

CHAPTER 1

TABLES

TABLE 1.5-1. Sources of written and verbal testimony
on 2003 management measures.

Sector	
Recreational*	42
Commercial*	31
Charter	10
Conservation	6
Processors and suppliers	7
Unidentified	21
Other	13
Location	
California	73
Oregon	28
Washington state	6
Washington D.C.	3
Unidentified	20

*May include some charter operations.

TABLE 1.5-2. Summary of written comments received by PFMC about proposed 2003 management measures.

Theme	Topic	Number of Comments
1	BUYBACKS AND RELIEF PROGRAMS	
1.1	Buybacks/Fleet Conversion	
	Urge support of buybacks	5
	Support fleet conversion	1
1.2	Relief Programs	
	Need relief programs (listed several kinds, including retraining)	3
2	BYCATCH	
2.1	Trawling Bycatch	
	Commercials/trawlers have too much bycatch	5
	Develop nets to avoid roundfish and catch flatfish	1
	Eliminate fisheye as approved device in pink shrimp fishery	1
	Shrimp trawl fishery has had success using Nordic grates to avoid sablefish	1
	Southern California trawlers have made innovative efforts to reduce bycatch	1
	Try using fish excluders	1
	Use mandatory excluder devices in pink shrimp fishery	1
2.2	Other Bycatch	
	Am personally trying to avoid bycatch	3
	Consider hard bycatch caps	2
	Accounting of bycatch needs to be improved	1
	Pot boats are voluntarily using escape rings to avoid sablefish	1
	Re-establish fisheries that are proven to be "clean"	1
	United Anglers of S. California proposal deals with bycatch reduction	1
	Use gear that causes less bycatch	1
	Use tangible incentives for clean, selective fishing	1
	California's recreational two-fish limit is wasteful; causes bycatch (also see bocaccio)	1
2.3	Full Retention/Overages	
	Support for full retention program	3
	Pilot full retention program with pink shrimp fishery	1
	Proceeds from troll-caught canary, yelloweye, bocaccio should go to conservation fund	1
	Require all rockfish to be landed, documented at designated CDFG sites	1
3	CHARTERBOATS (also see recreational)	
	Need an 8-month charter season	3
	(Provided detailed plan for charter operations)	1
	10-fathom limit would put many charterboats out of business	1
	Charter boats avoid canary rockfish	1
	Don't lump sport fishermen with charter operators - they are different	1
	Fewer charterboats means less data	1
	Lowering bag limit for charterboats reduces value of service	1
	We don't catch many bocaccio	1
	12-month closure would be a "reckless and spiteful blow" to those who proudly abide by regulations	1
	Charter boats provide services, jobs	1
	Charter boats allow the elderly, and people with disabilities, to fish	1
	The charter fishery is unique and cannot be replaced with imports	1
4	COMMERCIAL FISHERIES (see also specific fish species)	
4.1	Commercial Gears: General	
	Restrict all or some commercial fishing to hook & line	4
	Artisanal fisheries in S. California are highly regulated and sustainable	1
	Ban fish traps	1
	Ban stick gear	1
	The more I can used fixed gear, the less I will drag	1
4.2	Commercial - Relations with Recreational	
	Set rockfish sizes for commercial to be same as recreational	1
	Support United Anglers proposal to limit commercial catch to 20 fish/day	1
4.3	Commercial Seasons	
	Short commercial seasons lead to pressure on fishing grounds	1
	Time seasonal closures for when fish are spawning	1
	Use lower limits or seasonal limits	1

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Theme	Topic	Number of Comments
	Ban fishing for 10 years	1

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Theme	Topic	Number of Comments
6.5	Families can't afford rent	1
	Fishermen have few other resources; would be hardship	1
	Fishing has been a family business for two or more generations	1
	Merchants must consider cutting off credit to fishing families	1
	Temporary work stoppage has created financial hardship	1
	Cumulative Effects	
6.6	The (comm and rec) fishing industry has already absorbed huge regulatory/environmental changes	7
	There has been a significant loss of income in the past 2-3 years	2
	Depressed prices in several fisheries are adding to poor outlook	1
6.6	Other Socioeconomic Issues	
	How can Council make decision when socioeconomics have not been quantified in EIS?	1
	Include restaurants, tourism, transportation, etc. in economic figures	1
7	EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	
7.1	Equity	
	Attend to equity issues regarding opening dates for southern California recreational fishers	1
	Recreational fishers are being unfairly asked to carry a disproportionate burden	1
7.2	Accountability	
	General calls to hold Council accountable	2
	Recreational fishers should not be held accountable for commercial fishers' damage to resource	2
	Hold individual fisheries accountable for their actions	1
8	ENFORCEMENT AND OBSERVATION	
8.1	Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)	
	Would be happy to put VMS on board	1
	General	
8.3	Need more and better enforcement	3
	Observers	
	More observers needed; welcome observers	7
9	EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS	
9	Generally support EFPs; recommend using	4
	Expedite EFP process	2
	Use limited EFPs to help spot prawn trawlers switch to traps	1
	We request an EFP	1
10	FATHOM LINES - OPINIONS ABOUT	
10	20 fathom limit will eliminate fishing for abundant species	1
	27 fathom line discriminates against port of Winchester Bay; make exception	1
	Adopt 20 fathom closure for recreational rockfish anglers	1
	Agree with 45 fm boundary suggested by Groundfish ad-hoc committee	1
	Allow commercial fishing out to 250 fm with fish excluders, etc.	1
	Allow sportfishing out to 50 fathoms	1
	Delineate areas where abundant species can be targeted without rockfish bycatch	1
	Do not support 10 fathom restriction	1
	Don't catch rockfish outside of 250 fm	1
	Going with a simple depth closure in all CA is too broad; be more specific	1
11	Set closure at 6-70 fathoms in S. California	1
	Support fishing out to 45 fathoms in S. California, but prefer 85 fathoms	1
	FISH, REFERENCES TO INDIVIDUAL...	
	Bocaccio - Abundance (also see predators, geography)	
	There are plenty of bocaccio; there are too many bocaccio; there are more bocaccio than in past decades, etc.	15
11.1	Bocaccio are abundant (or more abundant) in southern California	11
	Try hard to avoid catching bocaccio	9
	Bocaccio are not a favorite fish of anglers	8
	Many bocaccio in the Cowcod Conservation Area(s)	2
	Bocaccio have tremendous potential for recruitment	1

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Theme	Topic	Number of Comments
	Do not catch bocaccio on coast side of Channel Islands	1
	Better management of the resource has led to more bocaccio than before	1
	California's recreational limit of two bocaccio makes it hard to catch other species because they are so abundant	1
11.2	Darkblotched Rockfish	
	Don't raise darkblotched catch levels	1
11.3	Dogfish Sharks	
	Proposed regulations will limit fishing for dogfish sharks, which are used in biology classes	1
11.4	Halibut	
	California halibut fishery is very clean	2
	Allow retention of Pacific halibut in troll fishery	1
	Concerned restrictions will close CA halibut fishery	1
	Don't close halibut fishing in deep water on Stonewall Bank	1
	Don't close halibut trawl south of 40° 10"	1
	Never catch bocaccio in halibut trawl grounds in Santa Barbara channel	1
11.5	Lingcod (also see predators)	
	Lingcod are abundant/growing/huge	3
	Lingcod eat a lot of juvenile rockfish (and lingcod)	2
	Change regulations regarding lingcod	1
	Need more money for lingcod assessments	1
	There are plenty of yelloweye and lingcod available	1
11.6	Petrale Sole	
	How are we supposed to catch petrale?	1
	If I can't fish petrale I will lose everything	1
11.7	Rock Cod	
	Implement rock cod quota	1
11.8	Sablefish (also see bycatch)	
	Live with current sablefish stock assessment information	1
	People are going out of their way to avoid catching small sablefish.	1
	Raise quota for sablefish based on recent assessment	1
	Sablefish survive being in traps	1
11.9	Salmon	
	Rethink salmon mooching prohibition	1
	Salmon fishing was a great boon to Fort Bragg; please continue	1
11.10	Sea Cucumber	
	Don't catch bocaccio when trawling for sea cucumbers; not present, and use fish excluders	2
11.11	Shrimp - Ridgeback	
	Ridgeback shrimp fishery is clean, sustainable fishery	3
	Request regulations below Point Conception to allow ridgeback shrimp trawling from 3 miles to 85 fathoms	1
11.12	Shrimp - Pink (also see bycatch)	
	Establish management line at Pt. Conception to allow S.B. channel boats to fish for pink shrimp	1
	Leave current trip limits	1
	Pink shrimp fishery in S.B. channel is clean fishery; uses fish excluders	1
	With experimental gears, pink shrimp fishery will become more selective	1
11.13	Spot Prawn Fishery	
11.13.1	Close/restrict spot prawn fishery	
	Close spot prawn fishery (in groundfish habitat; emergency closure)	1
	Fish excluders are not effective in spot prawn trawl fishery	1
	Spot prawn fishery causes habitat destruction; not enough data about impacts	1
	Spot prawn fishery has unacceptable bycatch	1
	Spot prawn trawl fishery may attract displaced fishers	1
11.13.2	Defending spot prawn fishery	
	Can get the spot prawn fishery bycatch rate very low, if given a chance	1
	Do not close spot prawn fishery	1
	Spot prawn fishery catches very little bocaccio, uses fish excluders	1
	Support the spot prawn trap fishery	1
	The live prawn fishery is clean	1
11.13.3	Managing spot prawn fishery	
	Allow spot prawn trawling S. of Pt. Conception out to 150 fm along the mainland	1

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Theme	Topic	Number of Comments
	side of the Santa Barbara channel	
	Commend report on spot prawn observer program	1
	Develop limited entry program for prawns	1
	Develop spot prawn FMP that ensures sustainable fishery	1
	Put moratorium on prawn permits	1
	Revise spot prawn control date	1
	Split ridgeback shrimp management from spot prawn management	1
11.14	Treefish	
	Treefish are holding up harvest of other species in Northern California	1
	Treefish should be in the shallow water group, not the deep water group	1
11.15	Vermilion Rockfish	
	Vermilion rockfish are very abundant; 20 fathom limit creates MPA for them	1
11.16	Whiting	
	Disagree with NMFS overturning whiting decision	2
	There are plenty of whiting	1
11.17	Yelloweye Rockfish (also see lingcod)	
	There will be decreasing landings of yelloweye as charterboats stay away from canary rockfish	1
11.18	Other Fish	
	Black bass and greenling are doing very well (in Washington)	1
	Black sea bass, halibut, calico bass, white sea bass, have all come back	1
12	FOREIGN FISHERIES	
	Mexican seiners are to blame for declines in populations	1
	Prevent other countries from fishing off our coasts	1
13	GEOGRAPHY/NORTH AND SOUTH DEBATES	
13.1	Southern California Different from North (also see science/data)	
	Survey data collected in North not relevant to South	5
	Manage California regions differently; conditions are different	4
	Cowcod Conservation Area already protects bocaccio	1
	Do comprehensive bocaccio survey in S. California	1
	Do not catch bocaccio inside 60-70 fm in S. California	1
	Do not catch canary and yelloweye in Santa Barbara Channel	1
	Open and close central and southern California at the same time	1
	Put management line at Pt. Conception	1
13.2	Geography (other areas)	
	Consider zonal management, as done in the Salmon plan	1
	Recreational fishing in Strait of Juan De Fuca is overcrowded; leads to low yelloweye, lingcod numbers	1
14	IFQs	
	General interest and support for IFQs	2
15	ILLEGAL NETTING	
	Illegal netting is occurring	1
16	LIMITED ENTRY VS. OPEN ACCESS	
	Apply limited entry program to open access fleet	3
	Change control date for limited entry/open access program (immediately)	2
	Limited entry should not suffer from overcapitalization in open access fishery	1
	Separate limited entry from open access quotas	1
17	LIVE FISH FISHERY	
	Consider negative impacts of live fish fishery	1
	Live fish fishery allows returning fish alive	1
	Most fishing is already concentrated within 20 fathoms (live fish fishery)	1
18	NEARSHORE SPECIES/AREAS	
18.1	Close Fishing, Ban Gears in Nearshore Areas	
	Ban commercial nearshore fishery	2
	Limit nearshore groundfish boats in Oregon	1
18.2	Other Nearshore Concerns	

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Theme	Topic	Number of Comments
	Allocate 90-95% of nearshore rockfish quota to recreational fishery	1
	Concerned about effort shift to nearshore areas	1
	Consider partitioning nearshore stocks	1
	Increase number of shelf species allowed from 2 to 4, 6 or 8 (to reduce impact on nearshore species)	1
	Nearshore partitioning is based on politics	1
	Nearshore stocks are increasing	1
	Support California nearshore management	1
	Washington needs nearshore commercial plan outside 3 miles	1
19	OCEAN CONDITIONS	
	A regime shift is occurring	1
	Don't rely on regime shift for improved recruitment	1
20	OPTIONS (OPINIONS ON)	
20.1	References to Specific Options	
	Recreational: support GAP Option 3 (see text of state hearings for description)	4
	Exempted trawl: support GAP Option 3 N. of Cape Mendocino, least restrictive option south of Cape M.*	1
	Open access: support GAP Option 3, with exemptions for California**	1
	GAP Options 1 and 2 are too restrictive (sector unclear)	1
	Recreational: support GAP Option 2 or 3***	1
	Support Alternative 1 (conservative OY) for whiting	1
20.2	Support Least Conservative Option	
	Recommend least conservative measures that comply with rebuilding plans	3
	Support options that will minimize community impacts	2
	Prefer least conservative options	1
20.3	Other (or may be the same in some cases)	
	Support Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommendations	5
	Commercial: support status quo	2
	Support Southern California Trawler Asso. options	2
	Recreational nearshore: support status quo	1
	Have broader consideration of alternatives	1
21	OTHER COMMENTS	
	Include flexibility in plans	4
	Use caution, moderation; see all sides when making decisions; use wisdom	3
	Urge precautionary approach	2
	Have witnessed decline in numbers of fish	2
	Measures are too severe	2
	Most fishermen are stewards of the resource	2
	Increase penalties for violation of regulations	1
	Stop eating fish, using it as fertilizer and cat food, etc.	1
	Have a long-term outlook	1
	Non-consumptive recreation is the wave of the future	1
	Protect habitat	1
	Fish populations rebound quickly once commercial fishing is limited	1
	Do something about illegal dumping by cruise ships, etc.	1
	Restrictions are a few years too late	1
	Do not support Mixed Stock Exception	1
	Why are restrictions more stringent than the Endangered Species Act?	1
	Increase fish stocks by creating new reefs, etc.	1
	Rebuilding plans put fishermen at risk as stocks grow and interactions increase	1
	Require merchants to document purchases, sales of rockfish	1
22	OPTIMUM YIELD (OY)	
22.1	General	
	Increase sablefish OY	2
	Any increase in sablefish OY will be helpful	1
	Confusion about how OYs are set	1
	Do not lower recreational rockfish OY	1
	Have concerns about 20 mt OY for bocaccio	1
	Review F-MSY proxy for darkblotched and whiting	1

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Theme	Topic	Number of Comments
22.2	Support high OY option for whiting	1
	Too risky to pick OYs with long rebuilding times	1
	Use median OY for sablefish (does not count on environmental influences)	1
22.2	Nearshore OY	
	California nearshore OY needs to be 662 mt (or 622 at the least)	3
	Use (low) OYs with a high probability of rebuilding stocks	2
	Apalled at California nearshore OY	1
	Scorpionfish/sculpin should not be taken out of nearshore OY	1
23	Stay with next year's nearshore OY	1
	PERMIT STACKING	
	Allow fixed gear fishery to stack more than 3 permits, up to 6 per vessel, for several reasons	1
	People want to sell and buy permits but cannot because of stacking limits	1
24	PREDATORS (also see lingcod)	
	Do something about predators (sea lions, whales)	5
	Bocaccio feed on other juvenile rockfish	1
	Form a predator committee	1
	Not addressing the predator issue is an insult	1
25	PROCESS	
	General	
25.1	Meeting process is confusing or difficult	2
	Be clear about your goals	1
	Did not know these issues were going to be discussed	1
	Southern California anglers have not participated in the process widely	1
	Transportation and time away from business makes it hard to attend meetings	1
	Meetings are held far away from recreational fishing communities	1
	PROCESS: POLITICS AND REPRESENTATION	
	Council/decisions are influenced by environmental group pressure	4
	No management by litigation	2
25.2	Felt that some Allocation Committee members were biased	1
	Have all interests (trawl and non-trawl) represented on Council; take no action until then	1
	Manage multi-species groups based on biological, not political, similarities	1
	Amend Magnuson Act	1
	Recreational anglers are not represented on the Council	1
	Fishery management plans disregard recreational interests	1
	Only people who are pro-closure are included in the decisionmaking process; others are purposely excluded	1
	United Anglers of Southern California does not represent all anglers (they are too accepting of closures)	1
	The Council is dominated by commercial interests	1
	Do not let the users manage the fishery (fox in charge of henhouse)	1
	Get the commercial fishermen out of your agency	1
26	RECREATIONAL FISHERIES (also see charterboats)	
	Limits	
26.1	Keep 10 rockfish limit	5
	Put more stringent restrictions on rec anglers (rather than closing completely)	3
	Allow take of 4 vermilion rockfish in addition to 10 rockfish bag limit	1
	Do implement rockfish minimum size limit (10 inches)	1
	Make clear to the public the tradeoff between open seasons and bag limits	1
	Prefer to fish year-round with 10-15 fish bag limit	1
	Reduce bag limit to 5 rockfish and 5 sculpin, but make year-round fishery	1
	Support bag limit of 3 lingcod, 22-24" minimum	1
	Why is there not an option to give rec fishers more fish?	1
26.2	Seasons	
	Do not implement (any) closures	3
	Leave 4-month closure on rockfish in place; no more	2
	Need 8-month charter season	2
	Close rockfishing 2 days per week instead of by months	1

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Theme	Topic	Number of Comments
	Create season that lets us stay in business	1
	Create year-round season	1
	Do not close rockfish take for six months (charter)	1
	California's 4-month closure protects rockfish	1
26.3	Recreational vs. Commercial Fisheries	
	Don't restrict recreational while allowing commercial to continue or increase	3
	Give preference to recreational fisheries (public resource, etc.)	2
	Close bottomfishing to commercial fishermen	1
	Don't give comm fishermen a free ride; make them pay (like a lease)	1
	There are enough fish out there for everyone; reallocation is a last resort	1
	End commercial fishing before restricting recreational fishing	1
26.4	Economic and Cultural Impacts	
	Recreational fishery has large economic impact	13
	There are nearly one million anglers in California	7
	Recreational fishery is important to families	1
	Recreational fishing is part of American heritage	1
	Council does not adequately assess the economic impacts of rec fishing	1
	Recreational fishing has larger economic impact than commercial fishing	1
26.5	Environmental Impacts	
	Commercial fisheries more damaging than recreational	11
	I/we kill very few fish (bocaccio and other fish)	2
	Consider impact of people fishing off rocks	1
	Anglers contribute to wellbeing of oceans	1
	People who fish from jetties have a very small impact (natural limits on numbers of anglers)	1
26.6	Other Comments	
	Recreational anglers' perceptions differ from people "who fish for profit alone"	7
	Give current regs a chance before closing recreational fisheries	3
	Anglers are angry; groundswell building	2
	Recreational anglers want to be part of the solution; they are on your side	2
	Consider recreational gear modifications, restrictions	1
	Recreational fishermen should have the right to fish in territorial waters	1
	Use computer-based rec licensing system in California	1
	Consider creating recreational limited entry program	1
	Recreational fishers are voters and taxpayers	1
	Teach anglers to use "catch and release"	1
27	SAFETY	
	Shallow depths pose danger to recreational fishermen	2
	10-fathom limit would create safety issues around Channel Islands	1
	Boats will need to add cable weight to set trawl gear at greater depths; danger of becoming topheavy	1
	Closures in rec fishing S. of Cape Mendocino increases possibility of collisions in smaller fishing area	1
	Do not ignore importance of weather for charter operators	1
	Fishermen are eliminating safety/maintenance measures & insurance	1
	It costs a lot just to maintain safety on a boat; cannot cut costs	1
	Shifting LE trawl outside 250 fm may create significant safety issues	1
	Trawlers off OR & WA will have to go about 40 miles to reach fishing grounds; they are slow and may be caught in bad weather	1
28	SCIENCE AND DATA	
28.1	Science and Data Are Faulty, or Not Enough (also see geography)	
	General criticisms of the science (faulty; need better; need better assessments; don't trust models; data wrong)	44
	Do not trust integrity of scientists	8
	Other sebastes species have been labeled "overfished" due to bad data	7
	The data do not support the decisions being made by the Council; will put people out of work	6
	Criticizes the use of "best available science"	3
	Data have been manipulated	1
	Council has been ignoring stock assessments	1
	Lack of landings is not the only (or best) way to measure population health	1

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Theme	Topic	Number of Comments
	Use of "uncertainty" words implies that data is poor	1
	Nobody has been to our port to document catches	1
28.2	Science and Data: Recreational Fishery (also see cooperative research)	
	MRFSS data is faulty; do not trust MRFSS data	4
	Use recreational data from Chad Woods's recreational fishing website	3
	Need better data on recreational fishery	2
	MRFSS data will suffer with less recreational fishing	1
28.3	Science and Data: General	
	Collect data throughout the year	1
	Conduct new darkblotched and/or whiting assessment before 2003 OYs are set	1
	Do life history assessments of lingcod & other rockfish so size limits can be set	1
	Have data reviewed by Congress	1
	Identify additional threats to fish populations	1
	Support more money for science	1
	Use geographically representative samples	1
	Use Saltonstall-Kennedy funds to develop selective fishing gear	1
28.4	Science and Data: Cooperative Research, Stakeholder Input	
	Use logbook, anecdotal, and other data, assistance from sport fishers, charterboats	15
	Listen to the fishermen (commercial and recreational)	6
	Use (or support) cooperative research methods	5
	Want to be involved in cooperative efforts or decisionmaking; willing to volunteer	5
	Work with the people I recommend (list of names)	1
	Have asked for people to come out, and nobody has	1
	Create collaborative research committee	1
28.5	Science and Data: Explain Better; Questions	
	Where did data come from?	3
	Are stock declines due to an ocean cycle?	1
	Do models consider that fishermen have switched target species?	1
	Do the models work?	1
	Fishing community needs to see raw data, understand methods, funding	1
	Questions about models	1
	Want to see data regarding commercial vs. sport impacts	1
29	SUPPLIERS	
	Marine suppliers and processors have made investments that are now obsolete due to regulatory changes	1
30	SUPPORT COUNCIL DECISIONS	
	Other thanks/appreciation for efforts, leadership, action	9
	General support for closures/depth-based management/recent actions	6
	Appreciate 3 lingcod bag limit	1
	Appreciate that bocaccio assessment is being redone	1
	Good move toward ecosystem-based management	1
	Support concept of California Rockfish Conservation Zone	1
	Thank you for having meeting in Southern California in 2003	1

CHAPTER 1

FIGURES

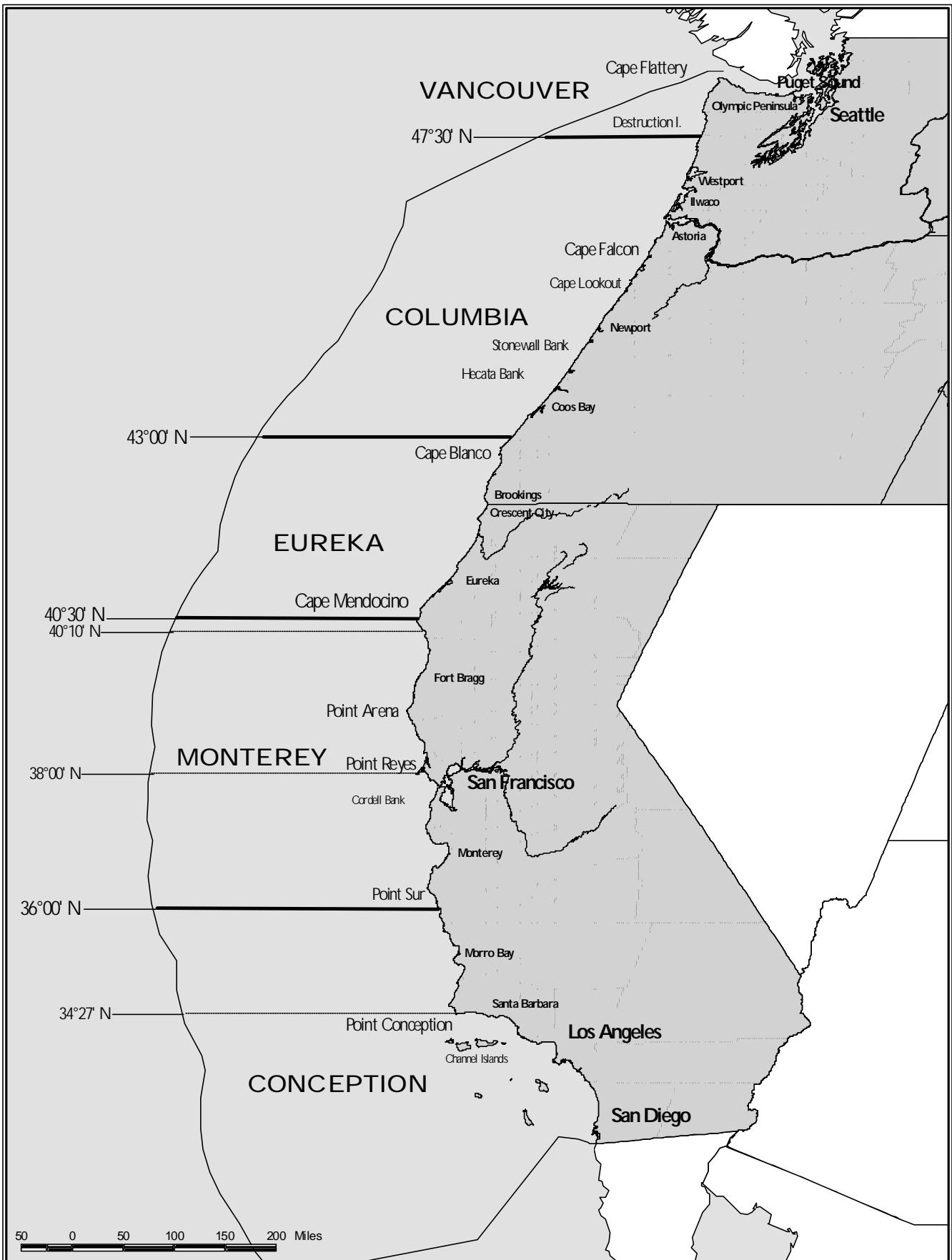


FIGURE 1.4-1. The Pacific Fishery Management Council management area (EEZ of the West Coast of the United States), INPFC management areas and West Coast ports.