

PACIFIC REGION

GROUNDFISH TRAWL FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

April 1, 1997 to March 31, 1998

Note: The industry is advised that this plan only provides a general overview of groundfish management in 1997/98. In response to the need for in-season management changes, the Department may amend, at any time, the strategies contained in the plan and in licence conditions. Where there is a discrepancy between this 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.

INTRODUCTION	1
BACKGROUND	1
ABORIGINAL FISHERIES	1
CONSULTATION	2
STOCK STATUS	2
APPLICATION	2
NEW FISHING YEAR	3
FUTURE USE OF CATCH HISTORY	3
ANNUAL TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES	3
SPECIES CLOSURES	5
TRAWL TAC ALLOCATIONS	6
GROUND FISH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	6
CODE OF CONDUCT QUOTA	6
GROUND FISH DEVELOPMENT QUOTA	6
IVQ ALLOCATION FORMULA	7
IVQ TRANSFERABILITY	8
INDIVIDUAL COASTWIDE SPECIES CAPS	9
TOTAL HOLDINGS CAP	10
GROUND FISH EQUIVALENTS	10
HAKE FISHERY	11
HALIBUT BYCATCH MANAGEMENT	12
FISH RELEASED AT SEA	13
FISHING OPTIONS	14
OPTION A	14
OPTION B	14
LICENCE FEES	15
QUOTA OVERAGE / UNDERAGE AND QUOTA CARRYOVER	15
FISHING RESTRICTIONS FOR QUOTA OVERAGE	16
PORT MONITORING	16
AT-SEA MONITORING	17
CONVERSION FACTORS	18
GROUND FISH SIZE LIMITS	18
GEAR RESTRICTIONS	19
AREA CLOSURES	21
ACTIVITY LINE	23
ENFORCEMENT - FISHERY OFFICERS	23
MANAGEMENT CONTACTS	24
MAP OF THE MANAGEMENT AREAS	25

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has been consulting with representatives of the groundfish trawl industry regarding the long term management direction for the fishery.

The consultative process culminated in the arrangements contained in this new long term plan, the Groundfish Trawl Fishery Management Plan, which will commence on April 1, 1997 and expire on March 31, 1998.

This management plan was developed by DFO in consultation with the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), the Groundfish Trawl Advisory Committee (GTAC), the Groundfish Special Industry Committee Subcommittee (GSIC Subcommittee), coastal community representatives and others interested participants.

This is the first groundfish trawl plan to feature an Individual Vessel Quota (IVQ) program and thus contains many aspects which will be new to trawl fishery participants. Vessel owners and masters are advised to thoroughly read and familiarize themselves with all aspects of the Groundfish Trawl Fishery Management Plan and category "T" licence conditions.

BACKGROUND

The Groundfish Trawl Fishery Management Plan is the nineteenth such plan since 1980 that the Department and groundfish trawl industry have worked on co-operatively. The groundfish trawl fleet is made up of 142 licensed vessels. The trawl fishery is the largest fishery in the Pacific Region by volume of catch, with approximately 140,000 tonnes of groundfish landed in 1996. Of the more than 30 groundfish species harvested by trawl gear, 27 are assessed and assigned annual TACs in up to six different management areas. The result is 55 individually managed and monitored TACs for the groundfish trawl fishery.

ABORIGINAL FISHERIES

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans recognizes the importance of fish to the Aboriginal peoples of British Columbia. Through the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, the Department seeks to negotiate, with Aboriginal organizations, allocations for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Subject to conservation, these allocations will have priority over allocations for commercial and recreational user groups. Communal licences will be issued to individual Aboriginal organizations for food, social and ceremonial fishing.

CONSULTATION

The Department consults on a regular basis with the Groundfish Trawl Advisory Committee (GTAC), which represents both trawl fishing and processing interests. Meetings are held a number of times during the year to review in-season progress of the fishery and receive recommendations regarding various management actions.

Vessel owners are urged to communicate any comments or concerns to their respective GTAC representative for discussion at GTAC meetings. A list of current GTAC members is provided in Appendix 1 to this plan.

STOCK STATUS

Shown below is an overview of the current condition of groundfish species or species groups.

<u>Species or Species Group</u>	<u>Current Stock Condition</u>
Strait of Georgia lingcod	Very low
Offshore lingcod	Average
Pacific cod	Very low
Petrale sole	Very low
Rock sole	Average to High ¹
Lemon sole	Average to High ¹
Dover sole	Average to High ¹
Sablefish	Average
Offshore pacific hake	Average
Strait of Georgia pacific hake	Average to High
Spiny dogfish	Average to High ¹
Walleye pollock	Low to average ¹
Slope rockfish	Low to average ¹
Shelf rockfish	Low to average ¹
Inshore rockfish	Low to average ¹

¹ *Depending on the stock*

APPLICATION

The management strategies contained in this plan apply to all category “T” licensed fishing vessels, fishing by means of bottom and midwater trawls. Groundfish total allowable catches (TACs) are, in many cases, split between trawl and hook & line gear sectors. The TACs contained in this plan apply to the commercial trawl gear sector only. Refer to the

chart at the back of this management plan for a description of the major areas referred to in the plan.

NEW FISHING YEAR

The groundfish trawl IVQ fishery will commence April 1, 1997 and remain open until March 31, 1998. Note that although the fishery is open until March 31, 1998, all fish must be landed prior to midnight March 31, 1998.

FUTURE USE OF CATCH HISTORY

Commencing in 1991, DFO 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 this management plan and the trawl IVQ program in general, those notices now cease to have effect.

ANNUAL TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES

Rockfish aggregates will no longer be used in the groundfish trawl fishery. The TACs listed below have been set for the commercial groundfish trawl fishery only.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Management area</u>	<u>TAC¹</u> (in tonnes)
Yellowtail rockfish	3C	719
	3D, 5A/B, 5C/D/E	4,514
	Coastwide total	5,233
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	2,358
Canary rockfish	3C/D	503
	5A/B	345
	5C/D/E	81
	Coastwide total	929
Silvergrey rockfish	3C/D	331
	5A/B	604
	5C/D	302
	5E	273
	Coastwide total	1,510

1997/98 GROUND FISH TRAWL IVQ MANAGEMENT PLAN

<u>Species</u>	<u>Management area</u>	<u>TAC¹</u> (in tonnes)
Pacific ocean perch	3C	431
	3D	230
	5A/B	2,358
	5C/D ²	2,818
	5E	644
	Coastwide total	6,481
Yellowmouth rockfish	3C	100
	3D, 5A/B	1,866
	5C/D	360
	5E	104
	Coastwide total	2,430
Rougheye rockfish	Coastwide	380
Shortraker rockfish	Coastwide	77
Redstripe rockfish	3C	150
	3D, 5A/B	1,198
	5C/D	49
	5E	226
	Coastwide total	1,623
Shortspine thornyheads	Coastwide	748
Longspine thornyheads	Coastwide	860
Yelloweye rockfish	Coastwide	16
Quillback, Copper, China and Tiger rockfish	Coastwide	14
Pacific cod	3C/D	694
	5A/B	260
	5C/D/E	1,620
	Coastwide total	2,574
Dover sole	3C/D	1,375
	5C/D/E	1,100
	5A/B	598
	Coastwide total	3,073
Rock sole	3C/D	102
	5A/B	935
	5C/D	1,045
	Coastwide total	2,082

1997/98 GROUND FISH TRAWL IVQ MANAGEMENT PLAN

<u>Species</u>	<u>Management area</u>	<u>TAC¹</u> (in tonnes)
Lemon sole	3C/D, 5A/B	186
	5C/D/E	605
	Coastwide total	791
Petrable sole	Coastwide	479
Lingcod	3C	1,225
	3D	220
	5A/B	862
	5C/D/E	580
	Coastwide total	2,887
Dogfish	4B	1,600
	Rest of Coast	3,840
	Coastwide total	5,440
Sablefish	Coastwide	386
Pollock	Gulf ³	1,115
	3C/D	270
	5A/B (includes Area 11, 12)	1,790
	5C/D/E	825
	Coastwide total	4,000
Hake	Gulf ³	15,200
	Rest of Coast	99,400
	Coastwide total	114,600

Notes

- 1 All quotas are in round weight and metric tonnes
- 2 Area includes part of major area 5B - see licence conditions for exact definition
- 3 TACs for the Gulf apply only to Areas 13 to 18 and 29

SPECIES CLOSURES

The following species closures shall be in effect for trawl vessels:

- a) Lingcod - Strait of Georgia
 - closed year-round in Areas and Subareas 12-1 to 12-6, 12-8, 12-11, 12-12, 12-15 to 12-48, 13 to 19, 20-5 to 20-7 and 29.
 - closed April 1, 1997 through May 14, 1997 and November 15, 1997 through March 31, 1998 in Subareas 12-7, 12-9, 12-10, 12-13, 12-14 and 20-1 to 20-4.
- b) All Rockfish - Strait of Georgia

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

TRAWL TAC ALLOCATIONS

For the 1997/98 fishing year, the commercial groundfish trawl TACs will be allocated according to the following:

- 80% of each TAC (90% of hake) will be allocated directly to “T” licensed vessels as area and species specific IVQ using the IVQ allocation formulae;
- 20% of each TAC (10% of hake) will be allocated to individual “T” licensed vessels by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, taking into consideration advice from the Groundfish Development Authority.

GROUNDFISH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

20% of the commercial trawl TACs, (10% of hake) will be allocated to “T” licensed vessels by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, taking into consideration advice from the Groundfish Development Authority (GDA).

The GDA, established solely to provide advice on groundfish allocations, will have seven voting members and a number of non-voting, ex-officio participants to provide any background information and expertise necessary for the GDA process.

The GDA will be set up by the Province of B.C. and industry participants to aid regional development as well as the attainment of market and employment objectives, and sustainable fishing practices.

CODE OF CONDUCT QUOTA

10% of each groundfish TAC (including hake) will be automatically allocated to all “T” licences as additional Code of Conduct IVQ (using the IVQ allocation formula) on April 1, 1997. In future fishing years, the allocation of this Code of Conduct IVQ will be made by the Minister after receiving advice from the GDA.

GROUNDFISH DEVELOPMENT QUOTA

During 1997, 10% of each groundfish TAC (excluding hake) will be allocated as Groundfish Development Quota (GDQ). The GDA will receive GDQ Proposals jointly prepared by a processor and one or more “T” licensed vessel owner(s). Each GDQ Proposal will detail aspects of the operation of the processor and of the vessels landing catch to that processor. This information will be used by the GDA to rank the GDQ

Proposal according to how well it meets a series of objectives which the GDA is mandated to pursue. Once it has ranked each GDQ Proposal, the GDA will advise the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on how to allocate area and species specific GDQ.

In the first fishing year, GDQ for all species other than hake will be allocated from July 1, 1997 to allow time for the GDA to be established and for industry to prepare and submit GDQ Proposals. In the second year of the program (the 1998/99 fishing year), GDQ will be allocated on April 1. In the first fishing year only, hake GDQ will be allocated as IVQ.

Note: Details of the operation of the GDA, its members and terms of reference, objectives and criteria for ranking GDQ Proposals, the GDQ allocation formula, what is required in the GDQ Proposals, fees payable on GDQ, the requirements for accessing Code of Conduct IVQ in future fishing years, etc. will be set out in a separate GDA Operational Plan. This Plan will be prepared and distributed to vessel owners and industry participants by May 1, 1997.

IVQ ALLOCATION FORMULA

Initially, 80% of the commercial trawl TACs (except hake) will be allocated to "T" licensed vessels as area and species specific Individual Vessel Quotas (IVQs). The formula to allocate all of these species, with the exception of hake, is 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 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.

The hake IVQ allocation formula is 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 will receive an allocation based solely on the 30% vessel length. However, no vessel shall qualify for participation in the 30% vessel length allocation unless its average landings for the 1987 - 1991 period exceeded 2,000 pounds 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 receives 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 are applied to each area and species specific TAC to generate a number (approximately 55) of area and species specific IVQ allocations, which are individually transferable (subject to transferability rules). At the commencement of each fishing year, each fisher's IVQ holdings percentages of area and species specific TACs will be converted into poundages of fish.

For example:

Fisher A has a “T” licensed vessel with a catch history and a boat length resulting in initial allocations of:

- 2.1% Groundfish other than hake; and
- 0.9% Hake.

Fisher A then initially receives:

- 2.1% of each area specific groundfish TAC (i.e. Pacific ocean perch in 5A/B, yellowtail in 3C, lingcod in 5C/D/E, etc.), excluding hake;
- 0.9% of hake TAC in the gulf;
- 0.9% of the offshore hake TAC set for delivery onshore; and
- 0.9% of the offshore hake TAC set for delivery to the Joint Venture fishery.

These annual allocations by species and area are all separately transferable subject to IVQ transferability rules.

IVQ TRANSFERABILITY

IVQ can only be transferred between “T” licensed vessels. All IVQ transfers and swaps must be registered by DFO. Application for the transfer of IVQ to a vessel not holding a valid “T” licence will not be considered. The transfer of IVQ from a “T” licensed vessel which has hailed-out will also not be considered.

For the first two transitional years of the IVQ program, unlimited transfer of IVQ is permitted, subject to species and total holdings caps and other transferability rules. Individual species caps and total holdings caps have been set to inhibit excessive consolidation of IVQ.

Following the first two transitional years, one-way transfers of quota will stop for a minimum of one year. Quota swapping for quota of equivalent value (measured in groundfish equivalents) and licence transfers will still be permitted. During that third year of operation, DFO will consult with the Province of B.C. and industry on the viability of the trawl fleet and on the possible need for further rationalization.

The minimum quantity of IVQ that may be transferred is one pound, measured as a percentage of the TAC, and the maximum quantity of IVQ that may be transferred to other “T” licensed vessels is the IVQ assigned to that licence.

“T” licensed vessel owners wanting to transfer uncaught IVQ will be required to complete a “Request for the Transfer of Groundfish Trawl Quota” form. Quota which has already been caught cannot be transferred in-season. Applications to transfer quota

on the first day of subsequent fishing years (April 1), will only be considered after carryover of quota overages and underages has been applied.

Upon receipt of the “Request for the Transfer of Groundfish Trawl Quota” form and subject to approval of the IVQ transfer, a licence amendment will be issued to each vessel involved reflecting adjusted IVQ amounts. Transfers of quota will also be reflected in the licences issued in subsequent years.

A transfer form must be delivered to the Groundfish Trawl Co-ordinator, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, #418 - 555 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5G3, or sent by fax to (604) 666-8525. Any application to transfer IVQ must be signed by the owner of the vessel from which the quota is being transferred.

INDIVIDUAL COASTWIDE SPECIES CAPS

Individual coastwide species caps are set for each species at a level which will allow vessel owners to adjust their quota holdings to a viable level, but which ensures they cannot accumulate an unreasonably large amount of a species IVQ.

A request to transfer IVQ which results in one of the licences exceeding an individual coastwide species cap will be refused by DFO. Vessel owners who are initially allocated IVQ which places them over one or more of the individual coastwide species caps will be ‘grandfathered in’ (i.e. their allocations will stand). These vessel owners will not be permitted to add to their holdings of the affected species. Further, if these owners transfer out IVQ of the affected species, they will not be permitted to transfer in IVQ which places them over the individual coastwide species caps.

The following species caps are set on a coastwide basis for all IVQ species, except hake. The hake species caps are individually applied to Gulf hake, offshore hake allocated for onshore delivery and offshore hake permitted to be landed to the Joint Venture fishery.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Individual species cap</u> (% of the coastwide TAC)
Yellowtail rockfish	5%
Widow rockfish	5%
Canary rockfish	4%
Silvergrey rockfish	4%
Pacific ocean perch	5%
Yellowmouth rockfish	5%
Rougheyeye rockfish	7%
Shortraker rockfish	7%
Redstriped rockfish	5%
Shortspine thornyheads	10%
Longspine thornyheads	10%

Yelloweye rockfish	4%
Quillback, copper, china & tiger rockfish combined	4%
<u>Species</u>	<u>Individual species cap</u> (% of the coastwide TAC)
Pacific cod	4%
Dover sole	5%
Rock sole	5%
Lemon sole	5%
Petrale sole	4%
Lingcod	5%
Dogfish	10%
Sablefish	4%
Pollock	10%
Hake (Gulf of Georgia)	15%
Hake (Offshore - onshore delivery)	10%
Hake (Offshore - Joint Venture delivery)	10%

TOTAL HOLDINGS CAP

Each licence is subject to a total holdings cap, set at a level which allows vessel owners to adjust their IVQ holdings to a viable level, but also ensures operators cannot accumulate an unreasonably large amount of IVQ.

A transfer request which results in one of the licences involved holding more than its total holdings cap, measured in groundfish equivalents, will not be approved by DFO.

The total holdings cap for each "T" licence, measured as a percentage of total groundfish equivalents, will be the greater number of the following calculations for each licence:

- 800,000 pounds groundfish equivalents; or
- twice the 1994/95 average percentage of landings taken by the licence multiplied by the total 1996 groundfish catch; or
- a 25% increase above the initial IVQ allocation.

DFO will calculate these total holdings caps for each licence according to the above formula at the commencement of the fishery.

GROUND FISH EQUIVALENTS

For the purposes of calculating the total holdings cap for each licence, and for measuring IVQ holdings of a licence against its cap, DFO has set the following groundfish equivalents

(GFEs). GFEs will be based on price relative to Pacific ocean perch (Pacific ocean perch = 1.00). The GFE values will be updated at the start of each fishing year.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Groundfish Equivalent</u>
Yellowtail rockfish	1.26
Widow rockfish	0.96
Canary rockfish	1.19
Silvergrey rockfish	1.20
Pacific ocean perch	1.00
Yellowmouth rockfish	1.19
Rougheye rockfish	1.15
Shortraker rockfish	1.24
Redstriped rockfish	0.73
Shortspine thornyheads	3.38
Longspine thornyheads	3.38
Yelloweye rockfish	1.23
Quillback, copper, china & tiger rockfish	1.21
Pacific cod	1.69
Dover sole	1.33
Rock sole	1.65
Lemon sole	1.37
Petrable sole	3.22
Lingcod	1.75
Dogfish	0.49
Sablefish	6.30
Pollock	0.66
Hake (Gulf of Georgia)	0.14
Hake (Offshore - onshore delivery)	0.14
Hake (Offshore - Joint Venture delivery)	0.28

For example: 10,000 lbs of Pacific ocean perch + 10,000 lbs of lingcod
 = 10,000 lbs GFE + 12,200 lbs GFE
 = 22,200 lbs GFE

HAKE FISHERY

The hake TAC will be allocated according to the hake IVQ allocation formula and will be managed in a manner similar to the remainder of the groundfish species placed under the IVQ program. No GDQ for hake will be provided for in the 1997/98 plan. The gulf hake TAC will be 100% allocated as IVQ on April 1, 1997.

The offshore hake fishery will be managed in accordance with existing DFO policy of priority being given to onshore processing. Within this policy framework, the following rules will apply:

- DFO will generate estimates of onshore processing requirements;
- the offshore hake TAC will be split into an onshore delivery TAC, a Joint Venture delivery TAC and a reserve TAC;
- DFO will allocate the onshore delivery and Joint Venture TACs as separate IVQs according to the hake allocation formula on May 1, 1997 of each year - these IVQs can be fished or traded subject to the IVQ transferability rules;
- on August 31, 1997, the onshore IVQs will expire and on September 1, DFO will re-allocate the uncaught portion of the onshore TAC for the remainder of the year, in proportion to the onshore hake IVQ holdings at that time; and
- on September 1, 1997, DFO will allocate the reserve TAC for delivery onshore, for delivery to the Joint Venture fishery, or for a combination of these based on a determination of the requirements of the onshore processors for the remainder of the year.

HALIBUT BYCATCH MANAGEMENT

Halibut incidentally caught under a “T” licence cannot be retained and must be returned to the water as quickly as possible. For the new fishing year, the halibut bycatch mortality cap set for the trawl fleet (1,000,000 lbs in 1997/98) will be allocated as an individual halibut bycatch cap to each licence in proportion to its initial groundfish IVQ holdings (excluding hake). All estimated halibut bycatch mortalities will be deducted from a vessel’s individual cap.

Halibut bycatch mortality caps will be freely transferable, subject to the halibut species mortality cap rule set out below, and will not be considered as part of the groundfish equivalents calculations or total IVQ holdings caps.

A halibut species mortality cap rule will apply, whereby no licence can hold more than 4% of the total halibut bycatch mortality cap for the trawl fleet. Halibut catch in excess of a vessel’s individual halibut bycatch cap will result in an amendment to the vessel’s licence conditions restricting it to trawling for midwater species coastwide for the remainder of the fishing year, or until such time as sufficient additional halibut bycatch cap is transferred 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 bycatch mortality cap allocation. Note that halibut mortality cap underages will not be added to the following year’s allocations.

FISH RELEASED AT SEA

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

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 idiots)	- 12 inches (30 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. Where there is no fork, length shall be measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail.

For species other than those listed above (e.g. idiots, dogfish), all fish will be considered marketable and deducted from IVQ holdings.

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

Soles and flounders	- 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	- 25% mortality for the first two hours fished or portion thereof and, 25% for each additional hour ¹
Rockfish/idiots	- 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 bycatch 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 bycatch cap.

For halibut, the condition of the fish shall be assessed by a DFO certified at-sea observer before it is returned to the water, in order to apply the appropriate mortality factor.

FISHING OPTIONS

All category “T” licensed vessel owners are required, prior to licence issuance, to choose one of two fishing options for the 1997/98 fishing year. Owners choosing Option B are permitted to make a once a year change to Option A. Owners choosing Option A may not change their selection for the remainder of the fishing year.

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 midwater trawl coastwide;
- permitted to fish throughout the year for groundfish species subject to TACs up to the amount of the IVQ specified on the licence;
- permitted to trade IVQ holdings subject to the transferability and other rules governing such transfers;
- a 5,000 pound per trip limit for all rockfish species combined not subject to TACs;
- no limit on the quantity of turbot, skate and other groundfish species (excluding rockfish) not subject to TACs;
- bycatch mortality caps for halibut will be issued and monitored on an individual vessel basis (exceeding bycatch limits results in restrictions against individual vessels, not the fleet);
- subject to 100% onboard observer coverage for all fishing with the exception of midwater trawling for hake or pollock coastwide. Observer exemptions for hake and pollock are only permitted when the vessel is engaged in directed fishing for these species; and
- subject to port monitoring for all landings.

OPTION B

- permitted to fish by bottom trawl in management area 4B (areas 12 to 20 and 29);
- not permitted to fish by midwater trawl in any area;
- a 15,000 pound calendar month limit for all groundfish species combined other than dogfish, lingcod and rockfish,
 - of which no more than 200lbs shall be sablefish, and

- of which no more than 200lbs shall be petrale sole, and
- of which no more than 500lbs shall be Pacific cod;
- not permitted to fish for rockfish;
- a 15,000 pound calendar month limit for Lingcod;
- no limit on the quantity of Dogfish;
- a maximum of 15 landings per calendar month;
- no onboard observer coverage; and
- subject to port monitoring for all landings.

LICENCE FEES

Licence fees are based on the IVQ holdings of the licence, measured in pounds. All licence fees must be paid in full to the Commercial Licence Unit prior to licence issuance. For the 1997/98 fishing year, the "T" licence fees are as follows:

\$500 plus

All rockfish species	\$15.00 per tonne	\$.0068 per lb
All sole species	\$16.00 per tonne	\$.0073 per lb
Lingcod	\$16.00 per tonne	\$.0073 per lb
Pollock	\$ 7.50 per tonne	\$.0034 per lb
Hake	\$ 4.00 per tonne	\$.0018 per lb

QUOTA OVERAGE / UNDERAGE AND QUOTA CARRYOVER

In many cases, fishermen will catch more or less than their exact IVQ holdings in a given area for a given species. A portion of the IVQ overage and underage will be permitted to be carried over to the following fishing year (1998/99). The rules for such carryover are as follows:

- i) "T" licensed vessels landing up to 15% over the species and area specific IVQ holdings of 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.
- ii) "T" licensed vessels landing more than 15% over the species and area specific IVQ holdings of that licence may keep the proceeds from the landed weight of the first 15% of the overage and must relinquish the remainder.
- iii) Vessels transferring additional IVQ onto the licence following a quota overage and relinquishment will have the total overage (the 15% plus the relinquished amount) subtracted from the IVQ added to the licence and shown on the amended "T" licence. Relinquishments for prior overages of more than 15% of the IVQ

- holdings will not be returned. If no further transfers are done, the total poundage of the overage (the 15% plus the extra) will be subtracted from the IVQ holdings for the licence in the following year.
- iv) “T” licensed vessels may carry forward uncaught species and area specific IVQ holdings of up to 15% of their holdings at the end of the year. The equivalent poundage of the carry forward will be added to the IVQ holdings of the licence in the following year.
 - v) IVQ overage (underage) adjustments in the following year will be attributed to the “T” licensed vessel which fished (did not fish) the IVQ.
 - vi) All weights are fresh round weights as determined by information collected from the port validators and at-sea observers.

FISHING RESTRICTIONS FOR QUOTA OVERAGE

In addition to the above rules, vessels which exceed by 15% area specific IVQ holdings for a species (excluding halibut) shall be restricted to midwater 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 15% permitted.

DFO will amend the licence conditions to restrict the vessel to midwater 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.

PORT MONITORING

A comprehensive industry funded port monitoring program shall continue in the 1997/98 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. Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. of Victoria, B.C. is the designated contractor for this program and will supply certified observers to provide the port monitoring services.

Monitoring requirements in effect for the groundfish trawl IVQ fishery include hail-out and hail-in requirements and designated offloading locations. The requirement for vessels to hail-out is new for the 1997/98 management plan. Detailed, exact catch verification requirements are found in the 1997/98 Groundfish Trawl Licence Conditions issued to each trawl vessel.

Following completion of the trip, the designated contractor 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 DFO certified observer.

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. Any permitted changes to the offloading procedures shall be reflected in the vessel's licence conditions.

AT-SEA MONITORING

In order to strengthen stock assessment capabilities, to provide for effective area and species specific management, and to effectively monitor bycatch, the comprehensive at-sea observer program will continue for 1997/98.

Vessels choosing Fishing Option A shall be required to carry a DFO-certified observer on each trip. The only exemptions from this requirement are vessels fishing dedicated hake and/or pollock trips.

A vessel which is on a dedicated hake and/or pollock trip without an observer is permitted a 3% bycatch allowance of other groundfish, excluding sablefish and subject to available IVQ holdings. Any catch of groundfish (other than hake and pollock) in excess of this 3% allowance must be relinquished. All bycatch will be deducted from the vessel's IVQ holdings. Fishers who wish to retain more than 3% of other groundfish while on a dedicated hake and/or pollock trip may opt to carry an observer.

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

1. a hail-in as described in the Conditions of the 1997/98 Groundfish Trawl IVQ Licence shall be made to Archipelago Marine Research;
2. the use of Port Hardy shall only be considered when the vessel is transitting southbound between Vancouver Island and the mainland of British Columbia;
3. the use of Victoria shall only be considered when the vessel is transitting eastbound to a Canadian landing port or transitting southbound to Blaine, Bellingham or Anacortes in Washington State; and

4. the use of Ucluelet shall only be considered when the vessel is transitting directly to Port Alberni, southbound to a Canadian landing port or to Blaine, Bellingham or Anacortes in Washington State.

While vessels fishing under Option B are not subject to mandatory observer coverage, DFO may require a DFO-certified observer to be carried. The Department shall determine when and for how long an observer shall be carried.

Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. of Victoria, B.C. is the designated contractor for this program at this time. Arrangements for observers can be made by calling 383-4535 or 1-800-663-7152.

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 1997/98 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 referenced 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.

GROUND FISH SIZE LIMITS

Fishers are reminded of the following groundfish size limits:

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.

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.

Sturgeon

Head-on - not less than 100 cm in length, measured from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail or, where the tail has no fork, to the bottom tip of the tail.

NOTE: The size limits for English sole, Rock sole, Petrale sole and Starry flounder have been removed.

GEAR RESTRICTIONS

Fishers are reminded of the following trawl gear restrictions:

- a)
 - (i) Subject to parts (ii) and (iii), the coastwide mesh size in any part of a bottom trawl or midwater trawl net, including the cod-end, shall not be less than 76mm (approximately 3 inches).
 - (ii) In management areas 13 to 19 and 29, the mesh size in a bottom trawl net shall not be less than 108mm (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 76mm (approximately 3 inches).
 - (iii) In Hecate Strait and eastern Dixon Entrance, the mesh size in a bottom trawl net shall not be less than 140mm (approximately 5.5 inches) in the last 100 meshes of the net, including the codend. In all other parts of a bottom trawl net, the mesh size shall not be less than 76mm (approximately 3 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 British Columbia.
- b) 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.
- c) 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:

- (i) Regular Topside Chafer - a rectangular piece of netting that:
 - is at least 1 1/2 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
 - 1) 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
 - 2) 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.

- (ii) 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 overlie four meshes of the cod-end over which it extends.

- (iii) 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
 - 1) is attached to the topside of the cod-end so that it overlaps the piece of netting immediately to its rear, if any,
 - 2) has a mesh size that is not less than the mesh size of the cod-end,
 - 3) is at least as wide as the cod-end, where the width is measured at right angles to the cod-end,
 - 4) is not more than 10 meshes long, and
 - 5) is fastened by its forward edge only across the cod-end at right angles to its long axis.

- d) '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.

- e) 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.

- f) Mesh size shall be measured when the net is wet.

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

AREA CLOSURES

The following area closures shall be in effect for trawl vessels in 1997:

- a) 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 inside 40 fathoms. The intent of the closure is to reduce harvesting pressure on localized stocks of fish and to provide improved access to food fish for the Aboriginal community.
- b) McIntyre Bay/Masset - closed year-round in those portions of Area 1 and Subarea 101-7, inside the 40 fathom contour, between Rose Point and Klashwun Point. 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 Aboriginal community.
- c) Tide Marks - closed from April 1, 1997 through May 31, 1997 and October 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998 in Subareas 130-1 and 130-2, and those portions of Areas and Subareas 108-2, 109, 110 and 111 westerly of a line connecting the following coordinates: 51°47'N 129°37'W thence to 51°28'N 129°48'W thence to 51°15'N 129°11'W thence to 51°04'N 129°28'W thence to 50°52'N 129°06'W. The intent of this closure is to reduce harvesting pressure on Pacific ocean perch stocks during the spawning period.
- d) Hecate Strait - closed from April 1, 1997 through April 15, 1997 and January 1, 1998 through March 31, 1998 in Subareas 102-1, 106-1, that portion of Subarea 102-2 north of 52°51'N, west of 131°15'W and south of 53°10'N, and that portion of Subarea 105-1 west of 131°15'W. The intent of this closure is to reduce the harvesting of Pacific cod during the spawning period.
- e) Hecate Strait/Dixon Entrance - closed from June 1, 1997 through July 15, 1997 to bottom trawling in Subareas 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, that portion of Subarea 101-7 shoreward of the 40 fathom contour, those portions of Subareas 101-10, 104-1 and 104-4 south of 54°15'N, Subarea 102-1, that portion of Subarea 102-2 north of 53°00'N and west of 131°05'W, that portion of Subarea 104-2 south of 54°15'N and west of 131°00'W, Subarea 104-5, that portion of Subarea 104-3 west of 131°10'W,

that portion of Subarea 105-1 north of 53°37'N and west of 131°10'W, that portion of Subarea 105-1 south of 53°37'N and west of 131°05'W, and that portion of Subarea 105-2 west of 131°05'W. The intent of this closure is to protect crabs during the soft shell period.

- f) Area 23 (Barkley Sound) - closed from February 25, 1998 through March 25, 1998 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.
- g) 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.
- h) Johnstone, Georgia and Juan de Fuca Straits - there are a number of Subareas closed to both bottom and midwater 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. Note: the closures described below may change in-season. Current Fisheries Public Notices should be referenced prior to fishing.

The bottom trawl closures by Subarea are:

<u>Subarea(s)</u>	<u>Closure Description</u>	<u>Period Closed</u>
12-6	applies to Indian and Village Channels only	all year
12-20	entire Subarea	all year
12-29,12-34	entire Subareas	Feb 16-Apr 30
12-39	applies to Retreat Pass only	all year
12-42	applies to Drury Inlet only	all year
12-46	entire Subarea	Feb 16-Apr 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	Apr 1-Sep 30
14-9,14-10,14-12	entire Subareas	Apr 1-Sep 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
18-2,18-7,18-8	entire Subareas	all year
18-9,18-10	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
29-3,29-4,29-6	applies to shoreward of 50 fathom contour only	all year
29-7 to 29-17	entire Subareas	all year

The midwater trawl closures by Subarea are:

<u>Subarea(s)</u>	<u>Closure Description</u>	<u>Period Closed</u>
12-20	entire Subarea	all year
12-29,12-34,12-46	entire Subareas	Feb 16-Apr 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
18-7,18-8,18-10	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

ACTIVITY LINE

A 24 hour recorded Groundfish Trawl activity information line may be accessed at (604) 666-1388. This activity line will include information such as special announcements, general open and closure information, number of vessels hailed-out and catches to-date.

ENFORCEMENT - FISHERY OFFICERS

Fishery Officers will be conducting spot checks on fishing vessels, processors, offloading locations, restaurants, and other fish buyers. Their duties also include coordinating assistance from Federal and Provincial enforcement agencies, U.S. authorities, fishermen and the general public, all of whom may have information regarding unlawful fishing, offloading, purchasing, or selling of groundfish. In addition, at-sea enforcement and overflights will be conducted. The names, telephone numbers, and area of responsibilities for Fishery Officers involved in the groundfish program are provided for your assistance.

24 Hour Radio Dispatch to contact a Fishery Officer : 1-800-465-4336

North Coast

Dave Knapton (Prince Rupert)

627-3429

1997/98 GROUND FISH TRAWL IVQ MANAGEMENT PLAN

	Stefano Maestrello (Prince Rupert)	627-3406
	Ross Jones (Queen Charlotte City)	559-4413
	Henry Ragetli (Bella Coola)	799-5345
North Van. Island	Tom Hlavac	949-9609
South Van. Island/Sunshine Coast	Bruce McDonald	754-0233
West Coast Van. Island	Mike Spence	725-3468
Lower Mainland/Sunshine Coast	Carl Kennedy	666-8230
Lower Mainland	Hans Segelken	666-6260
Regional Groundfish Enforcement Co-ordinator	Sue Hahn	666-6464

OBSERVE, RECORD, REPORT

1-800-465-4336

Users of the groundfish resource have a responsibility to report violations. Any suspected or actual violations can be quickly and discreetly passed on to the appropriate Enforcement Officers by telephoning the year round 24 hour toll-free Observe, Record, and Report (ORR) number for reporting fisheries and pollution violations. Confidentiality is assured.

MANAGEMENT CONTACTS

For further information on any aspect of the Groundfish Trawl Fishery Management Plan or on the groundfish trawl fishery, please contact:

Groundfish Management Unit:	Barry Ackerman	666-3991
	Bruce Turriss	666-9033
	Louise Yada	666-5865
	Connie Ng	666-0010
	Fax	666-8525

MAP OF THE MANAGEMENT AREAS

APPENDIX 1**1996/97 GROUND FISH TRAWL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE #</u>	<u>FAX #</u>
ANDERSON , Kelly	#1405 - 8851 Lansdowne Road Richmond BC V6X 3X7	(604) 214-0209	(604) 214-0210
BUSTON , Mike	Ucluelet Seafood Processors P.O. Box 589 Ucluelet BC V0R 3A0	(250) 726-7768	(250) 726-4226
CHATWIN , Murray	Ocean Fisheries Ltd. 2305 Commissioner St. Vancouver, BC V5L 1A4	(604) 254-5751	(604) 254-0957
CLATTENBURG , Dave	10525 McGrath Road Rosedale BC V0X 1X0	(604) 794-7693	→ Phone/Fax
COOK , Joe	Pacific Coast Processors Unit 130 - 3600 Viking Way Richmond BC V6V 1N6	(604) 276-0802	(604) 273-0192
DAY , Chris	Deep Sea Trawlers Association #2 - 11771 Horseshoe Way Richmond BC V7Z 4V4	(604) 275-6944	(604) 275-6949
INGRAM , Bob	#206 288 E. 6 th St. North Vancouver BC V7L 1P5	(604) 980-6885	→ Phone/Fax
MCMILLAN , Dan	J.S. McMillan Fisheries Ltd. 2199 Commissioner St. Vancouver BC V5L 1A4	(604) 255-5191	(604) 255-4690
MARK , Kelvin	500 Pilsbury Avenue Prince Rupert BC V8J 4A7	(250) 624-6851	(250) 624-3055
MOSE , Brian	641 Hollywood Road Qualicum Beach BC V9K 1M3	(250) 752-2931	(250) 752-1032
MORREAU , Bob	FVOA of B.C. 8600 Pigott Road Richmond BC V7A 2C4	(604) 275-9769	(604) 275-9780
OLSEN , Erling	Leader Fishing Co. 10663 River Road Delta BC V4C 2R1	(604) 583-4818 (604) 582-2125	(604) 583-1989

1997/98 GROUND FISH TRAWL IVQ MANAGEMENT PLAN

RADOSEVIC, John	UFAWU #160 111 Victoria Dr. Vancouver BC V5L 4C4	(604) 255-1336	(604) 255-3162
TRYON, Rob	6980 Seabrook Road Saanichton BC V0S 1M0	(250) 652-5166	(250) 652-2725
VACCHER, Don	#340 - 4 th Avenue, W. Prince Rupert BC V8J 1P3	(250) 624-6839	(250) 627-4682
WILLIAMS, Allan	Fisher Bay Seafood 10230 Bowerbank Road Sidney BC V8L 3X4	(250) 656-8157	(250) 656-8159