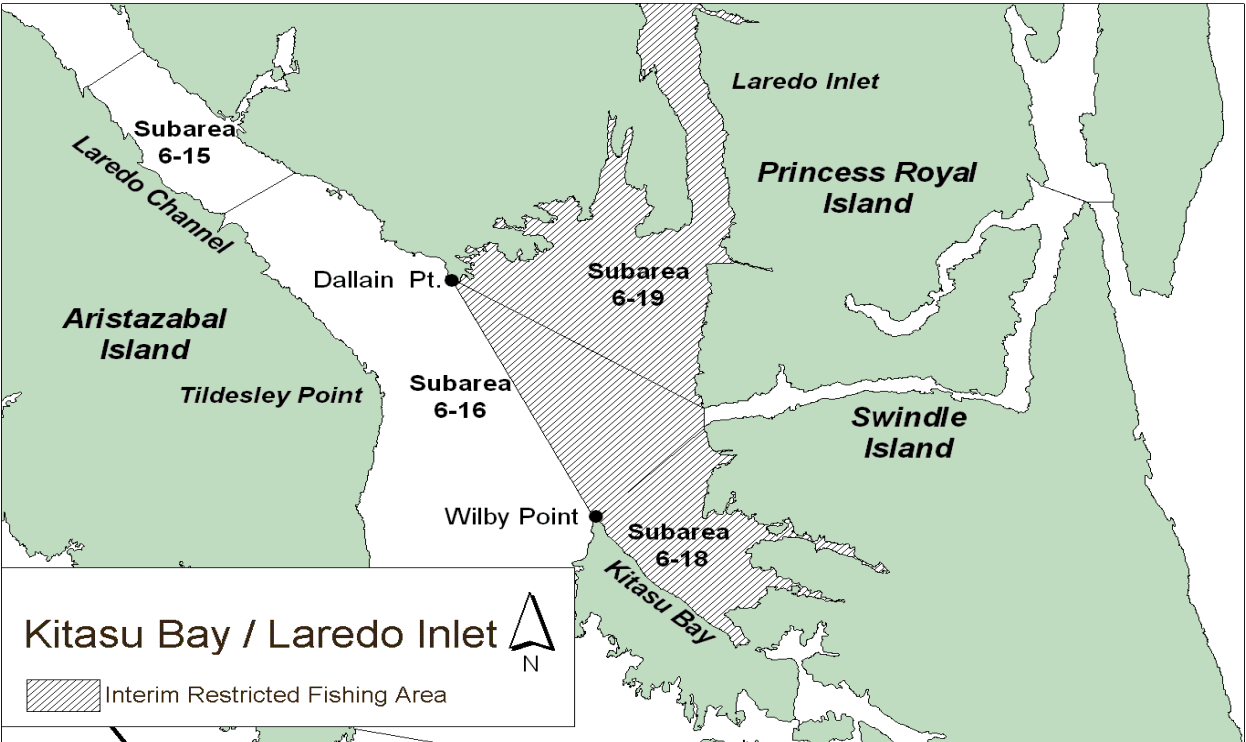
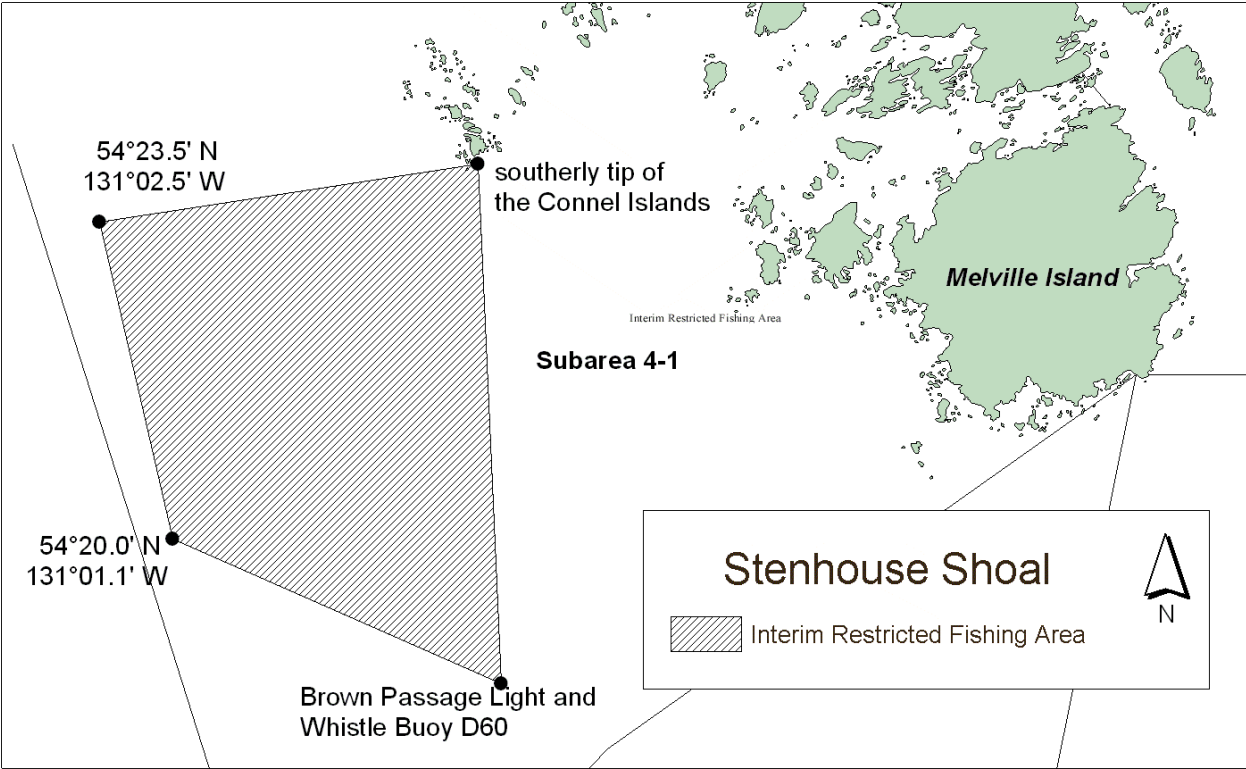


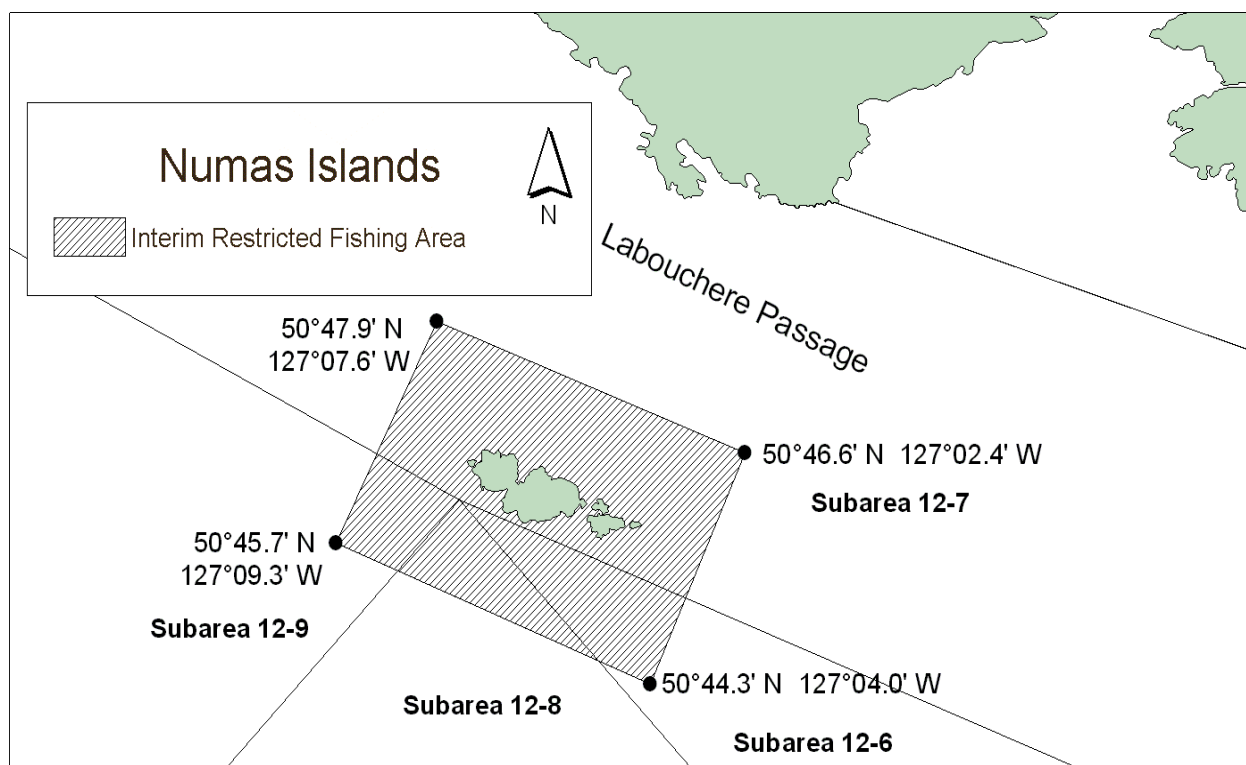
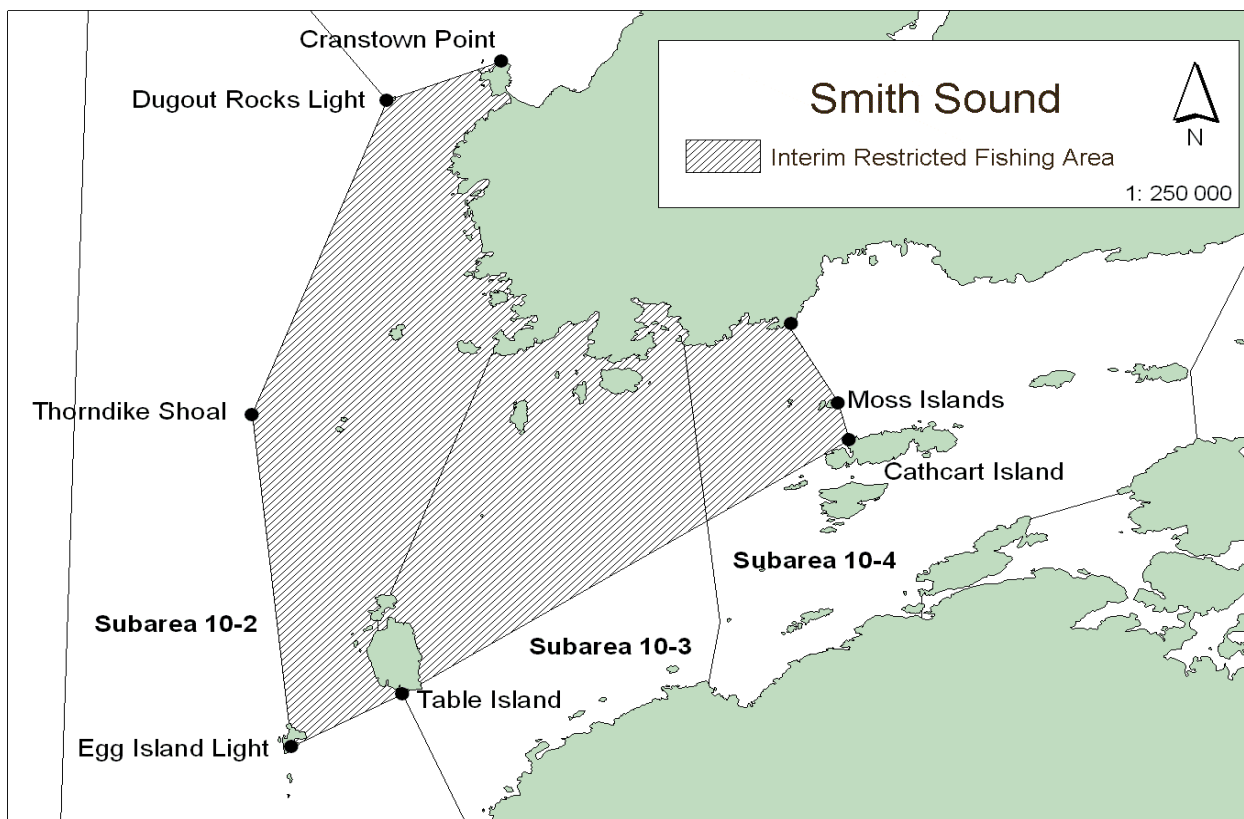


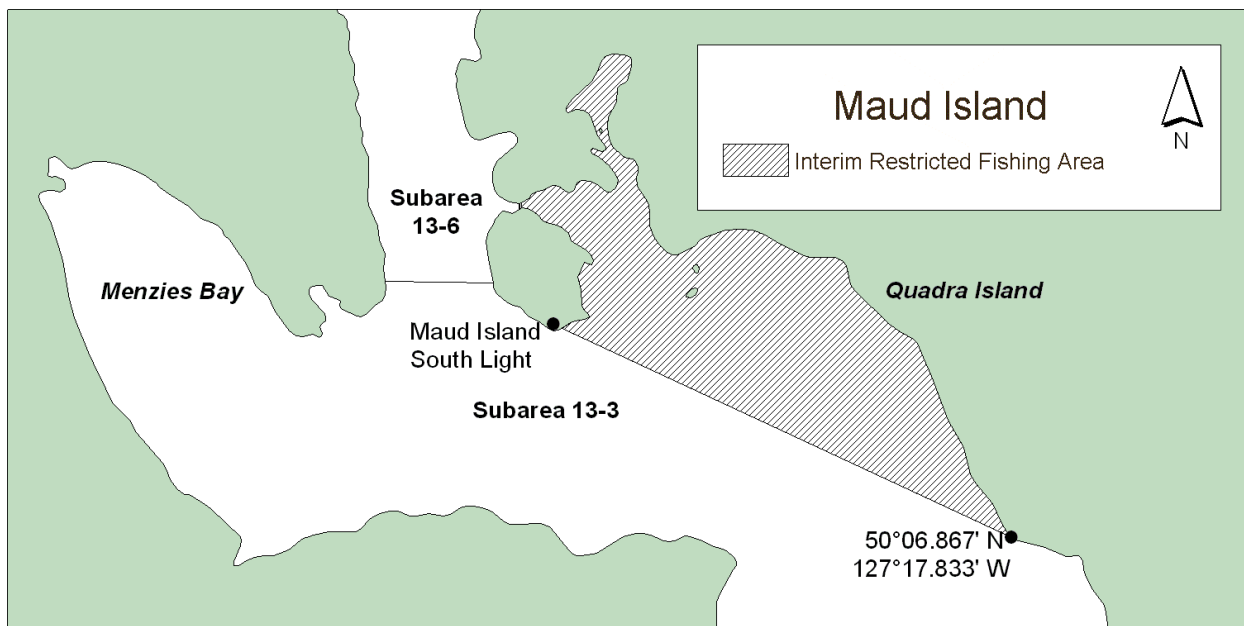
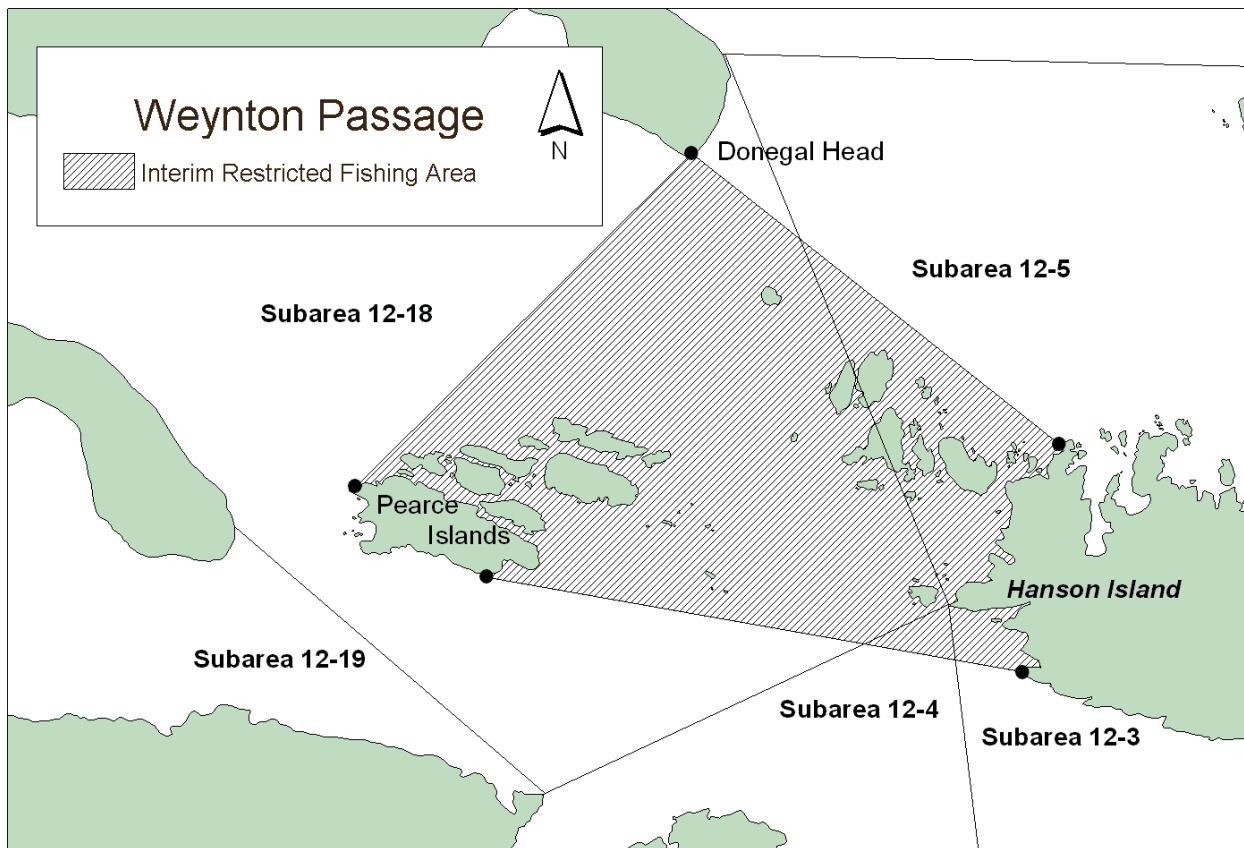


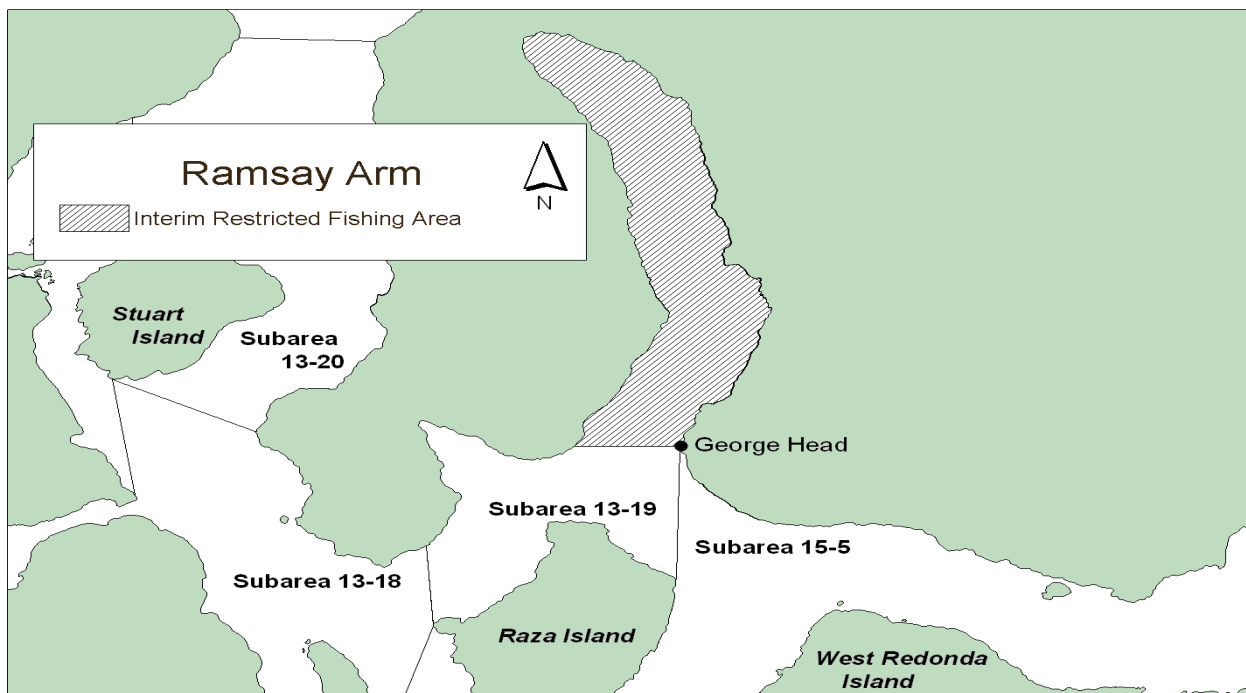
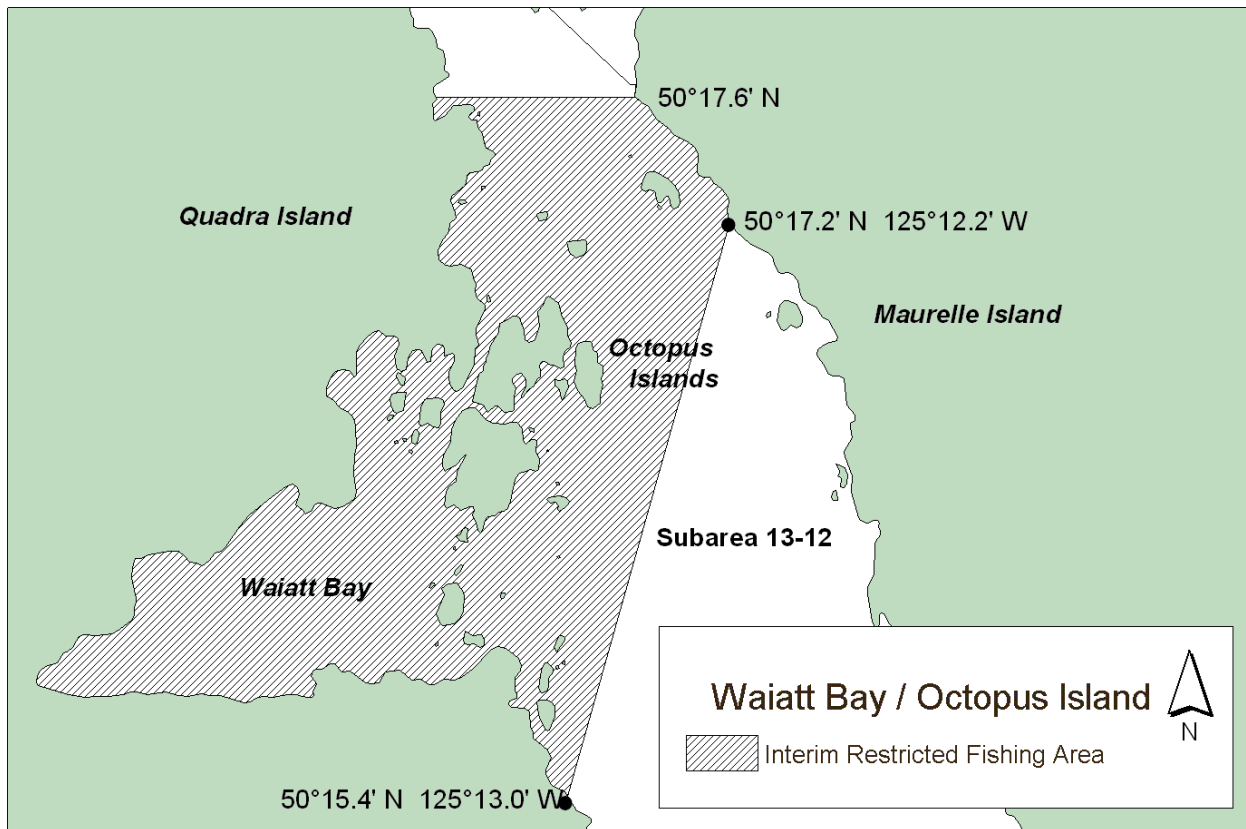


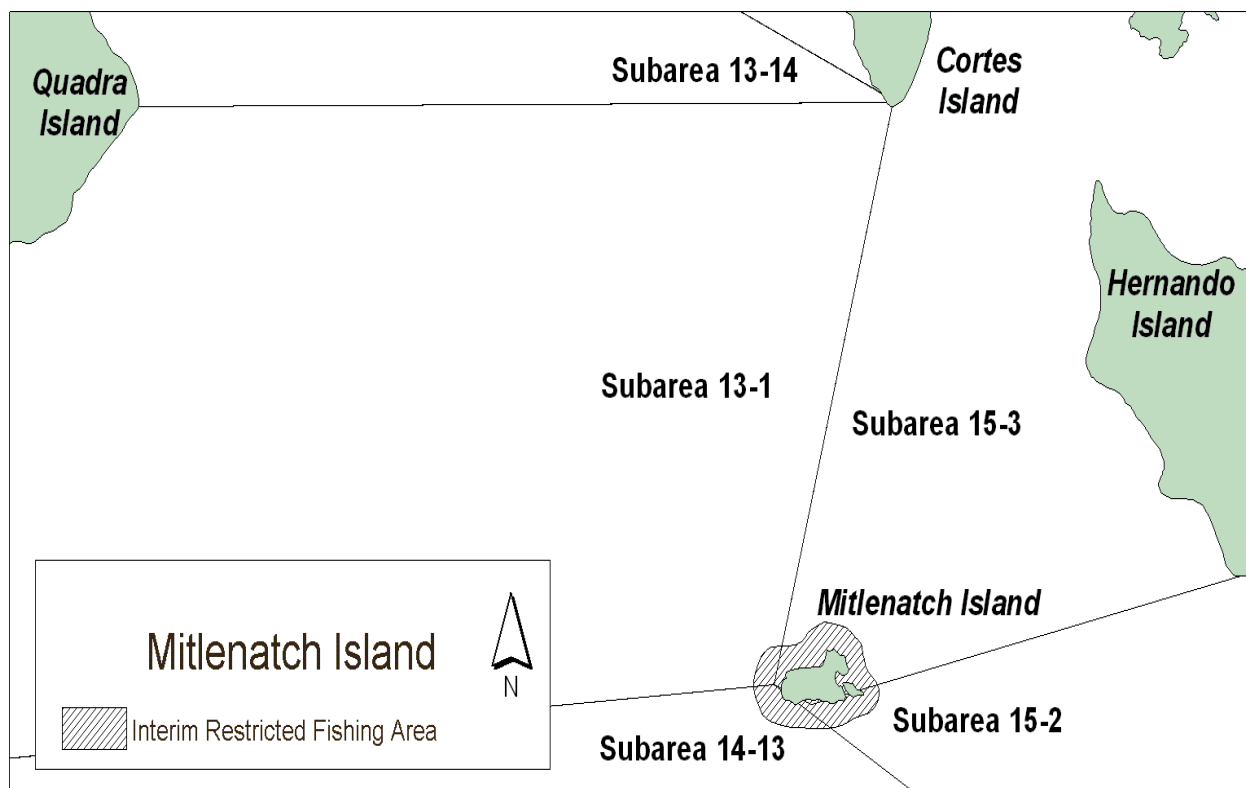
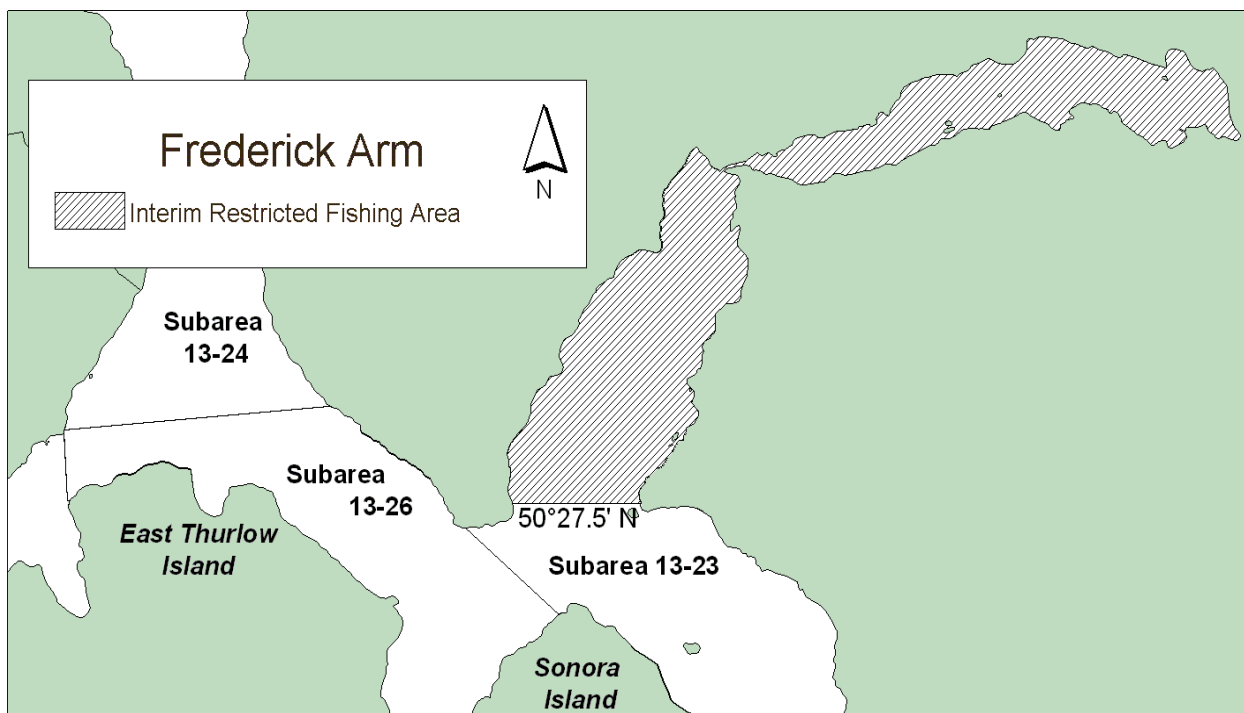
Appendix 8: Interim Areas of Restricted Fishing

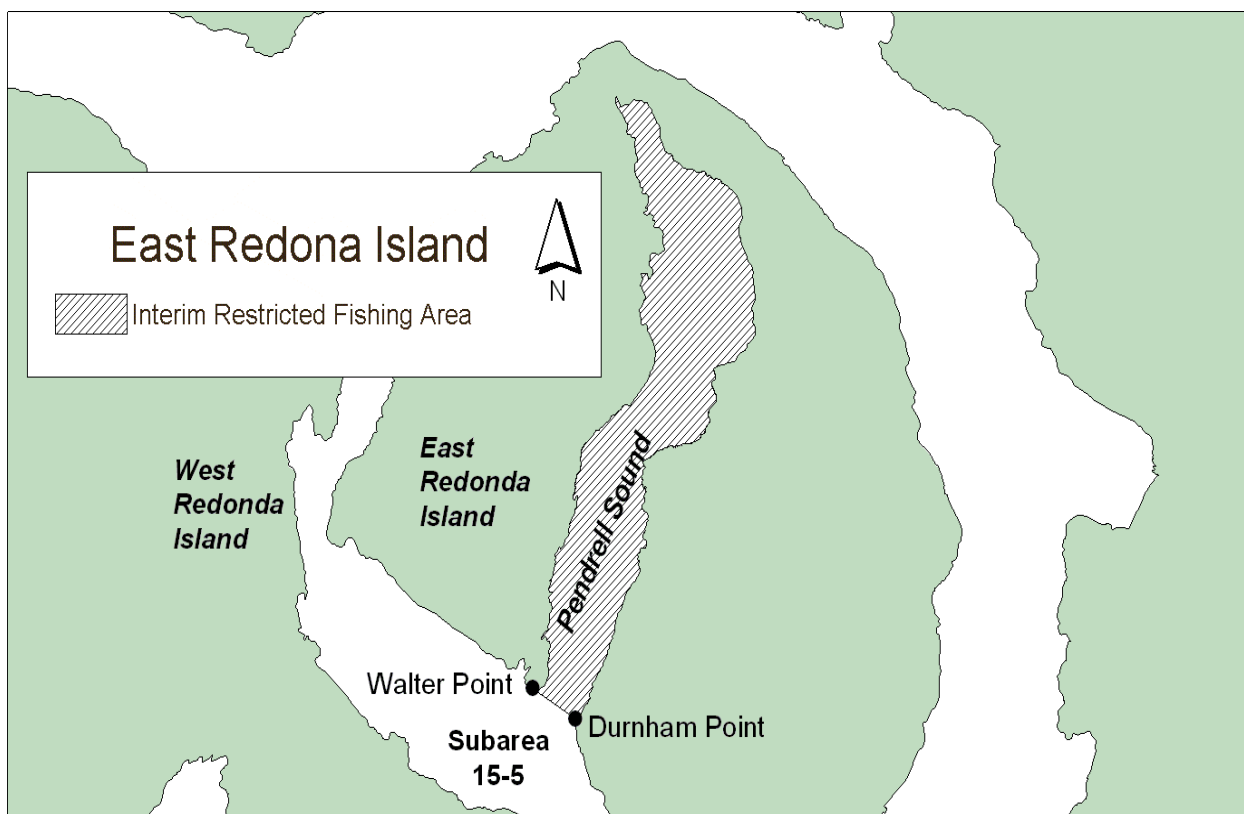
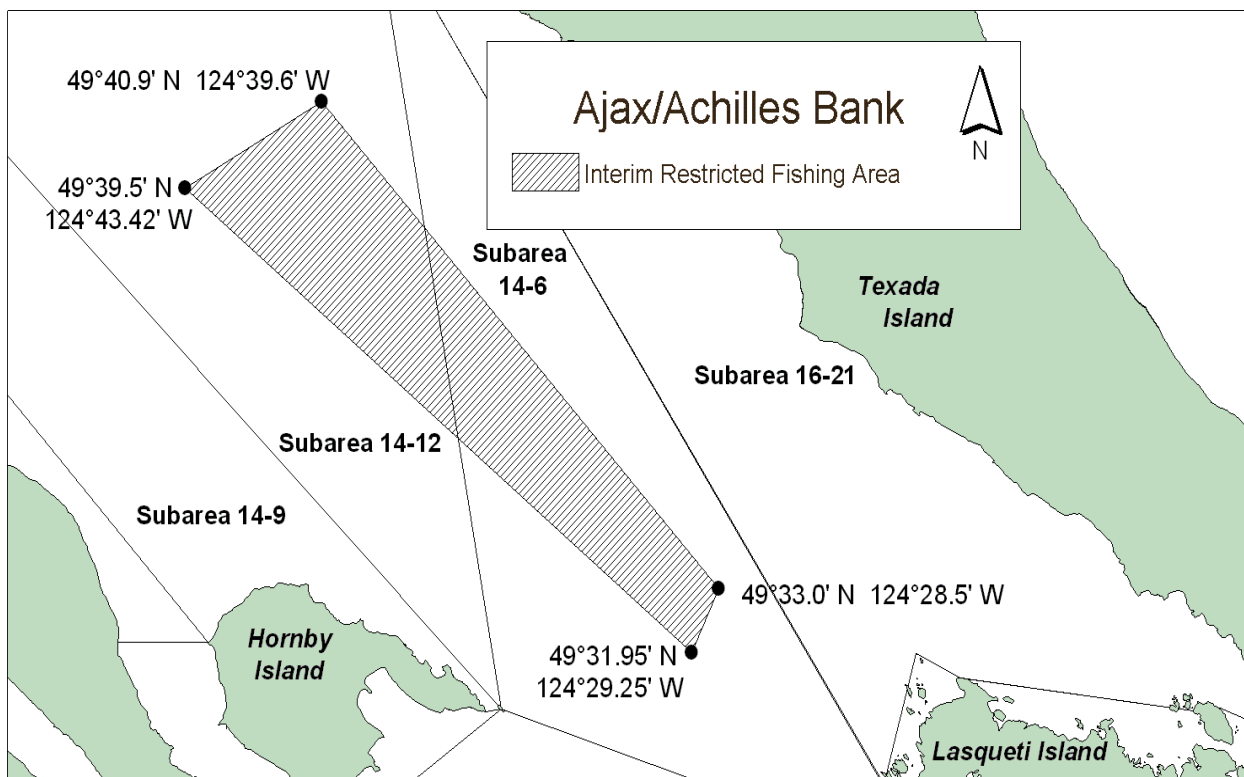


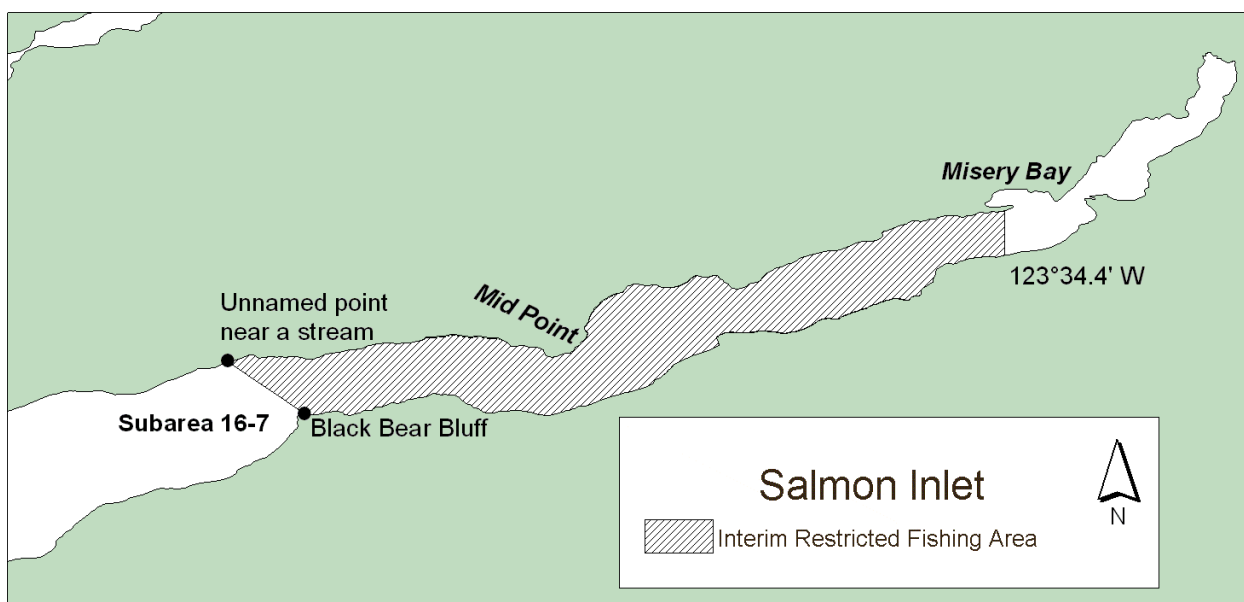
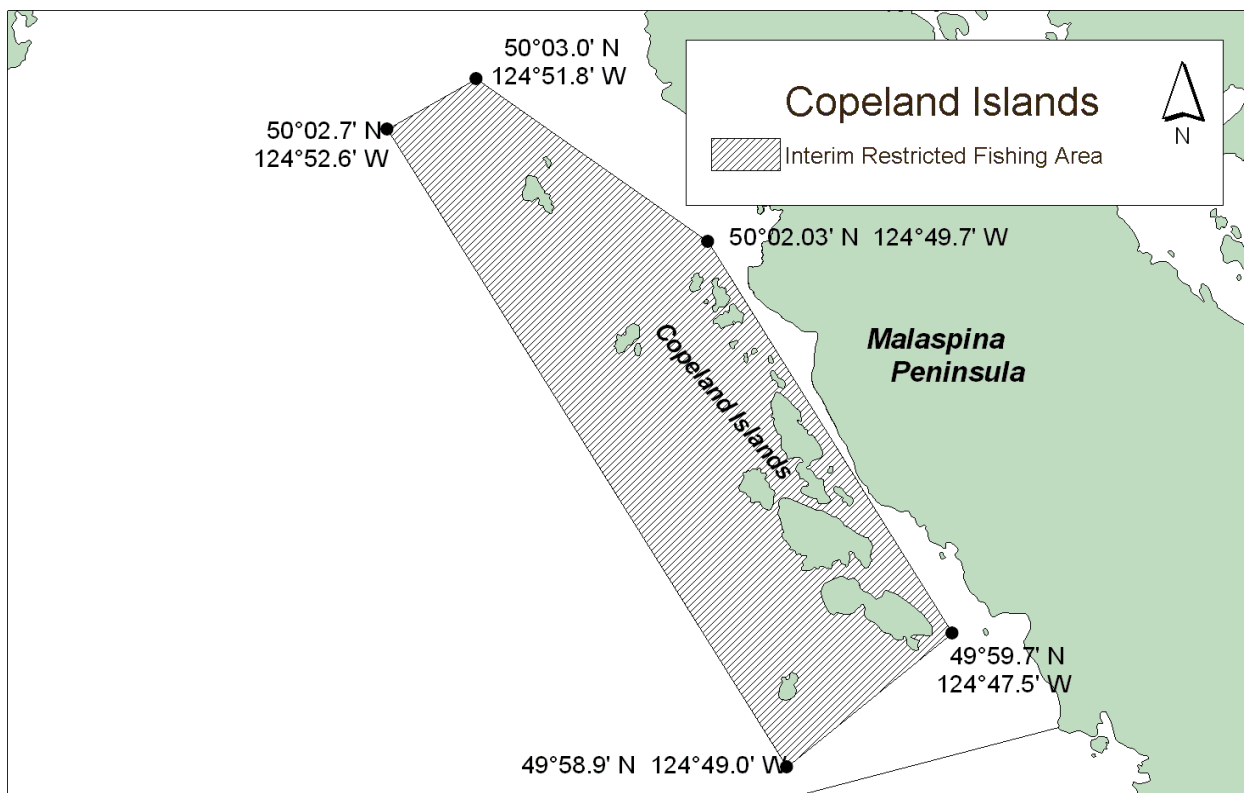


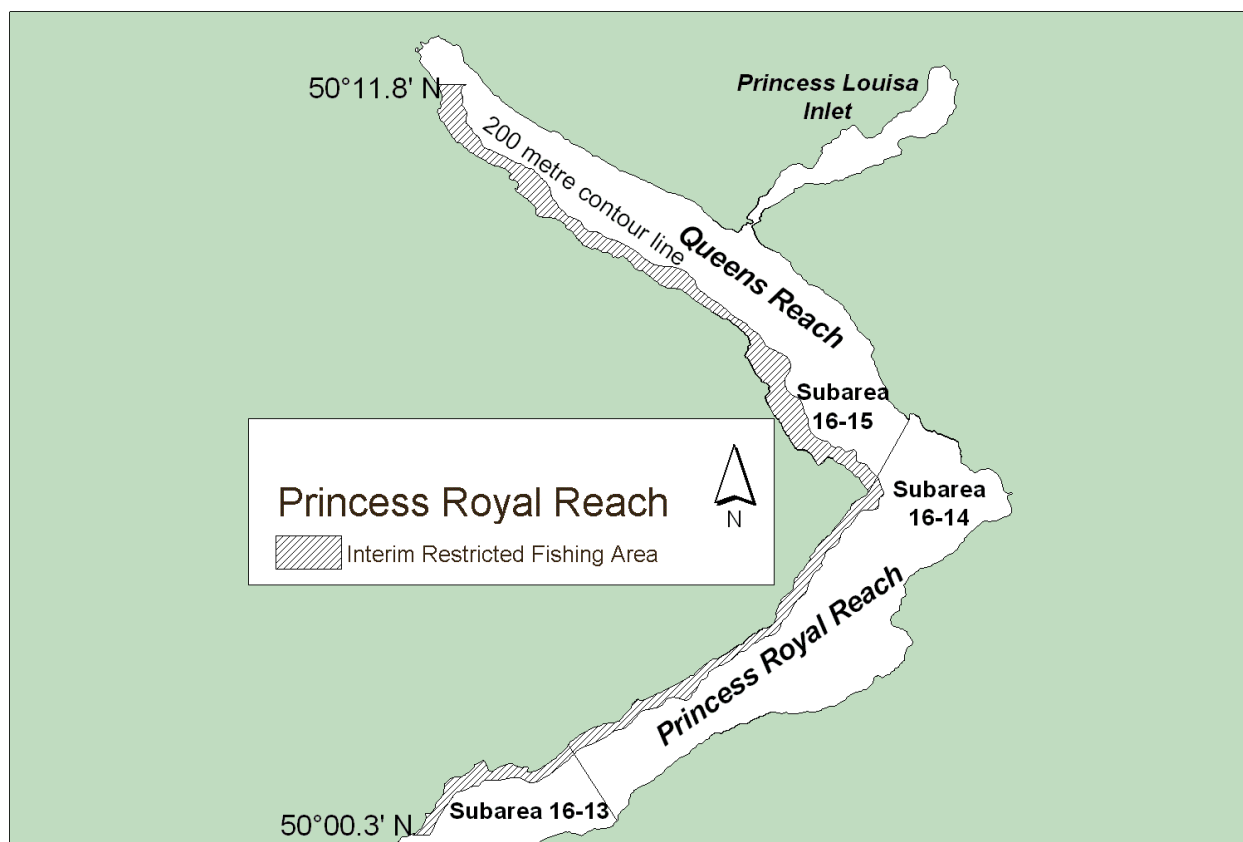
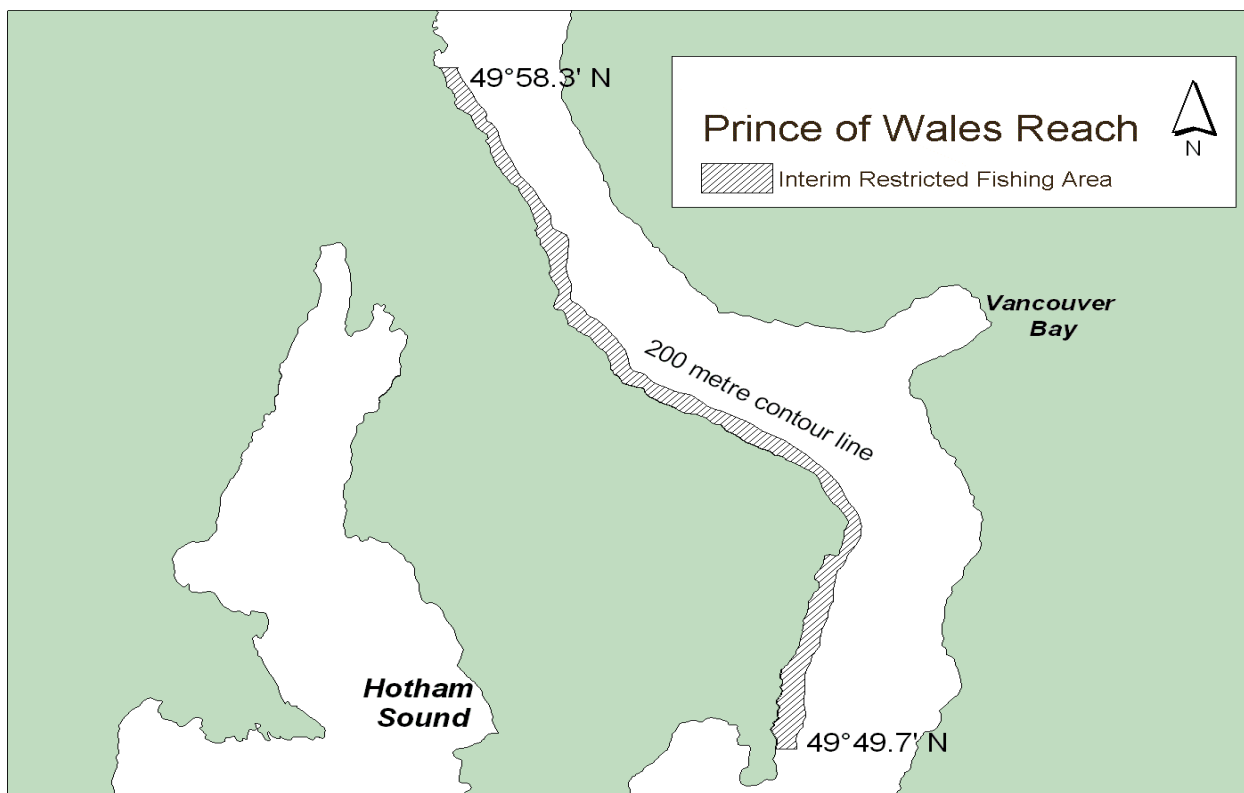


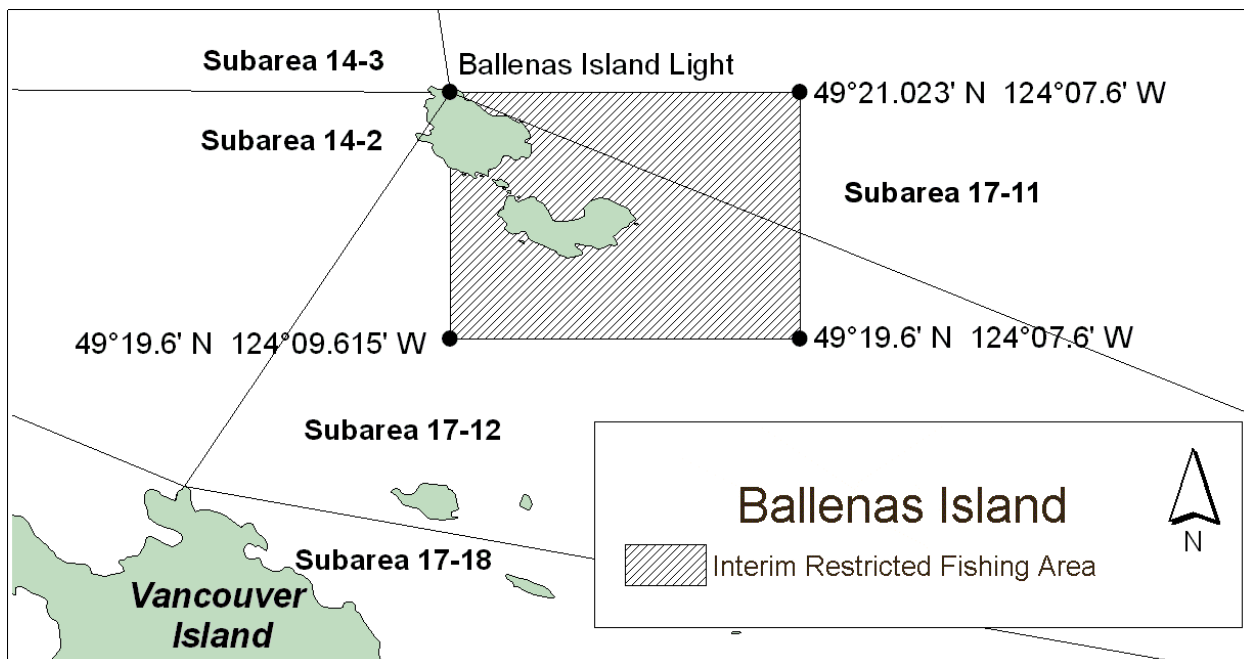
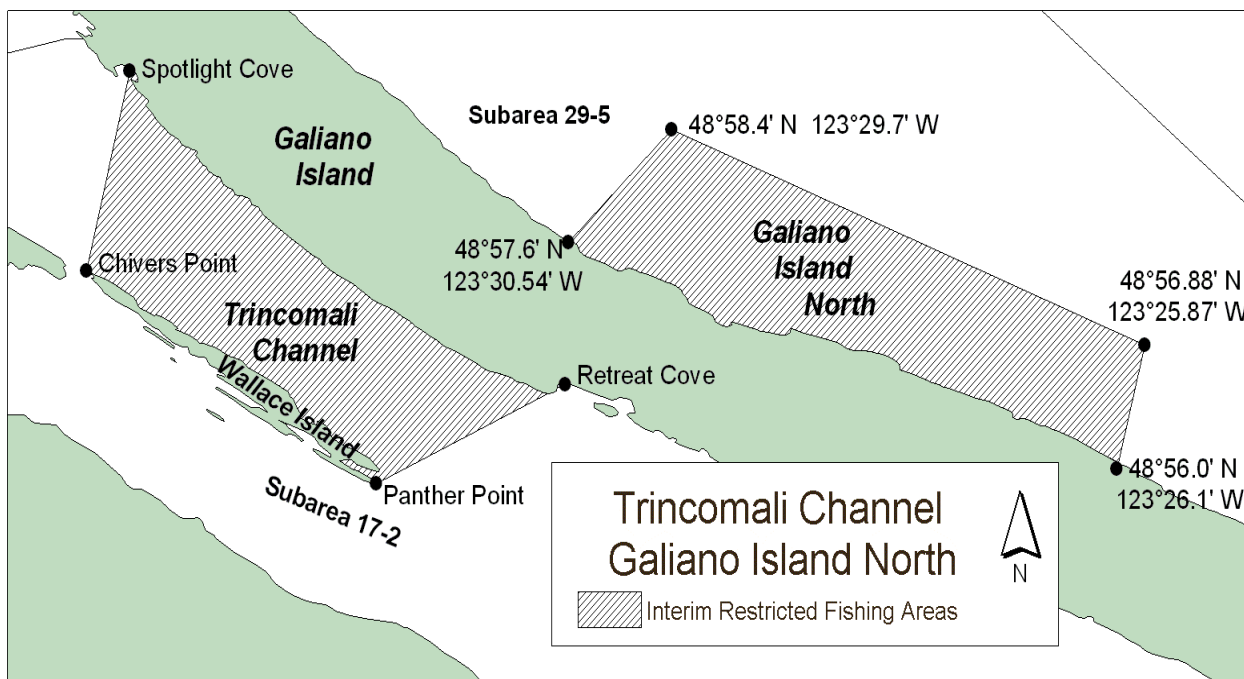


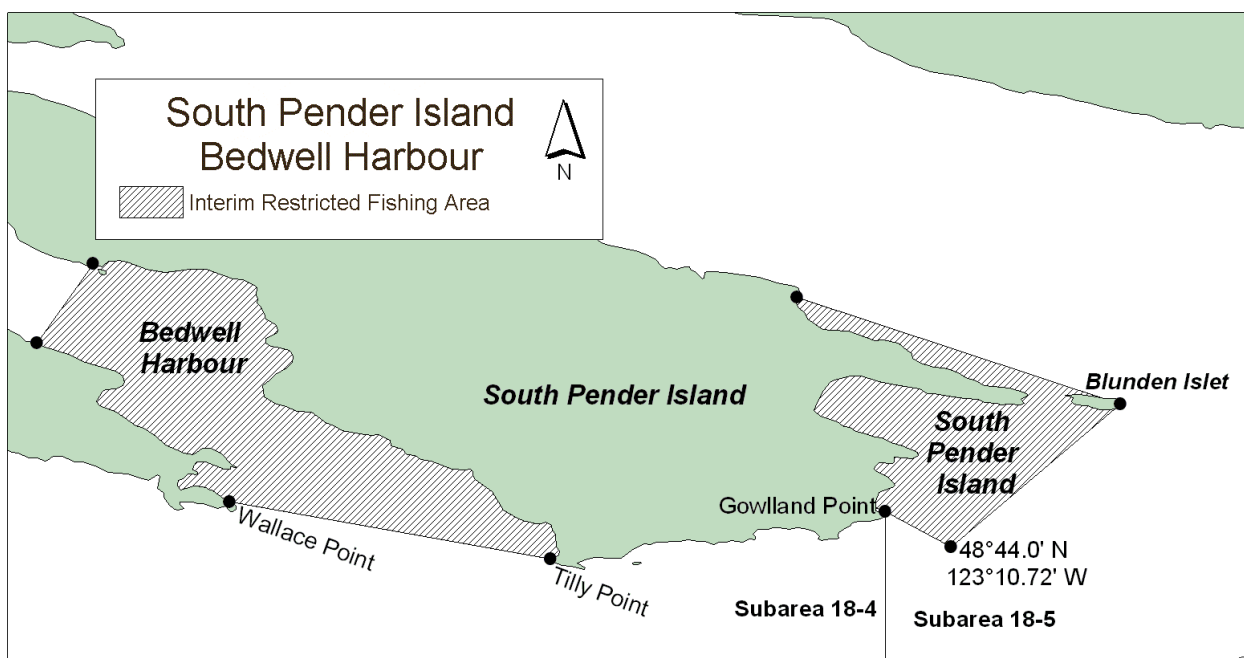
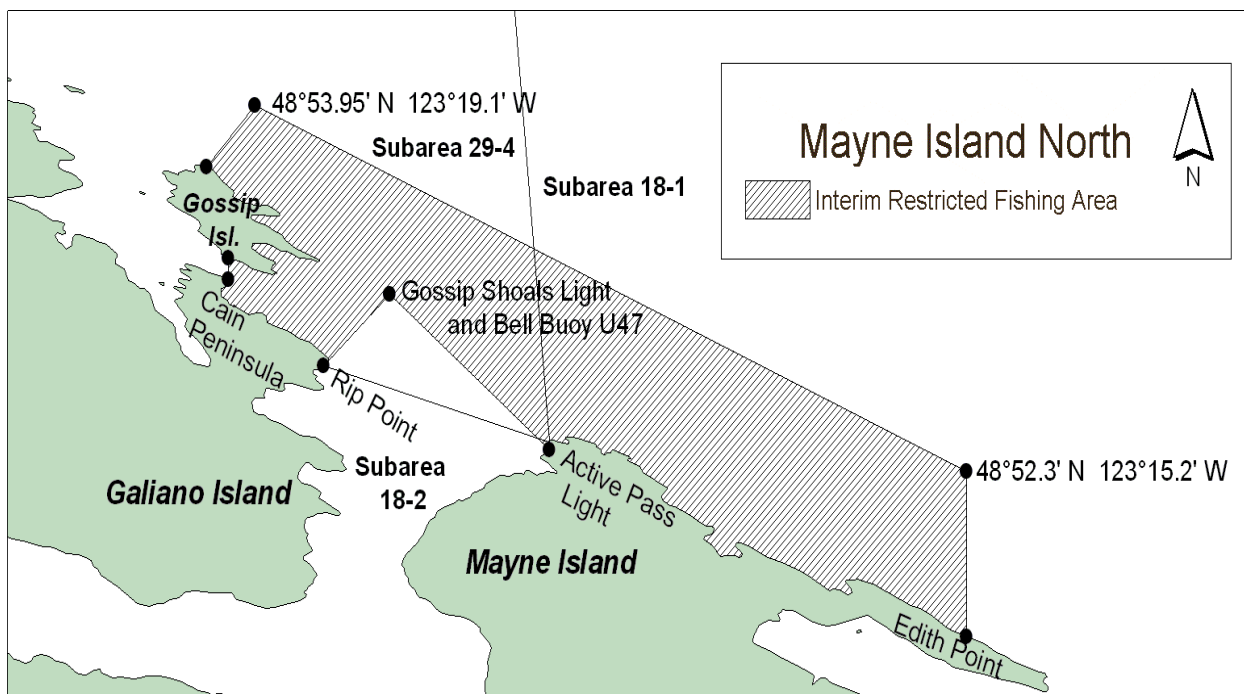


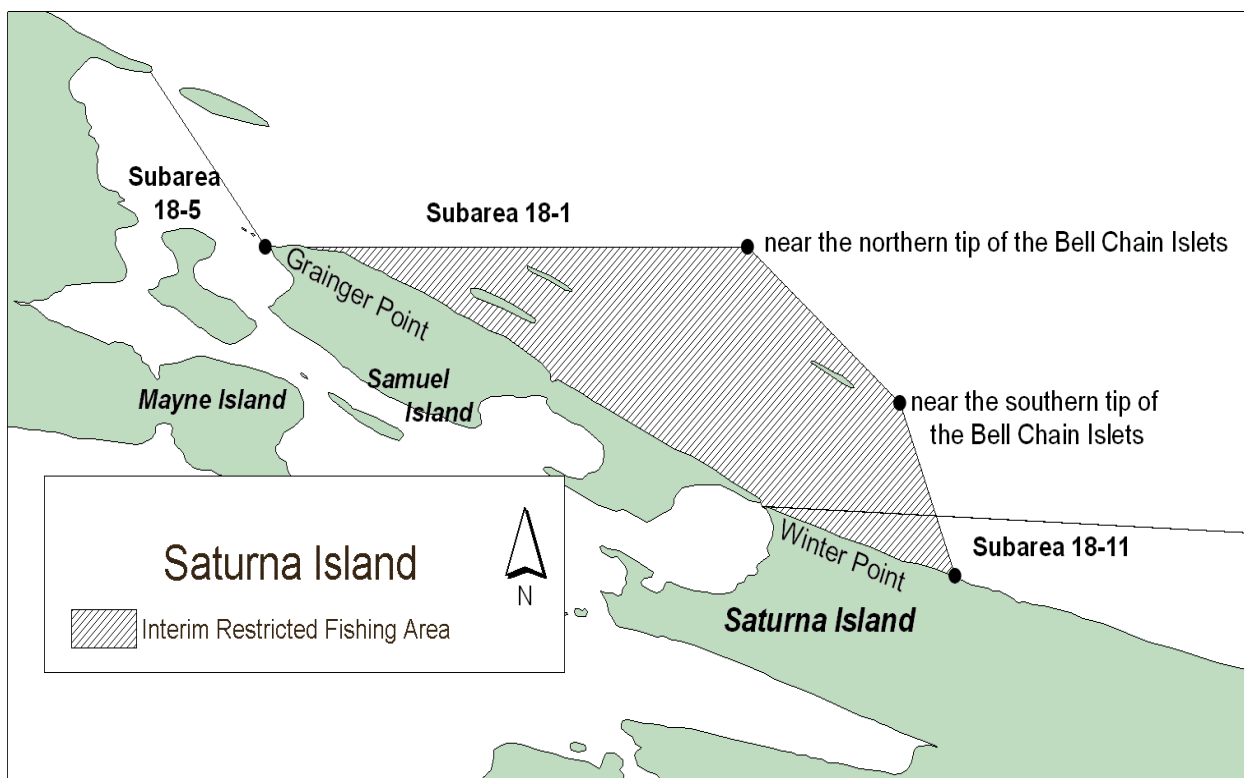
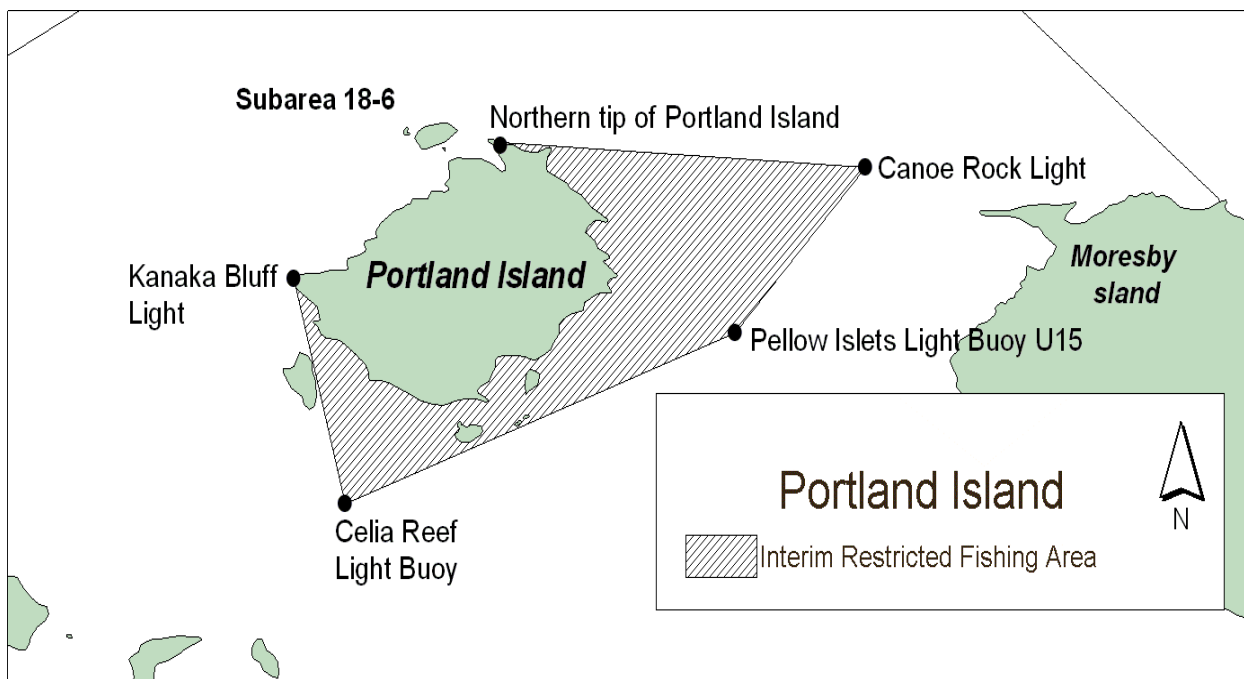


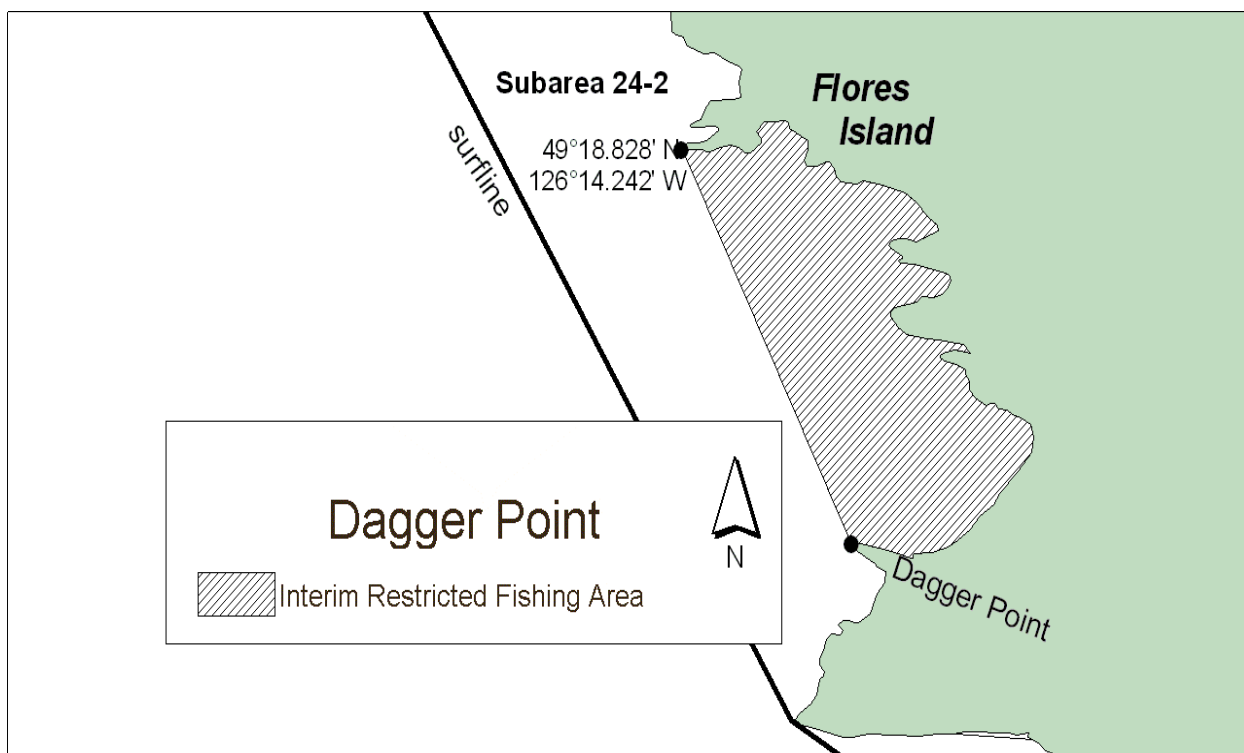
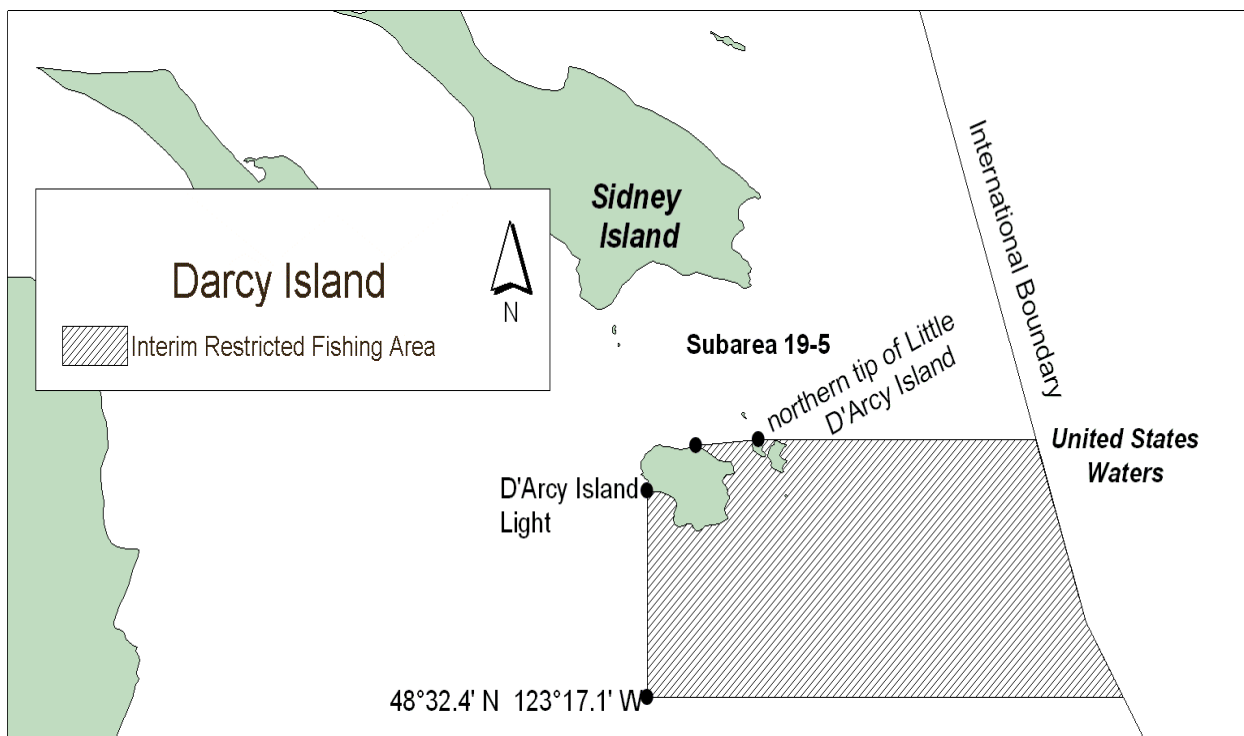


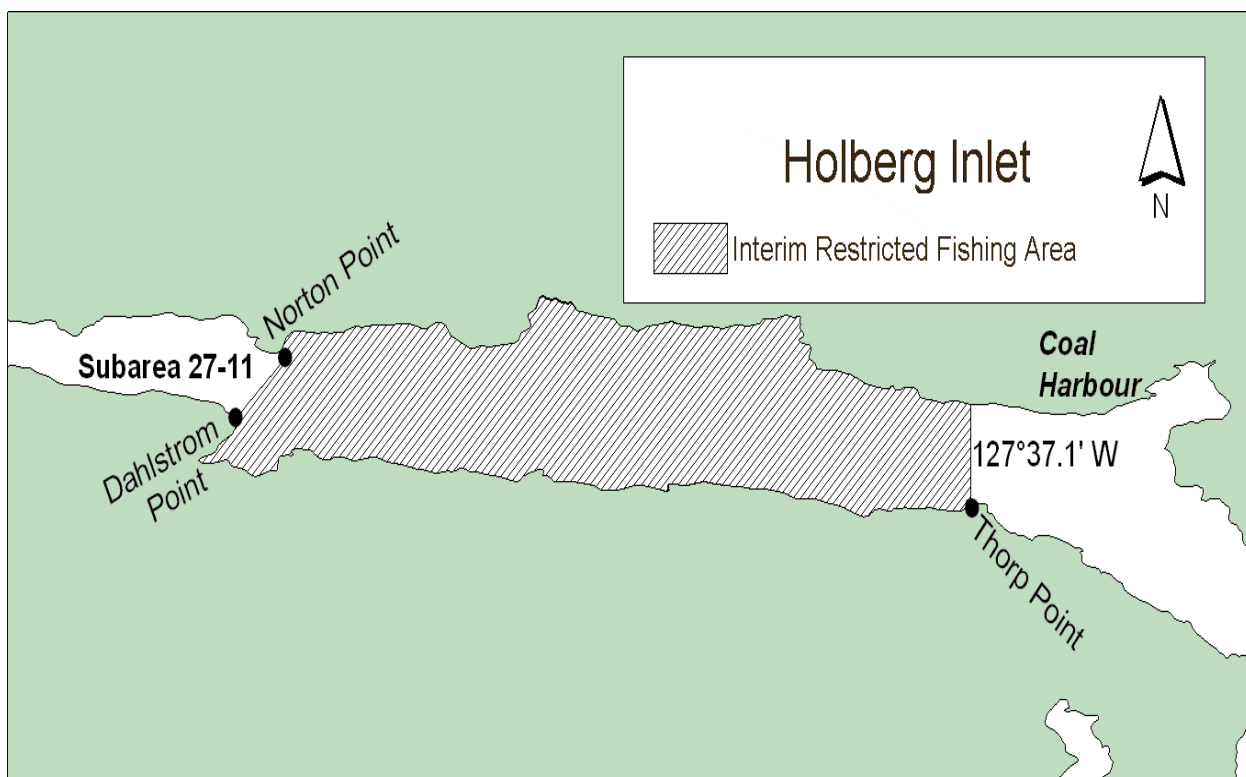
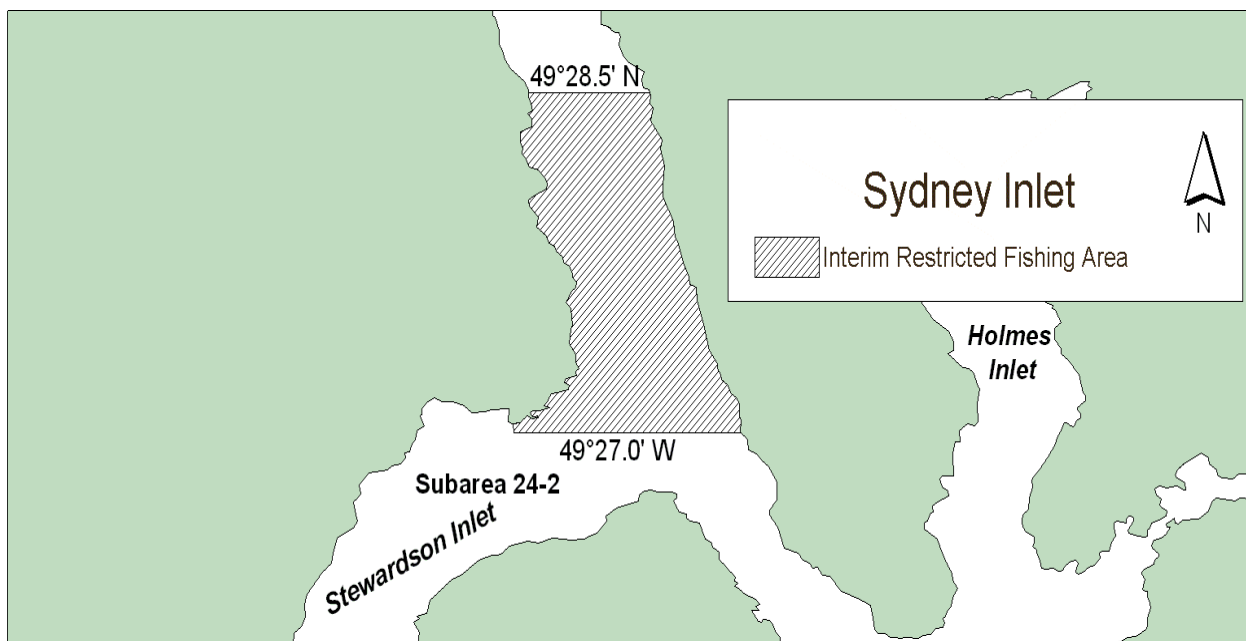


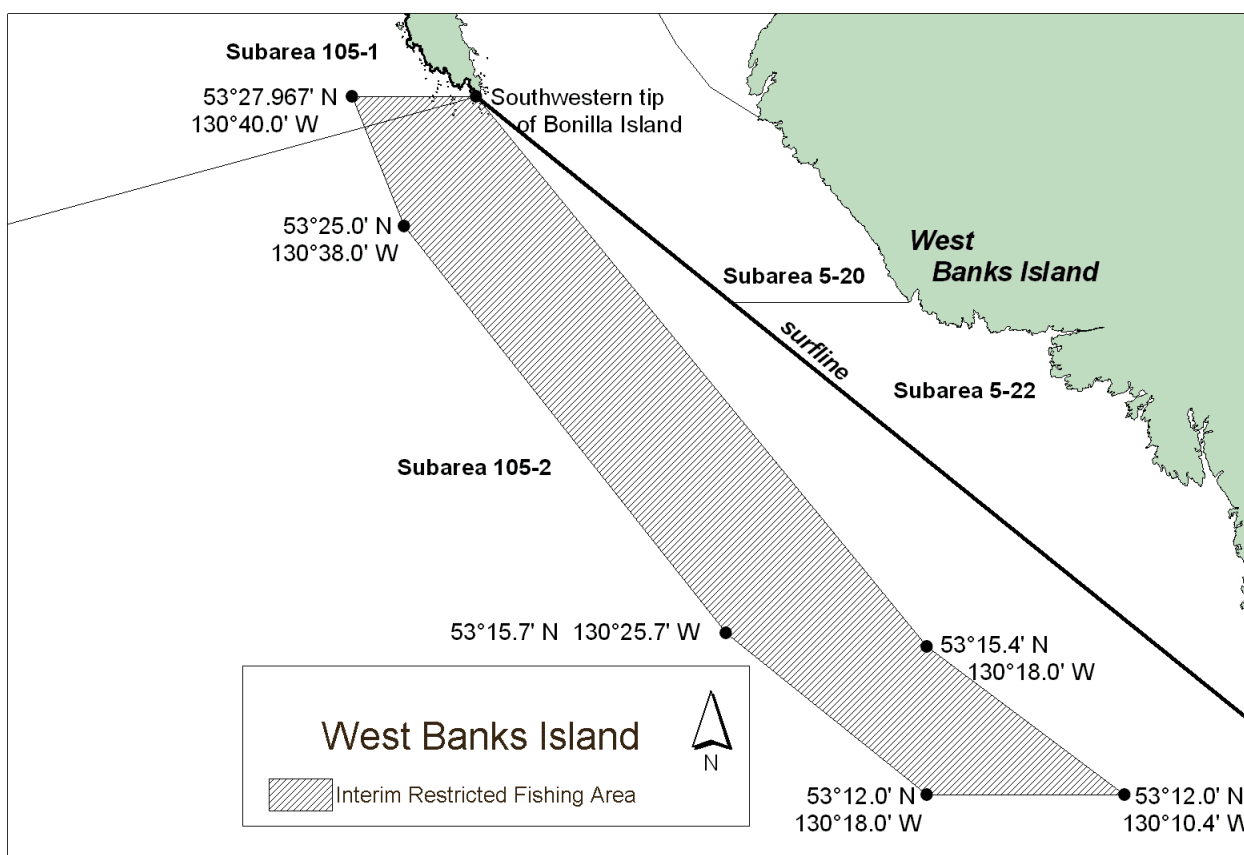
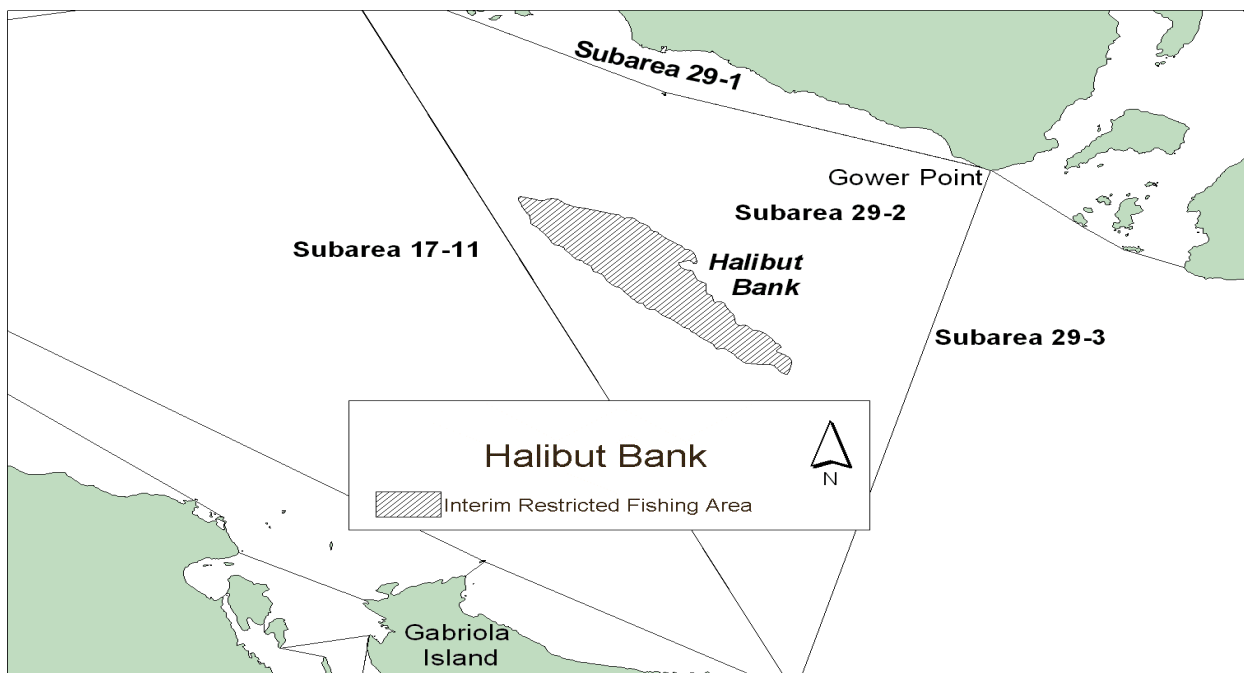












GROUND FISH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OPERATIONS PLAN
2003 - 04

March 1, 2003

Groundfish Development Authority

21540 – 121 Avenue

Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 3S4

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Introduction

Under the Groundfish Trawl Long-Term Management Plan introduced in 1997, 80 % of the groundfish (quota species) trawl, Gulf Hake and Offshore Hake (Onshore Delivery) Total Allowable Catches (TAC's) have been allocated as Individual Vessel Quotas (IVQ's) and 20 % have been set aside for allocation by the Minister of Fisheries, subject to advice given to him by the Groundfish Development Authority (GDA).

The GDA was established as a result of an agreement reached between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), the Coastal Community Network (CCN) and fishing industry participants (i.e; processors and vessel owners). Its' purpose is to ensure fair crew treatment, to aid in regional development, to promote the attainment of stable market and employment conditions and to encourage sustainable fishing practices.

Since plan implementation, the Groundfish Trawl Special Industry Committee (GSIC) has periodically reviewed key elements of the plan. While the plan has remained substantially intact, selected recommendations by GSIC, accepted by the Minister, have altered quota reallocation rules and "fine tuned" the mechanics of the GDA.

With five fishing seasons having passed since IVQ/GDA plan implementation, it was deemed timely to conduct a review specific to the GDA portion of the program. This review by GSIC was completed in February 2003 and the findings are incorporated into this season's GDA Operations Plan.

The GDA consists of seven members (Board of Directors) and a Standing Committee of nine advisors (formerly called non-voting members of GDA), whose role it is to provide background information and expertise to the Board of Directors. The structure of the GDA is as follows:

Seven Member Board of Directors

- * 3 Community Directors - (North Coast, South Coast and Vancouver Island representatives); selected by the Coastal Community Network,
- * 2 UFAWU Directors - (Shoreworkers and Vessel Crew representatives); selected by the UFAWU,
- * 1 UFCWU Director - (Shoreworkers representative); selected by the UFCWU, and
- * 1 Independent Fishermen's Director - (with no vessel ownership or vessel licence holdings); selected by the GSIC Sub-Committee.

Standing Committee

- * 3 Processing Company Representatives - selected by the GSIC Sub-Committee,
- * 3 "T" Licence Holder Representatives - (selected by GTAC),
- * 1 First Nations Representative,
- * 1 DFO Representative, and
- * 1 B.C. MAFF Representative.

The GDA contracts a support person (Executive Director) to act as the secretariat for the Authority. The secretariat, among other duties, prepares background information, collects, summarizes and analyzes GDQ proposals, receives and investigates

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complaints from industry, crews and communities, organizes GDA meetings, takes minutes, facilitates communications, maintains databases and liaises with DFO on GDA advice to the Minister.

The 20 percent of the TAC influenced by the GDA is divided into two parts: a 10 percent Code of Conduct Quota (CCQ) to protect the interests of crews under the IVQ management plan, and a 10 percent Groundfish Development Quota (GDQ) to aid in regional development in coastal communities, attain market and employment objectives, and encourage sustainable fishing practices.

Code of Conduct Quota

General Principles

The Code of Conduct Quota is designed to ensure fair treatment of crew and safe vessel operation.

It will alleviate changes to crew shares that occur solely as a result of the introduction of an IVQ system.

It is not intended to enforce minimum standards or minimum crew shares on trawl licensees.

Guidelines

The GDA recognizes that crewmembers may or may not wish to share in some additional costs associated with the introduction of the IVQ system, in order to ensure the continued viability of their vessel within the fleet.

“Fair treatment of crew” means that crew sharing arrangements will not be adversely affected by the introduction of an IVQ system. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. crewmembers will not be asked to contribute to the cost of the vessel/T licence’s original IVQ allocation,
2. crewmembers will not be asked to contribute to the cost of replacing original allocated quota that is moved off the vessel/T licence by the original owner (that is, the owner of the vessel/ T licence at April 1, 1997),
3. crewmembers will not be coerced into contributing to the leasing of additional IVQ, or any other non-traditional costs associated with the operation of the vessel.

“Safe vessel operation” means that changes in crew size or vessel maintenance practices that could affect the safety of the crew or the vessel will not occur as a result of the introduction of an IVQ system.

Allocation Procedure

At the beginning of each quota year, the Code of Conduct Quota (10%) will be assigned by DFO to each “T” licenced vessel according to the vessels’ IVQ holdings as of midnight on March 31st of that year, unless a complaint has been received, found to be valid and a recommendation made to the Minister to withhold quota.

CCQ Complaints Procedure

Vessel owners and crewmembers are assured that the GDA Executive Director will hold all crew share documents or affidavits filed with the GDA Secretariat in complete confidence. The contents of these documents will not be disclosed or discussed with anyone, including the GDA Board of Directors or the GDA Advisory members, other than the DFO representative(s).

When a complaint is filed with the GDA, even in cases where the crewman is being represented by a third party, the crewman’s name must be made known to the GDA Executive Director. However, at no time during the complaints process will the crewman’s name be disclosed without the crewman’s written consent.

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Any crewmember, his legal representative or any other third party who believes that a crewmember has been unfairly treated or that his safety has been in any way compromised according to the guidelines stated above, may file a complaint with the Groundfish Development Authority. A GDA Complaint Form (see Appendix 4) may be obtained by contacting the GDA Executive Director at the telephone number given below.

Complaints should be accompanied by evidence of unfair treatment such as a number of crew share settlements made prior to September 1, 1996 and one or more current crew share settlements.

Code of Conduct quota will be allocated by the DFO as of midnight, March 31st each year. Therefore, in order for a complaint to be considered in time to have sanctions apply in the following year, complaints must be received by the GDA Executive Director by March 1st of each year. However, it should be noted that this is an on-going process and complaints can be brought forward in subsequent years. Complaints are to be made in writing, marked “CONFIDENTIAL”, and mailed to:

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21540 – 121 Avenue
Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 3S4
Attn: R.D. Humphreys, Executive Director
or Faxed to Mr. Humphreys at : 604- 467-7956
If you wish to discuss a potential complaint: Phone: 604-467-7970

All complaints will be received and investigated in strict confidence by the GDA Executive Director as follows:

CCQ Complaints Process

1. When a complaint is received, the GDA Executive Director will determine whether or not there is sufficient documentation on file to proceed with an investigation.
2. If there is sufficient documentation available, the GDA Executive Director will:
 - 2.1. Examine the evidence against a set of criteria established by GSIC to assist the GDA Executive Director in determining whether or not the complaint is valid. The GDA Executive Director will then advise the complainant as to whether or not, in the Executive Director’s opinion, he has a valid complaint.
 - 2.2. Request the complainant’s permission to proceed with the complaint process, which would include the GDA Executive Director contacting the vessel owner.
 - 2.3. If the complainant wishes to proceed:
 - 2.3.1. The GDA Executive Director will contact the vessel owner named in the complaint and will consider any further information provided by the complainant or the vessel owner in relation to the complaint.
 - 2.3.2. If, with reasonable doubt considered, in the opinion of the GDA Executive Director, the complaint is not valid or reasonable, 3.2.2.1 and 3.2.2.2 will prevail.
 - 2.3.3. If, with reasonable doubt considered, in the opinion of the GDA Executive Director, the complaint is considered valid, the GDA Executive Director will then prepare and present an investigative report to the GDA Board of Directors.
 - 2.3.4. Where the GDA Board of Directors has determined that a breach of the CCQ principles has occurred, the Board will instruct the Executive Director to seek means of resolving the conflict between the licence holder and complainant.

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2.3.5. If conflict resolution through mediation is not successful, the GDA may issue a letter of warning to the licence holder and/or recommend to the Minister of Fisheries that all or part of the vessel's CCQ be withheld for the following season.

3. If there is insufficient documentation available from either or both parties, the GDA Executive Director will:

3.1. Notify the complainant and ask for additional information to support the complaint.

3.2. The complainant will also be asked if the GDA Executive Director should contact the vessel owner for additional information. If the complainant requests that the investigation proceed, the GDA Executive Director will contact the vessel owner named in the complaint and will consider any further information provided by the complainant or the vessel owner in relation to the complaint.

3.2.1. If sufficient information is obtained, refer to step 2.3.2

3.2.2. In cases where there is insufficient information presented by either the vessel owner or the complainant to the GDA Executive Director and the complainant does not wish to pursue the collection of additional information:

3.2.2.1. No further investigation or action will be considered at this time.

3.2.2.2. The GDA Executive Director will prepare a report on the number of complaints that could not be investigated as a result of insufficient information for the purpose of determining whether or not the CCQ process is effective or if it needs to be modified.

Sanctions

If it is found that Code of Conduct principles have been breached and resolution of the conflict cannot be achieved by any other means, the GDA Board of Directors may issue a letter of warning to the licence holder and/or recommend to the Minister of Fisheries that all or part of the vessel's Code of Conduct Quota be withheld for the following season (see Steps 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 above).

Groundfish Development Quota

Each year, 10 percent of each groundfish trawl TAC will be allocated as Groundfish Development Quota (GDQ). There will be a Gulf Hake GDQ (10% of the TAC), an Offshore Hake GDQ (10% of the Shoreside Delivery portion of the TAC) and a Groundfish GDQ (10% of each quota species area group TAC).

The GDA will receive Groundfish and Hake GDQ proposals for the 2003-04 season (April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004), prepared jointly by one or more processor(s) and "T" licenced vessel owner(s).

All proposals must include a licenced processing company and one or more "T" licenced vessel(s).

Each application will detail aspects of the operation of processors and vessels committing quota to the processors, pertinent to the objectives that the GDA is mandated to pursue (see Appendix 1 for Application Requirements).

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GDA Objectives

The GDA will consider the benefits of each application and rank each proposal according to how well they are deemed to contribute to the following objectives:

1. Market Stabilization

Intent: One of the major goals of the IVQ plan was to encourage market stability by eliminating the race for fish and allowing a more stable pace of landings throughout the year.

GDA Assessment Criteria:

- a. How does your business plan contribute to the stabilization of the distributor level market price for groundfish? Indicate how you intend to respond on a day-to-day basis to changing market demands.
- b. Indicate how fleet scheduling elements within your plan control the rate of fresh product to market.
- c. What changes in the company's groundfish or hake processing operations have been made in recent years that affect the stability of the market?
- d. Have any new markets been created during the review period and, if so, with what effect on existing markets?

2. Maintain Existing Processing Capability

Intent: To recognize the importance of maintaining existing processing for reasons of jobs, tax investments, community infrastructure, etc. by mitigating against sudden wholesale change in location of processing while allowing for the evolution of a healthy processing sector

GDA Assessment Criteria:

- a. Has there been a net increase or decrease in groundfish or hake processing capacity anywhere within your operation during the past season?
- b. If so, how has this affected throughput?
- c. Relative to last year, will the groundfish and/or hake processing capacity of your operation (all sites included) increase, decrease or remain the same in the up-coming season?
- d. Has the volume of production from each site remained stable or has there been a shift in production from one location to another?

3. Employment Stabilization in the Groundfish Industry

Intent: The primary intent of this objective is to ensure that the proponent's plans reflect the concept that an IQ fishery should generate more shoreworker stability by spreading landings out more uniformly over the entire year and by providing more certainty of plant operations.

With respect to vessel crew employment, it was recognized that DFO licencing is the main engine that determines job security within the groundfish trawl industry, and that part of the rationale for an IQ fishery was to rationalize the fleet at a lower level. However, once that new level has been achieved, this objective looks at the stabilization of vessel crew employment. It should be noted that fair treatment of crew is dealt with under the Code of Conduct.

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GDA Assessment Criterion:

- a. How does the applicant's business plan with respect to throughput at specific plants, production schedule and final product form stabilize employment in the groundfish industry in terms of number and duration of jobs?

4. Economic Development and Benefits in Coastal Communities

Intent: The GSIC Sub-Committee defined coastal communities as all locations that rely, at least in part, on the fishing industry for their economic viability. To ensure that economic benefits generated by the groundfish and hake industries contribute to the economic viability and growth of all stakeholders including processing companies, vessel owners, shoreworkers, vessel crews and secondary service industries in coastal communities.

GDA Assessment Criteria

- a. How does the applicant's business plan promote economic development in coastal communities?
- b. In what respects do your plans include greater utilization of services in coastal communities? Describe any changes made during the review period or in preparation for the season under review that increase the economic benefits to the plants, workers and community (capital investment, new jobs, more production, etc.) We are looking for indications of incremental benefits to industry, not transfers from one location to another.

5. Increasing the Value of Groundfish Production

Intent: To ensure that the proponent is taking full advantage of the opportunities presented by an IVQ system to achieve the best possible rate of return for product through wise use of the resource.

GDA Assessment Criteria:

- a. How does the applicant's business plan ensure plans for the production of the best value products from species currently utilized, utilization of discarded or underutilized species, introduction of better handling and processing practices yielding higher value?
- b. Describe any new markets, products, techniques, partnerships, etc. in the current proposal.

6. Industry Training Opportunities

Intent: To ensure that workforces in the groundfish industry are properly trained to work safely and efficiently in order to fulfill the other objectives with respect to increased production value, market stability, and economic benefits.

GDA Assessment Criterion:

- a. What specific training programs, on vessels, and ashore, are planned for the coming year?
- b. What kinds of training program were conducted during the review period? For instance, safety training to meet current WCB requirements?

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7. Sustainable Fishing Practices

Intent: To encourage operators to get the highest percentage of their holdings out of the water in a manner that makes best use of all fish caught while adhering to recognized sustainable management practices designed to ensure long-term sustainability of the stocks.

GDA Assessment Criteria:

- a. Does the applicant have a history of utilizing catch effectively, so that wastage is kept to a minimum? How is this accomplished?
- b. Describe the fleet deployment plan within the applicant's business plan which enables the plant(s) to operate at peak efficiency and produce the best possible quality product.

2003 - 04 Season and GDA Process

GDA Schedule for the 2003-04 Season

- March 31, 2003 - end of 2002-03 fishing season.
- April 1, 2003 - new IVQ/CCQ placed on T licences by DFO
- May 23, 2003 - GDA Deadline for quota transfers; GDQ to be calculated on quota transfer requests received by DFO as of 4:00 p.m. May 23, 2003.
- May 30, 2003 - GDA Deadline for Joint Proposals for GDQ

Please Note: A concern was expressed at the GSIC Review that a May 30 GDA deadline may unfairly influence the timing and nature of delivery arrangements between hake fishermen and processors. GSIC members examined and discussed this concern at length and concluded that the GDA process should be neutral to the negotiation process between hake fishermen and processors and that the GDA Board should recognize that, in the annual hake fishery:

1. The GDA deadline may occur before fish price negotiations between fishermen and processors are concluded;
2. Processors may have an advantage, in that vessels must commit to a proposal before price arrangements are determined;
3. Fishermen may have an advantage, in that processors may be caused to make upfront commitments prior to having full catch and market information;
4. Because hake fishermen and processors may be compelled to make business arrangements prematurely, it may follow that production arrangements may change in-season, as resource, market, and competitive events unfold.

Given the above, GSIC advised that the GDA Board could retain the current deadline date of May 30th for GDA Proposals but, in doing so, the Board must also recognize and carefully consider the dynamics of each hake proposal prior to deeming either processors or vessels to be non-compliant with their pre-season commitments.

- June 6, 2003 - Summary of GDQ Proposals distributed to GDA Board and GDQ Applicants
- June 12 and 13, 2003 - GDA Proposal Presentation Meeting
- June 23, 2003 - GDA recommendations to Minister

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GDA Proposal Evaluation and Rating Process

The GDA deadline for accepting GDQ applications for the 2003-04 season is midnight, May 30, 2003.

A summary of each proposal will be prepared by the GDA Executive Director and forwarded to each of the applicants as well as to the GDA Board of Directors and Advisors prior to the Proposal Presentation meeting date. Applicants and advisors are invited to submit their written comments on any of the proposals to the GDA Executive Director on or before the date of the Proposal Presentation meeting. To expedite this process, all comments should be forwarded to the Executive Director by e-mail or by fax. The Board of Directors as part of the proposal evaluation process will consider these comments.

Joint Processor/Vessel Owner Proposals (applications) for GDQ will be presented to the full GDA (members and advisors) by the proponent or by the GDA Executive Director. Proponents will be invited to be present for all presentations and should be prepared to clarify any points in their submissions that may need clarification and/or to answer questions.

Instead of a business plan for 2003-04, proponents are required to submit their responses to specific questions asked with respect to each of the seven GDA Objectives. The complete set of GDA Application Requirements for 2003-04 are described in Appendix 1, page 18. As in the past, proponents are required to show evidence of adherence to their last year's production plan in terms of quantities of fish processed and location of processing. If major discrepancies exist between your proposed production goals and/or locations and your actual production, you will be required to include an explanation of the discrepancy for the consideration of the Board.

The GDA Board of Directors will evaluate the proposals based on the objectives described above and on the level of adherence to each proponent's previous year's production plan in terms of quantities of fish processed and location of processing. The GDA Executive Director will then apply the **new revised SAG-specific** GDA formula to the data provided in the proposals, using the Board of Director's rating of each proposal to generate a GDQ allocation recommendation.

The full GDA (Directors and Advisors) will be given an opportunity to review the results of the application of the GDA formula to the proposals prior to the Board's recommendations going to the Minister by June 23, 2003. It is anticipated that the Minister's decision will be made within 2 to 3 weeks of receipt of the GDA recommendations and DFO will be in a position to amend licences by mid-July.

GDQ Allocation Formulas

The formula for calculating groundfish GDQ developed by GSIC and currently being applied by the GDA to the proposals was found to distort the GDQ allocation results at the SAG level, in some cases. Consequently, the formula has now been corrected, but requires more detailed production data from the processors.

The GDA will evaluate each proposal, assigning it a GDA rating from 0 to 1. In deciding this rating, the GDA will take into consideration the objectives identified above. The GDA will then use this rating along with detailed production histories and IVQ/CCQ commitments in each proposal to determine how much quota each proposal should receive and make its recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries by June 23, 2003.

The amount of GDQ a specific vessel receives will be contingent upon the relative amount of IVQ/CCQ that vessel brings to the proposal, i.e., the vessel will be allocated species and area specific quota in proportion to the species and area specific IVQ/CCQ that the vessel commits to the application.

Since GDQ is non-transferable, all transfers of quota to be used in GDQ calculations must have been received by DFO by 4:00 p.m., May 23, 2003. It is the responsibility of the licence holder to ensure that the DFO has the correct SAG quotas for your vessel by the deadline.

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The GDA will accept joint processing company / fish buyer / vessel owner applications for Gulf Hake GDQ, Offshore Hake GDQ and Groundfish GDQ separately.

The amount of quota an application receives depends on three factors, namely:

- (1) SAG-specific production histories of processing company (ies)/buyer(s) in the application for the past three fishing seasons,
- (2) the total amount of IVQ all vessels in the application commit, and
- (3) a rating as determined by the GDA based on the GDA objectives, on the performance of the proponent in meeting his previous year's production goals and, in the case of new entrants or innovative new ideas, perceived merit of proposed production plans. Accordingly, the GDQ Application has been divided into three sections as follows:

Section 1. Processing Company Production Histories

The GDA will consider only the production histories of trawl-caught, quota-species groundfish, Gulf hake and Offshore hake.

Production histories for Gulf hake are to be considered separate from production histories for Offshore hake or groundfish.

Production histories for hake and SAG-specific groundfish production histories are to be compiled on the basis of the previous three fishing seasons: April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001; April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002 and, April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003.

Groundfish and hake production histories must be verifiable by fish ticket (or other official documentation) and only fish bought and processed by an applicant or co-applicant will be considered as part of the production history.

Trawl-caught groundfish or hake bought by one co-applicant but processed by a company that is not part of the application for GDQ cannot be included in the production history of the joint application.

Fish purchased by a processing company or fish buyer and custom processed by another company can be included in the application for GDQ as long as verification can be shown that both the buyer and processor of the fish are co-applicants.

A processing company may contract another company to process surplus or overflow groundfish. This production history can be included in the application if both companies are named as co-applicants.

Using data from the dockside monitoring program, fish tickets, provincial government processing company data and other information, the GDA Executive Director may verify the production histories of applications.

Section 2. IVQ/CCQ Commitments

Each joint processing company / vessel owner application must be accompanied by a completed Vessel Quota Commitment & Performance Form for the 2002-03 season (GDA Form 6) and a 2003-04 Vessel Quota Commitment Form (GDA Form 9) for each vessel listed in the proposal. Information contained in GDA Form 6 will be used as an indication of whether or not quota delivery commitments were met. Where there are major discrepancies between commitments and deliveries, an explanation of the cause of the discrepancy **must** be included in the submission.

Vessel owners may choose to commit part or all of their total IVQ/CCQ allocation to any one proposal, or they may decide to split their allocations between several companies, e.g., hake IVQ/CCQ may be committed to one company and groundfish IVQ/CCQ to another, or portions of either hake or groundfish IVQ/CCQ may be committed to any proposal.

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Section 3. GDA Rating

Using the GDA Objectives and performance criteria outlined in this Operation Plan, the GDA will rate each proposal from 0 to 1. The information obtained in the joint GDQ Application, the IVQ/CCQ Vessel Commitment & Performance Forms and other information given to the GDA and collected by the Executive Director will assist the GDA in determining a rating for each proposal.

GDQ Fees

A flat submission fee of \$250 will be charged by the GDA for receipt of each GDQ proposal in 2003-04.

At the time the GDQ is allocated, there will be an additional fee per unit of GDQ allocated, based on the need to cover the costs of operation of the GDA. The “per unit” fee in 2003-04 is assessed at \$ 0.0055 per Groundfish Equivalent (GFE).

Please Note: Applicants for GDQ for the 2003-04 season will be given until December 31, 2003 to submit all GDA fees to the Executive Director or his designated representative. Failure to submit fees by the December 31st deadline will result in the forfeiture of that vessel's GDQ for the 2003-04 season. The forfeited quota will be added to the quota available to all other quota holders.

Although GDQ is tied to a joint processor/vessel owner proposal, the quota allocation is necessarily vessel specific due to the fact that quota is applied to each T licence. Therefore, if the vessel owner's name, mailing address and/or Fax number is provided on the GDQ Commitment Form (GDA Form 9), the GDA Executive Director will ensure that each vessel owner receives notification of fees to be paid before quota will be placed on his vessel's licence.

Quota Delivery Compliance Guidelines

Preamble and Guiding Principles

In order for the Groundfish Development Authority to meet its employment and economic stability objectives, both processors and vessel owners are accountable for the commitments that they make in their joint proposals for GDQ. The GDA has a mandate to recommend to the Minister of Fisheries that he withhold all or a portion of the GDQ when proponents are found to be in non-compliance with respect to their proposal commitments. A recommendation to withhold GDQ would only be made after thorough investigation and finding of non-compliance.

The GDA has met with the Groundfish Special Industry Committee and developed the guidelines described below, by which compliance or non-compliance will be evaluated. Vessel owners and processors are assured that these guidelines have been developed with the understanding that there needs to be flexibility within the system in order for the industry to function effectively. At the same time, however, it is recognized that this flexibility cannot be unlimited without jeopardizing the objectives to which the GDA is committed. These guidelines are intended to ensure that the GDA applies fair and consistent principles in determining whether or not vessel owners and processors have, to the best of their ability, remained in compliance with the commitments they have made with respect to catch delivery and processing.

It is important for applicants to note that if they wish to retain the unrestricted option of choosing in-season where they will deliver some or all of their fish, only that portion of their quotas that they agree to deliver to a specified buyer/processor or buyer/processor co-applicant should be committed for GDQ purposes. Alternatively, an applicant may choose to operate as a buyer/processor and commit all or part of his vessel(s) IVQ/CCQ to himself.

Vessel owners considering applying for GDQ in a buyer/processor co-applicant proposal may do so and should contact the GDA Executive Director for assistance.

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Guidelines for Determining Catch Delivery Compliance or Non-Compliance

A. Fish Harvesting Factors

1. Quota Trades Within the GDA Proposal

Any quota trades between vessels wherein the fish are delivered to the plant or plants specified in the original proposal will be considered to be in compliance with delivery commitments.

2. Quota Trades or Transfers Outside the GDA Proposal

a) Pound-for-Pound Trades

Trading quotas between vessels on a lb-for-lb basis, i.e., quota swapping, is a legitimate means of conducting business within the IVQ system.

The intent of this guideline is that all fish traded will be harvested.

b) Unequal Poundage Trades and One-Way Transfers

Trades or transfers that result in fish being delivered to a processing facility outside the original proposal are technically in violation of the GDA commitment. It is recognized that absolute compliance with this rule may not be possible if quotas are to be fished effectively. Such transactions may be subject to GDA investigation and a discretionary ruling on compliance. Examples of kinds of trades or transfers that may result in unequal amounts of fish moving between proposals are:

1. End-of-Season Trades or Transfers
2. Trades or Transfers of Non-target for Target Species
3. Trades or Transfers to Cover Previous Overages
4. Transfer of Remaining Quota When Landings are Close to IVQ Holding for a Species Area Group (SAG).

Some factors to be considered in reaching a decision on whether or not the movement of these fish out of the original proposal was warranted are:

1. Was there a real attempt to keep the fish within the original proposal?
2. Was the vessel fishing within commitment throughout the year, with the exception of the situation under investigation?
3. What was the amount of fish involved relative to the total commitment?
4. Were the trades in question part of a logical fishing plan?
5. Other mitigating circumstances such as time of year, breakdowns, by-catch issues, individual vessel's normal fishing pattern, etc.

These and other factors will be taken into consideration by the GDA and may require further investigation before deciding whether or not GDQ penalties are recommended.

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3. Fish Carried Forward

It is understood that all of the fish committed to a proposal should be delivered to that proposal. However, it is recognized that this may not be practical in all cases. Therefore, it will be deemed to be acceptable to carry committed fish forward where that fish is delivered to the original proposal or the new proposal. The principle involved is that carryover quota from one year to the next cannot be used to avoid delivery of fish to a proposal.

B. Business Arrangement Factors

It is acknowledged that there are business circumstances that arise during the course of a fishing season that may make it impossible for the proponents to stay within the terms of their original commitment. The following guidelines will assist the GDA in evaluating the circumstances involved in each case where a complaint is being investigated.

4. Risk of Non-Payment

It may be found acceptable for a vessel owner to move his fish outside the original GDA proposal if there is a reasonable expectation that he will not receive payment for his fish.

5. Changes in Business Relationships

Changes in business relationships that may be deemed to justify the severing of a vessel owner's commitment to a processor are as follows:

- a) significant change in the level of agreed-upon service,
- b) serious deterioration in the main elements of the business arrangement between the vessel owner and the processor that cannot be attributed to an industry-wide shift

6. Processor Unwilling or Unable to Take Fish

If a vessel owner delivers fish according to an agreed-upon fishing plan and the processor to whom he is committed fails to handle his fish according to the pre-season agreement, the vessel owner has a valid reason to deliver his fish elsewhere. (In this case, sanctions may be considered against the processor in terms of GDA Rating).

A one-time occurrence of failure to handle the fish according to the plan may or may not constitute a valid reason to permanently depart from the original GDA proposal. Continuing problems may be considered in the context of 5 b) above.

If a vessel owner does not fish according to an agreed-upon fishing plan and, as a result, the processor is unable to handle his deliveries, the vessel owner may be considered to be in breach of his commitment if he delivers that fish outside the proposal.

If a processor is unable to take a vessel owner's fish due to unforeseen shut down, strike, or lack of capacity, during the period that the processing facility is disabled, the vessel owner is free to deliver his fish elsewhere.

7. Price Differential

If the price offered for fish is not within what is understood to be the terms of an agreement between a processor and a vessel owner, i.e., either implicit (relative to past experience) or explicit, the vessel owner may be deemed to have the right to deliver his fish elsewhere.

GDQ Commitment Compliance Review Process

Processing companies and vessel owners are reminded that their joint applications for GDQ constitute the basis upon which the GDA makes recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans regarding the allocation of GDQ for the

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current fishing season. Consequently, vessel owners have a commitment to deliver their catches to the processor(s) to which they have committed their IVQ/CCQ. Likewise, processing companies have a commitment to process those fish according to the plan submitted to the GDA.

Accordingly, the GDA Executive Director will initiate a proposal compliance investigation, if:

1. a non-compliance complaint is lodged against a processor or vessel owner, or
2. Commitment/delivery reports indicate significant, unexplained deviations from the original proposal.

Commitment Compliance Review Process

- A. A complaint may be lodged with the GDA Executive Director at any time by a vessel owner, processor or any individual, union, company or community representative who alleges that the commitment that was made concerning the delivery and processing of fish was breached during the course of the fishing season.
- B. The complainant must not be a member of the GDA Board of Directors or one of its advisors.
- C. At the outset of a compliance investigation, the GDA Executive Director will notify both the processor(s) and vessel owner and request an explanation of discrepancies between commitments and actual deliveries. In the case of a complaint having been received, the GDA Executive Director will also contact the complainant and the subject of the complaint (if different from the above) to receive information regarding the alleged breach of commitment.
- D. If the GDA Executive Director is satisfied with the explanations for the observed discrepancies, no further action will be taken.
- E. All information obtained will be summarized by the GDA Executive Director and examined by the GDA Board of Directors and their industry advisors with respect to the Delivery Compliance Guidelines developed for the purpose by GSIC.
- F. The GDA and its advisors will respect and strive to protect the confidentiality of all parties involved.
- G. If the GDA Board of Directors finds that participants in a proposal failed to meet the commitments entered into and that there was insufficient justification for such a failure, the GDA may, in consultation with its advisors, recommend that the Minister of Fisheries withhold all or a portion of the GDQ for the next fishing season from the non-compliant participant(s).
- H. If the GDA Board of Directors finds that sanctions should be recommended, the non-compliant participant will be provided with rationale for the Board's findings and given a period of **21 days from date of notification of suspected non-compliance** to provide evidence of compliance with the Catch Delivery Compliance Guidelines. The GDA Executive Director will make every effort to make both personal and written contact with the individual during that period.
- I. **In order to avoid delays in GDQ allocations caused by the GDA not receiving timely responses from those vessel owners / processors asked by the GDA for additional information /explanation regarding the variance between deliveries and commitments in the previous year's joint proposal, in cases where Ministerial decisions are held up because the prior delivery performance of a minority of vessels is being investigated, GDQ will be allocated to all other vessels, on the basis that vessels under investigation would receive their allotment of GDQ as indicated by the normal GDA process.**
- J. Subsequently, if vessels under investigation are found to be in non-compliance and, consequently have GDQ withheld, the total amount withheld would be re-allocated amongst the rest of the fleet on a pro rata basis at a later date.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. 2003-04 GDQ Application Requirements Checklist

Each application for GDQ in 2003-04 must contain the following components:

GDA Form 1(Start-up) This is a new form designed specifically to provide the GDA with SAG-specific production records for seasons 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03. These values will be inputted into the revised GDA formula in order to fine-tune the GDQ allocations at the SAG level.

2 Sets of Forms 2, 3, 4, 5:

1st Set Processor's Production Performance Summary, April 1, 2002 - March 31, 2003.

2nd Set Proposed Production by Product Form & Location, April 1, 2003 - March 31, 2004.

GDA Form 6 2002-03 Vessel Quota Commitment & Performance

GDA Form 8 Processor's Production Verification Record. **Note: This form has been completely revised to capture the detailed production data required for the revised formula.**

GDA Form 9 2003-04 Vessel Quota Commitment. Vessel owners are requested to express their IVQ commitments as a percentage of the IVQ on the licence, i.e., 100%, 50%, etc. of each SAG. The GDA will convert these percentages to pounds based on DFO records of the amount of IVQ on the licence at the GDA deadline.

[Note: GDA Form 7: 2003-04 IVQ/CCQ Commitment Summary will be compiled by the GDA Executive Director after approval by the Minister & distributed to processors].

In addition to the forms, each application must include:

A **\$250 Cheque (Canadian funds)** for the 2003-04 GDQ Application Fee.

Completion of the **GDA Objectives Questionnaire**¹, which clearly identifies how the company proposes to meet the seven GDA Objectives.

A **Processor's Production Verification Record (GDA Form 8)** for the 2002-03 season as reported on GDA Form 1 (the Joint Processor/Vessel Owner Application). This form must contain only records of Quota groundfish species and hake deliveries verifiable by Fish Ticket.

A **Company Profile** is optional, but recommended for new entrants. If you have already filed a Company Profile with the GDA you need not file another unless your company has changed significantly.

Deadline for 2003-04 GDQ Applications

The GDA Executive Director must receive completed GDQ applications for the 2003-04 fishing season no later than midnight, May 30, 2003. Unless paper forms are requested, the GDA will e-mail GDA Forms 1, 2,3,4,5,6 and 8 to processor applicants. GDA Form 9 requires the signature of the vessel owner so it will be sent by mail to each of the vessel owners. Completed forms and the GDA Objectives Questionnaire should, if possible, be returned by e-mail to the GDA Executive Director at b&bhumphreys@telus.net.

¹ See Appendix 2, page 18.

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GDA Form 9 and a cheque for \$250 to cover the GDA Application Fee should be sent by courier or Express Post to:

Mr. R.D. Humphreys, Executive Director

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Appendix 2. GDA Objectives Questionnaire

Applicants for GDQ are requested to respond as completely as possible to each of the following questions. This will assist the GDA Board of Directors in rating your proposal.

1) Market Stabilization

- a. How does your business plan contribute to the stabilization of the distributor level market price for groundfish?
Indicate how you intend to respond on a day-to-day basis to changing market demands.
- b. Indicate how fleet scheduling elements within your plan control the rate of fresh product to market.
- c. What changes in the company's groundfish or hake processing operations have been made in recent years that affect the stability of the market? Have any new markets been created during the review period and, if so, with what effect on existing markets?

2. Maintain Existing Processing Capability

- a. Has there been a net increase or decrease in groundfish or hake processing capacity anywhere within your operation during the past season?
- b. If so, how has this affected through-put?
- c. Relative to last year, will the groundfish and/or hake processing capacity of your operation (all sites included) increase, decrease or remain the same in the up-coming season?
- d. Has the volume of production from each site remained stable or has there been a shift in production from one location to another?

3. Employment Stabilization in the Groundfish Industry

- a. How does the applicant's business plan with respect to throughput at specific plants, production schedule and final product form stabilize employment in the groundfish industry in terms of number and duration of jobs?

4. Economic Development and Benefits in Coastal Communities

- a. How does the applicant's business plan promote economic development in coastal communities?
- b. In what respects do your plans include greater utilization of services in coastal communities? Describe any changes made during the review period or in preparation for the season under review that increase the economic benefits to the plants, workers and community (capital investment, new jobs, more production, etc.) We are looking for indications of incremental benefits to industry, not transfers from one location to another.

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5. *Increasing the Value of Groundfish Production*

- a. How does the applicant's business plan ensure plans for the production of the best value products from species currently utilized, utilization of discarded or underutilized species, introduction of better handling and processing practices yielding higher value?
- b. Describe any new markets, products, techniques, partnerships, etc. in the current proposal.

6. *Industry Training Opportunities*

- a. What specific training programs, on vessels, and ashore, are planned for the coming year?
- b. What kinds of training program were conducted during the review period? For instance, safety training to meet current WCB requirements?

7. *Sustainable Fishing Practices*

- a. Does the applicant have a history of utilizing catch effectively, so that wastage is kept to a minimum? How is this accomplished?
- b. Describe the fleet deployment plan within the applicant's business plan which enables the plant(s) to operate at peak efficiency and produce the best possible quality product.