

THE PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

BYCATCH MITIGATION PROGRAM FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PLATE 80.

PREPARED BY

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IN COOPERATION WITH THE

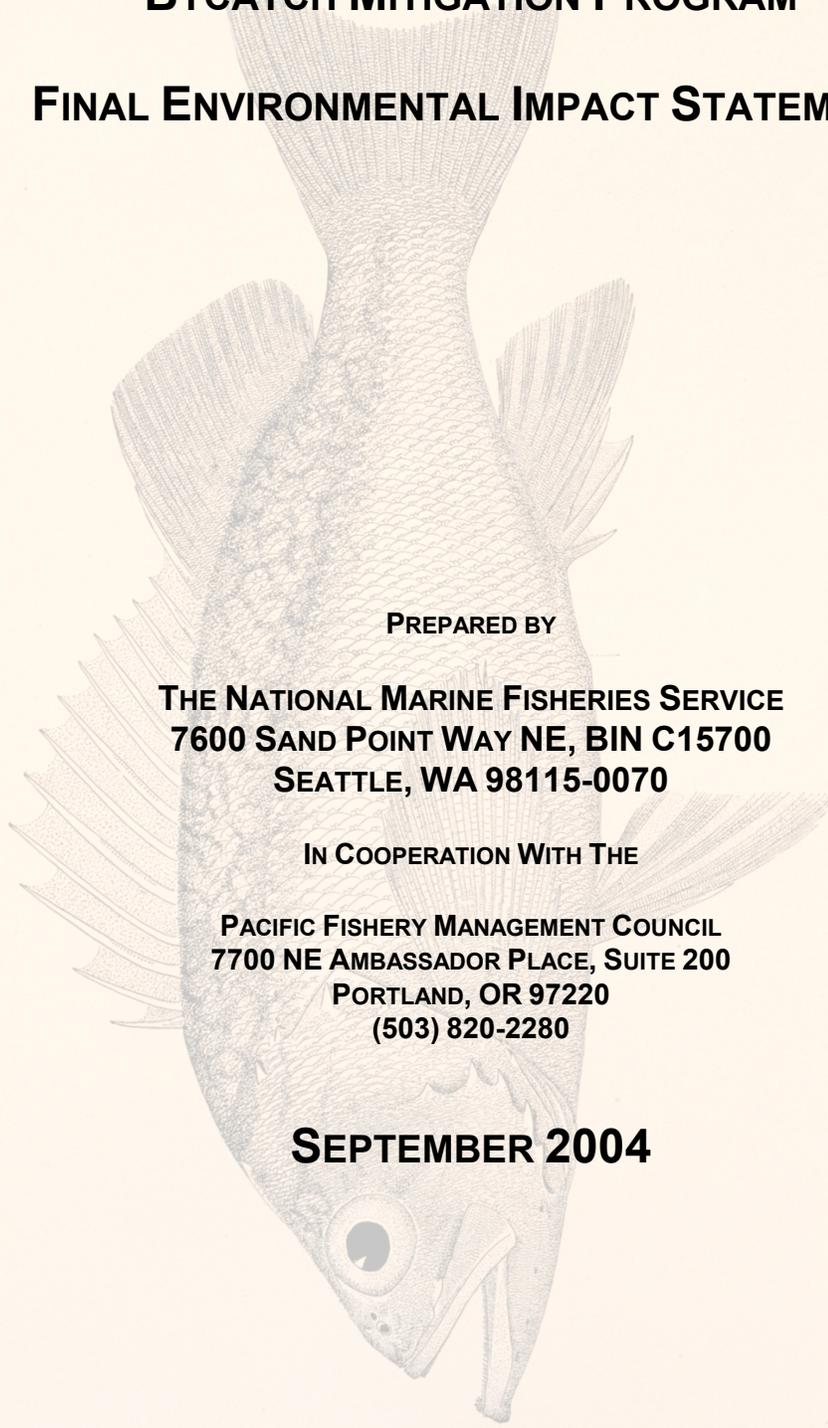
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THE ORANGE ROCKFISH.

Sebastichthys pinniger (Gill.), Lock. (p. 265.)

Drawing by H. L. Todd, from No. 27488, U. S. National Museum, collected at Nehalem Bay, Washington Territory, December, 1880, by James G. Swan.



COVER SHEET

PLATE 80.

Pacific Coast Groundfish Bycatch Management
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Proposed Action: The Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service propose to establish the policies and program direction to minimize bycatch in the West Coast groundfish fisheries to the extent practicable, minimize the mortality of unavoidable bycatch, and ensure that bycatch is reported and monitored as required by law.

Type of Statement: Final Environmental Impact Statement

Lead agency: NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service)

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Abstract: The 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act requires that every federal fishery management plan (FMP) must be consistent with National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). National Standard 9 requires that "Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch." Section 303(a)(11) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires each FMP to "establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery."

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is responsible for developing FMPs that are consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. The Council's Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP includes goals, objectives, and management measures addressing bycatch. This EIS analyzes the Council's objectives for its bycatch mitigation program and evaluates alternative programs to achieve those objectives. Various bycatch mitigation tools are evaluated for effectiveness in reducing unwanted catches of marine species, potential for mitigating other effects on the marine environment, social and economic effects, administrative costs, and other potential impacts. Some alternatives would require more comprehensive future scientific observations of catch and bycatch.

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Sebastes pinniger (Gill.), Lock. (p. 265.)

Museum, collected at Neah Bay, Washington Territory, December, 1880, by James G. Swan.

L. Todd.