



Bycatch Intro

Pelagic Workshop

April 2018

MSA on Bycatch

- “The term “bycatch” means fish which are harvested in a fishery, but which are not sold or kept for personal use” = DISCARDS
- FMPs shall “include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable...minimize bycatch”

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What is Practicable?

- NMFS responses to comments in the 1998 National Standard Guidelines Final Rule note there's legislative history:
- ...Councils make reasonable efforts to reduce discards...
- ...was neither intended to ban a type of fishing gear nor to ban a type of fishing or impose costs on fishermen and processors that cannot be reasonably met.

Guidelines...Consider:

- Effects on bycatch
- Changes in fishing costs, fishing practices, and behavior of fishermen.
- Changes in research, administration, enforcement costs and management effectiveness.
- Changes in the economic, social, or cultural value of fishing activities and nonconsumptive uses of fishery resources.
- Distributional and social effects.

Guidelines...Consider:

- Then you will know what is practicable

MSB Discards

- *Illex*...very low, no species of much concern
- Butterfish...no real fishery yet, hard to know
- Mackerel...very low % discarded, but some river herring and shad (RH/S)
 - RH/S Cap
- Longfin squid...for every 100 pounds of squid retained, about 50 pounds of other fish discarded, wide variety of species.
 - Butterfish Cap

Discards

- Discards accounted for in assessments and management
- High level of concern by some recreational anglers and ENGOs
- Management balloon effect
- Practicability