

INPFC
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PROPOSAL FOR CHANGING INPFC CONCEPTION-MONTEREY BOUNDARY FROM  
35°30'N to 36°00'N

by

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Proposal for Changing INPFC Conception-Monterey  
Boundary from 35°30'N to 36°00'N

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In 1979, a change was recommended for the Conception-Monterey boundary from 35°30'N to 36°00'N. The rationale for the change was that the proposed new boundary separates two productive grounds, while the existing boundary divides the southern ground (Figure 1).

Trawlers account for most of the groundfish catch from the boundary area. Rockfish (Sebastes spp.) are the major species caught by trawlers that fish in depths of 80 to 365 m. The major fishing areas are located off Point Sur to Point Pinos and off Point Buchon to Cape San Martin. Groundfish catches are nil or minimal in the 20 miles between the two grounds (Figure 1).

Groundfish catch data by California Fish and Game blocks (10' latitude by 10' longitude) for the 5-year period, 1973-1977, substantiate the existence of the two grounds. Blocks 532, 533, 534, and 540 comprise the Point Sur to Point Pinos ground, while blocks 561, 602, 603, 608, 609, 615, and 616 comprise the Point Buchon to Cape San Martin ground.

The average 5-year groundfish catch for the Point Sur to Point Pinos ground was 1,183 mt. From the ground off Point Buchon to Cape San Martin, the 5-year average groundfish catch was 724 mt. In the area between these two grounds, blocks 547, 548, 549, 554, and 555, the only block where groundfish catches originated in the 1973-1977 period was block 554 where the 5-year average catch was only 0.1 mt (Table 1, Figure 1).

The present INPFC boundary at 35°30'N place blocks 561, 602, and 603 in the Monterey area and blocks 608, 609, 615, and 616 in the Conception area thereby dividing the Pt. Buchon to Cape San Martin ground. A boundary change to 36°00'N would separate the two grounds (Figure 1).

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is developing a groundfish management plan with INPFC areas as management areas. The separation of the above fishing grounds by shifting the INPFC boundary to 36°00'N would facilitate management by area.

This boundary change was considered and approved by the Technical Subcommittee of the International Groundfish Committee <sup>1/</sup> at its 20th annual meeting in Parksville, B.C., Canada. Also approved at this meeting was the change of the Pacific Marine Fishery Commission 1A-1B boundary from 35°40'N to 36°00'N.

1/ Appointed by The Second Conference on Coordination of Fisheries Regulations between Canada and the United States.

Table 1. Five Year (1973-1977) Average Groundfish Catch by Trawlers in the INPFC Conception-Monterey Boundary Area.

<u>Fish and Game Block</u>	<u>Trawler Catch metric tons</u>	
	Rockfish	Total
532	370	574
533	195	257
534	18	133
540	145	219
554	0.1	0.1
561	106	161
602	162	228
603	100	128
608	80	113
609	5	10
615	43	69
616	10	15

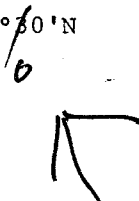


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