

**THE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON
CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS**

The GMT reviewed several inseason management issues and have identified the following issues for consideration by the Council.

RECREATIONAL

Washington

At its January meeting, the GMT heard proposed Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) changes for the Washington recreational fishery. The recommended changes, which are based on the 2006 harvest estimates for the Washington recreational fishery would modify the RCAs adopted for 2007 and 2008 so they are the same RCAs as those that were in effect in 2006. During the biennial specifications process, WDFW staff used harvest data through 2005 to project the amount of canary and yelloweye rockfish that would be harvested in the Washington recreational fishery and identified additional restrictions that could be in place, if needed. However, with the depth restrictions that were in place during 2006, the Washington recreational fishery stayed under its harvest targets, harvesting 1.28 mt of canary and 1.70 mt of yelloweye rockfish, and therefore the GMT supports this change.

California

The GMT received a report from CDFG regarding groundfish estimates from the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS), which detailed problems in the CRFS estimation process. The report described the changes that CDFG and Pacific States Marine Fishery Commission (PSMFC) are working to address and provided a timeline for completing revised estimates for 2004-2006. The GMT discussed the scope of the planned changes and proposed deadlines. When changes are completed, final 2006 catch and total mortality estimates will be produced by CDFG. CDFG will input the catch estimates into the recreational catch projection model to re-estimate projected 2007 catches for key species of interest and rebuilding species, based on the current season structure. The revised estimates will be provided to the GMT and reviewed at the June Council meeting.

COMMERCIAL

Limited Entry Trawl North of 40°10' N lat.

Non-whiting Trawl Fishery

Canary Rockfish Bycatch

Based on information from the most recent release of observer data, the encounter rate for canary rockfish is several times higher than originally predicted. Using the bycatch rates developed from observations during the 2005 through April 2006 time period, the estimated catch of canary rockfish in the 2007 non-whiting trawl fishery is 20 mt under status quo management measures, which results in projected total catches for all fisheries that, in combination, would exceed the canary rockfish optimum yield. The GMT discussed tools that are available to the Council through a regular inseason action and these include adjustments to cumulative limits, adjustments to RCA boundaries, and the use of commonly used geographic coordinates.

Staff at the Northwest Fishery Science Center compiled area-specific bycatch rates in the context of tools that are available for routine inseason management. These area specific analyses allow for more refined options to reduce canary rockfish impacts instead of more dramatic and sweeping area closures. Several areas of the coast were identified with distinctly different bycatch rates north of 40°10' N lat. This information is shown as Table 4 under Agenda item E.2.b Attachment 2. That information shows that the three areas with the highest canary bycatch rates are: a) that area shoreward of the trawl RCA north of Cape Alava; b) that area shoreward of the trawl RCA between Leadbetter Point and the OR/WA border; and c) that area shoreward of the trawl RCA between Cape Arago and Humbug Mountain.

The GMT considered several different approaches for reducing canary rockfish impacts in the trawl fishery north of 40°10' N lat. that would help minimize the economic impact to trawl fishers and communities given the constraints of managing within overfished species OY levels and the need to reduce canary rockfish catch levels. Some of the approaches considered:

- 1) Moving the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA to 75 fm north of 40°10' N lat. for the entire year
- 2) Reducing cumulative limits with selective flatfish trawl gear and moving the shoreward boundary of the RCA to 75 fm
- 3) Closing the shoreward area between Cape Arago and Humbug Mountain, closing the shoreward area north of Cape Alava, moving the shoreward RCA to 75 fm in other areas north of 40°10' N lat. and reducing cumulative limits
- 4) The options outlined in #3, except that the area shoreward of the trawl RCA between the OR/WA border and Leadbetter Point is closed to the shore
- 5) Providing for more liberal RCA boundaries and cumulative limits in areas seaward of the trawl RCA in order to encourage effort to move offshore
- 6) Various combinations of more restrictive RCA boundaries in the three identified areas along with changes in cumulative limits

Based on these analyses, options that keep the shoreward areas open north of Cape Alava and between Cape Arago and Humbug Mountain require reductions in cumulative limits that make trawling with selective flatfish gear not economically worthwhile for many participants in the non-whiting trawl fishery. Opportunities exist that leave the Leadbetter Point to OR/WA border area open to fishing depending on the cumulative limits and the amount of effort that is predicted to shift offshore.

In an attempt to shift fishing effort offshore, the GMT considered fishing opportunities in the area seaward of the RCA. Seaward fishing opportunities are primarily constrained by darkblotched rockfish and, to a lesser extent, Pacific Ocean perch. Data from the NMFS trawl survey, logbook data, and anecdotal information from the trawl industry shows that species in general are scattered at shallower depths in the north and move to deeper depths as one moves down the coast toward Cape Mendocino. This is true for target species and for darkblotched rockfish. For example, a 200 fm seaward boundary in areas north of 40°10' N lat. during the summer months would provide for fishing opportunity in the seaward areas for vessels fishing off southern Oregon and northern California, but a 200 fm seaward boundary during the summer months would exclude the availability of target species off northern Oregon and Washington in areas seaward of the RCA. The GMT considered RCA boundaries that would take into account this trend in species abundance in order to provide access to target species in the seaward area. In addition, the GMT considered increases in cumulative limits for DTS species and for lingcod in areas seaward of the trawl RCA.

The GAP requested that the GMT explore liberalizing the seaward RCA boundary north of 40°10' N lat. to induce vessels off northern Oregon and Washington to fish in areas seaward of the trawl RCA. In response, the GMT analyzed breaking the seaward boundary of the trawl RCA at the OR/WA border and, alternatively, breaking the seaward RCA boundary at Cascade Head. To the north of the specified latitudinal break the seaward boundary would be set at 150 fm, and to the south of the specified latitude the seaward boundary would be set at 200 fm. Based on a review of RCA coordinates, logbook data, survey data, and feedback from the GAP, a break in the seaward boundary of the RCA at Cascade head would provide for a greater incentive to fish seaward of the RCA while providing protection for darkblotched rockfish.

In addition to providing incentives for vessels to fish seaward of the trawl RCA, the GMT considered the varying regional target strategies that fishermen exhibit along the coast and how these target strategies can be taken into account to minimize economic impacts and keep canary impacts at acceptable levels. Several vessels tend to target other flatfish off of Oregon, while other vessels tend to target arrowtooth off Washington. Combining these two cumulative limit categories into a single cumulative limit (i.e., creating one cumulative limit that combines other flatfish and arrowtooth) was considered in order to reduce overall target species catch in areas where constraining overfished species are found (and thus reduce overfished species impacts), but to continue providing for those regional target strategies. This approach allows for greater opportunities for those particular target strategies, but the total catch – and overfished species impacts – is

estimated to be less than if separate limits were specified for both cumulative limit categories.

The area between Leadbetter Point and the OR/WA border has a canary bycatch rate that is relatively higher than other areas north of 40°10' N lat., but during the winter months that bycatch rate is substantially reduced. Keeping that area open during the winter months is expected to provide an aggregate coastwide bycatch rate that is less than if that area is closed. The GMT explored options that provide for fishing opportunity in this area while keeping canary rockfish bycatch at acceptable levels in addition to other factors.

One additional factor in particular is the interaction with soft-shelled crab that occurs when the trawl fleet moves to areas closer to shore. Based on a review of RCA boundaries, the shoreward 60 fm RCA boundary in this area is further off-shore compared to other areas along the coast, and therefore, the GMT believes that the interactions between crab fishers and trawlers would be minimal if a 60 fm boundary is put in place. However, the GMT acknowledges the potential impacts to crab in this area, especially in the summer months. Based on these considerations, the GMT analyzed the effect of a 60 fm RCA boundary in the area between Leadbetter Point and the OR/WA border during the summer months to determine if this opportunity could be provided. While keeping this area open to fishing during the summer months results in higher canary impacts than if this area is closed, those impacts are predicted to be within acceptable levels.

Petrale Sole Catches

Petrale sole catches through the end of February are estimated to be between 850-900 mt, compared to an original projection of approximately 500 mt. To maintain a year round petrale sole target opportunity, the GMT considered reductions in cumulative limits. Trawl industry representatives indicated that petrale sole limits less than 20,000 lbs per two months is not economically sustainable. However, in order to slow the catch of petrale sufficiently to stay within the OY and reduce canary impacts, trip limit reductions were necessary (Table 1). The GMT recommends reducing the petrale sole limits in the north from 25,000 to 20,000 lbs per two months from period 3 through 6 and reducing the period 6 limit in the north from 50,000 to 30,000 lbs per two months. The GMT also recommends reducing the trip limits in the south from 30,000 to 25,000 lbs per two months in period 3 through 5. The canary savings from this action were taken into account in the overall analysis for inseason.

GMT Inseason Proposal

Based on the above considerations, the GMT is proposing one combined option for inseason adjustments to the non-whiting trawl fishery. This option creates an RCA configuration based on more refined area management that is substantially more complex than status quo. Adjustments to cumulative limits were also included to reduce canary and petrale sole impacts while providing increased opportunity in the seaward area. Proposed inseason adjustment measures that reduce canary rockfish impacts include;

- Closing the shoreward area north of Cape Alava;
- Closing the shoreward area between Cape Arago and Humbug Mountain;

- Restricting the shoreward area between Leadbetter Point and the OR/WA border to 60 fm from April 1 through period 5;
- Reducing cumulative limits for selective flatfish trawl gear in the north for sablefish, dover sole, petrale sole, and combining arrowtooth and other flatfish into one group and setting that limit at 70,000 lbs.;
- Establishing a 150 fm RCA seaward boundary north of Cascade Head beginning April 1 through period 4 and setting a 200 fm seaward RCA boundary from Cascade Head to 40°10' N lat.; and
- Increasing opportunities for lingcod and shortspine thornyhead in areas seaward of the trawl RCA in the north.

To control the catch of darkblotched rockfish, slope rockfish limits are reduced in the north to 1,500 lbs per two months beginning in period 3 through 6.

Figure 1 shows the proposed RCA configurations, select latitudinal areas, and the states of Washington and Oregon. Table 3, which was taken from the NWFSC report, details bycatch and target species catch by area, depth, and season.

Table 1 Proposed Adjustments to RCA Boundaries and Cumulative Limits

SUBAREA	PERIOD	RCA BOUNDARIES		CUMULATIVE LIMITS						
		INLINE	OUTLINE	SABLEFISH	LONGSPN	SHORSPN	DOVER	OTR FLAT & ARROW	PETRALE	SLOPE RK
North Large and Small Footrope	1	75	250*	13,000	22,000	7,500	80,000	210,000	50,000	4,000
	2			13,000	22,000	7,500	80,000	210,000	30,000	4,000
	3	see RCA config below		15,000	22,000	10,000	60,000	110,000	20,000	1,500
	4			15,000	22,000	10,000	60,000	110,000	20,000	1,500
	5		200	15,000	22,000	10,000	60,000	110,000	20,000	1,500
	6		200*	13,000	22,000	10,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	1,500
North SFFT Limits	1	75	250*	5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	180,000	16,000	4,000
	2			8,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	180,000	25,000	4,000
	3	see RCA config below		5,000	3,000	3,000	38,000	70,000	20,000	1,500
	4			5,000	3,000	3,000	38,000	70,000	20,000	1,500
	5		200	5,000	3,000	3,000	38,000	70,000	15,000	1,500
	6		200*	5,000	3,000	3,000	25,000	30,000	8,000	1,500
38 - 40 10	1	100	200*	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	120,000	50,000	15,000
	2	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	120,000	30,000	15,000
	3	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	110,000	25,000	15,000
	4	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	110,000	25,000	10,000
	5	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	110,000	25,000	10,000
	6	100	200*	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	110,000	50,000	15,000
S 38	1	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	120,000	50,000	40,000
	2	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	120,000	30,000	40,000
	3	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	110,000	25,000	40,000
	4	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	110,000	25,000	40,000
	5	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	110,000	25,000	40,000
	6	100	150	14,000	22,000	7,500	70,000	110,000	50,000	40,000

note: Splitnose limits are equivalent to slope rock limits in the south

Lingcod limits increase in this proposal to 4,000 lbs per 2 months for large footrope in the north and to 4,000 lbs in the south.

Other Flatfish and Arrowtooth limits are separate in periods 1 and 2. The cumulative limits shown in these periods represents the sum of the two limits

Table 2 Proposed RCA Configuration North of 40°10' N lat.

NORTH OF 40 10 RCA CONFIGURATION

RCA	AREA	MONTH						
		JAN/FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY/JUNE	JULY/AUG	SEPT/OCT	NOV/DEC
SEAWARD BOUNDARY	N OF CASCADE HD	250*	250	150	150	150	200	200*
	S OF CASCADE HD			200	200	200		
SHOREWARD BOUNDARY	NORTH OF CP ALAVA	75	75	SHORE	SHORE	SHORE	SHORE	SHORE
	LEADBETTER POINT TO OR/WA BORDER	75	75	60	60	60	60	75
	CP ARAGO TO HUMBUG MT	75	75	SHORE	SHORE	SHORE	SHORE	SHORE
	ALL OTHER AREAS	75	75	75	75	75	75	75

note: a 250* or 200* indicates a 250 or 200 RCA line with petrale areas

Table 3.--Sub-area summary of canary rockfish bycatch observed by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program from January 2005 through April 2006 on trawl vessels fishing shoreward of the RCA and north of 40°10' N. Latitude, with associated 2005 logbook totals for hauls and retained target tonnage.

	All hauls less than 75 fm						All hauls less than 100 fm					
	Observer data				Logbook data		Observer data				Logbook data	
	# of hauls in stratum	Target species ¹ retained mts	Total canary catch lbs	Canary lb per 100 lb of retained target sp. ¹	# of hauls in stratum	Target species ¹ retained mts	# of hauls in stratum	Target species ¹ retained mts	Total canary catch lbs	Canary lb per 100 lb of retained target sp. ¹	# of hauls in stratum	Target species ¹ retained mts
Northern s Season ²												
N. of Cape Alava												
Winter	86	39	852	1.003	203	119	117	66	1,421	0.971	272	199
Summer	93	86	1,786	0.939	592	543	262	302	6,090	0.916	1,204	1,264
Cape Alava - Queets River												
Winter	15	5	59	0.525	7	2	34	30	458	0.697	58	53
Summer	136	155	925	0.270	560	714	212	237	2,198	0.420	797	1,019
Queets River - Leadbetter Point												
Winter	93	43	89	0.095	263	143	95	45	89	0.090	273	153
Summer	295	218	499	0.104	970	660	306	231	612	0.120	1,020	700
Leadbetter Point - WA/OR border												
Winter	52	20	15	0.033	83	39	61	25	19	0.035	121	73
Summer	91	95	1,521	0.722	608	423	111	123	1,597	0.588	818	562
WA/OR border - Cape Lookout												
Winter	31	8	5	0.029	28	10	31	8	5	0.029	28	10
Summer	249	161	505	0.143	1,325	861	294	208	610	0.133	1,624	1,146
Cape Lookout - Cape Arago												
Winter	13	4	10	0.111	28	25	67	31	85	0.125	81	62
Summer	90	48	61	0.058	435	300	195	140	582	0.188	911	780
Cape Arago - Humbug Mountain												
Summer	15	6	1,083	8.178	143	97	45	30	1,579	2.375	223	175
Humbug Mountain - 40°10' N. Lat.												
Summer	68	58	138	0.108	607	454	83	81	410	0.230	721	613
All North c												
Winter	290	119	1,030	0.394	612	340	405	205	2,077	0.460	833	549
Summer	1,037	828	6,519	0.357	5,240	4,052	1,508	1,353	13,678	0.459	7,318	6,259
Total	1,327	946	7,549	0.362	5,852	4,392	1,913	1,558	15,755	0.459	8,151	6,808

¹ Target species include retained amounts of all flatfish, sablefish, thornyheads, Pacific cod, skates, and spiny dogfish.

² Winter season includes bi-monthly periods 1, 2, 6 (January-April; November-December); the Summer season includes bi-monthly periods 3, 4, 5 (May-October).

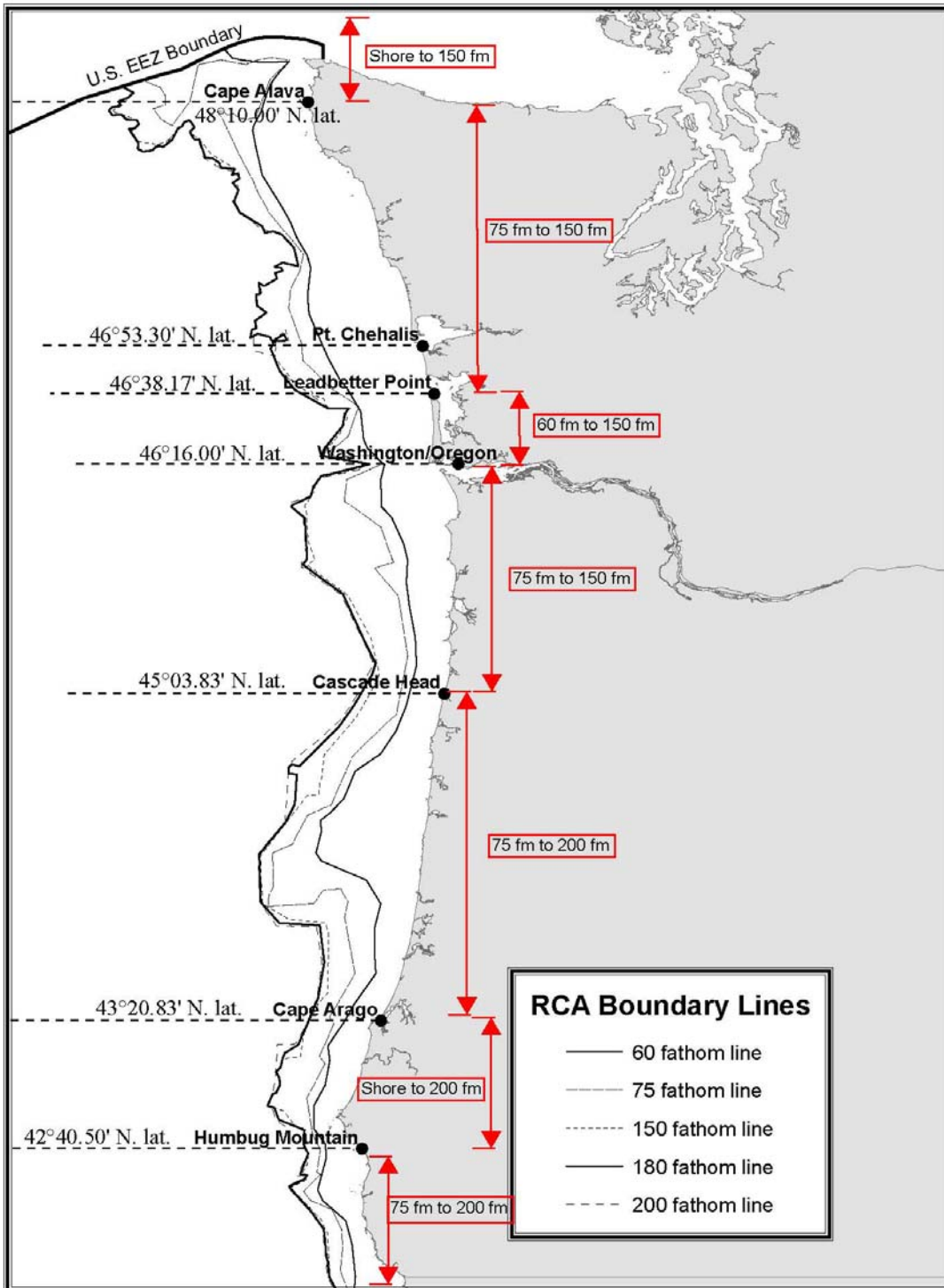


Figure 1 GMT Proposed Limited Entry Trawl RCA Configurations North of 40°10.00' N lat.
 Note: Proposed RCA boundary for April-August.

Area Management Implications For Inseason Management

Area management options available to the Council in the current “toolbox,” consist of the current broad RCAs which approximate various isobaths along the coast. Fisheries closures conforming to RCA boundaries by default assume homogeneous distribution of fish, fisheries and bycatch rates within the closed area. Many species, most importantly overfished rockfish species, have much more patchy distributions. In the past, the GMT has noted that as additional information is assembled from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program, fishery logbooks and resource surveys, we might better identify fishing areas that avoid concentrations of overfished species and be able to focus fishing effort on target species having associated bycatch rates of overfished species lower than those currently assumed. Additionally, VMS tracking makes more discrete fishing closures more practical than in the past.

The inseason RCA closures of canary bycatch “hotspots” currently being considered result in differential impacts on geographically localized segments of the fishing fleet. To the extent that bycatch “coldspots” within these closed areas could be identified, these differential fleet impacts might be mitigated, while maintaining protective measures for overfished species. The GMT recommends that an effort be made to develop information to support more refined area management approaches, and notes that the area-based management work proposed as part of the TIQ process could prove valuable in moving this effort forward.

Pacific Whiting

Under agenda item E.3. the Council adopted a whiting OY, but deferred discussion of bycatch limit management to this agenda item. The projected bycatch of overfished species associated with the 2007 OY recommended by the Council is shown in the table below.

The fleetwide bycatch limits specified in Federal Regulation for the 2007 whiting fishery are: 4.7 mt for canary rockfish, 25 mt for darkblotched rockfish, and 200 mt for widow rockfish. The projected bycatch of darkblotched rockfish is well below the current bycatch limit of 25 mt. However, the GMT recommends maintaining the 25 mt limit to encourage the fleet to fish in deeper areas where they can avoid canary and widow rockfish. The GMT reminds the Council that this bycatch limit is not intended to constrain the fishery, but rather to provide a safeguard. With the 2007 OY, the catch of widow rockfish is projected to exceed the current bycatch limit of 200 mt. The GMT supports increasing the widow rockfish limit from 200 mt to 220 mt to accommodate interactions that may occur with an increasing widow rockfish biomass.

U.S. whiting OY (mt)	Commercial OY (mt)	Commercial Sector	Allocation (mt)	Projected catch (mt)			
				Canary	Darkblotched	POP	Widow
242,591	208,091	Mothership	49,942	2.3	4.4	1.0	86
		Catcher	70,751	0.2	5.6	1.5	86
		Processor	87,398	1.4	2.4	0.3	45.6
	(242,591 mt minus 2,000 mt for research and other fishery catch, minus 32,500 mt for the tribal allocation)	Shoreside					
		Total	208,091	3.9	12.4	2.9	217.6

In 2006, there was a large increase (more than 200 times the 2005 amount) in landings in the shore-based whiting fishery by non-EFP vessels using mid-water trawl gear. Some of the non-EFP landings in 2006 were headed and gutted at-sea. The GMT discussed the increased landings and the possibility of additional vessels fishing outside the EFP in 2007. This is particularly a concern because EFP participants will be required to pay for electronic monitoring systems (EMS) beginning in 2007. EMS was previously paid for by the Northwest Fishery Science Center while it was in an experimental phase. This provides an economic incentive to join the non-EFP fishery instead of the EFP fishery. The ability to manage the whiting fishery with bycatch limits for canary, widow and darkblotched rockfish could become difficult if more whiting is landed by non-EFP vessels. This is because catch data from non-EFP vessels, including discarded catch data for bycatch limits species, would not be available for inseason bycatch limit management in the whiting fishery, even if a vessel had West Coast Groundfish Observer Program coverage. The GMT discussed the bycatch concerns and thought that non-EFP vessels should be restricted from fishing in the RCAs, but was unable to find the regulatory structure to accomplish this prior to the start of the 2007 whiting fishery. However, the GMT believes that the Council could recommend that constraints to unmonitored fishing be considered within the Amendment 10 analysis.

There is currently a 20,000 lb/trip limit for whiting taken with large and small footrope trawl gear prior to the start of the primary season. During and after the primary season, a 10,000 lb/trip limit is in place for large and small footrope gear. The GMT reviewed PacFIN data and found that since the start of 2005, only one bottom trawl vessel landed whiting, with no cumulative 2-month landings above 4,000 lbs. The GMT received word that there may be some interest in utilizing the current suite of bottom trawl whiting limits to land a value-added whiting product. The GMT has not modeled the potential bycatch impacts into either our whiting, or non-whiting bycatch models. Since selective flatfish trawl cannot effectively target whiting the fishery, by default, would be prosecuted seaward of the RCA so that canary bycatch would likely be small. If the Council wishes to constrain the fishery to current levels, the GMT recommends a 4,000 lb/trip limit for large and small footrope throughout the year. If the Council chooses to retain the current trip limit structure that may provide for an expanded fishery, the GMT notes that the associated bycatch rates may not be known until participating

vessels are incorporated into the next annual complement of the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program.

Limited Entry Trawl South of 40°10' N lat.

Chilipepper Rockfish

The GMT received a request to consider increasing small footrope chilipepper rockfish limits in the areas shoreward and seaward of the RCAs. To reduce discards of chilipepper rockfish in the flatfish fisheries, chilipepper rockfish was removed from the overall 300 lb/month small footrope limit for minor shelf rockfish, and a 500 lb/month limit was established specifically for chilipepper at the beginning of 2007. The GMT recognizes that a small footrope chilipepper rockfish limit could be linked to a flatfish ratio to accommodate bycatch occurring in the flatfish fishery. The GMT would like to **delay consideration of this issue until April** so West Coast Observer Program data can be examined in an attempt to identify chilipepper rockfish/flatfish catch ratios and bycatch correlations and to explore the concern that potential targeting of chilipepper rockfish may occur with cumulative limits in excess of 1,000 lb/2months. If chilipepper targeting were to occur, there is a concern about accurately accounting for bocaccio bycatch rates.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear

Lingcod

The GMT received a request to increase lingcod limits in the nearshore and offshore areas both south and north of 40°10' N lat. The GMT has **postponed this issue until April** to determine if the nearshore bycatch model can be used to analyze canary and yelloweye rockfish bycatch concerns related to the targeting of lingcod.

The GMT also received a request to consider an increase lingcod limits specifically for pot vessels in nearshore area. Some pot gear fishers believe that their gear can be used to target lingcod with a much lower catch rate of rockfish than the other fixed gears. However, a provision to separate pot gear from other fixed gear was not considered in the 2007-2008 management cycle and was not analyzed in the EIS, therefore it is not a routine management measure and would require a two meeting process with an analysis and proposed and final rulemaking.

Minor Shelf Rockfish South of 40°10' N lat.

The GMT received a request to consider a limit that combines widow, chilipepper and bocaccio between the trawl and fixed gear sectors and the southern and central California regions (Agenda Item E.5.e, Public Comment 1). Bycatch concerns of shelf rockfish, particularly, canary rockfish, resulted in lower limits

for this area in 2007. The GMT has **postponed this issue until April** to allow more data to be available for further analysis.

Open Access

Lingcod

The GMT received a request to increase lingcod limits in the nearshore and offshore both south and north of 40°10' N lat. The GMT has **postponed this issue until April** to determine if the nearshore bycatch model can be used to analyze bycatch concerns related to the targeting of lingcod.

Minor Shelf Rockfish South of 34°27' N lat.

The GMT does not recommend approval of the inseason request contained in Agenda Item E.5.e, Supplemental Public Comment 2. This request is to allow retention of shelf rockfish south of 34°27' N lat. for the remainder of the March-April cumulative period. This 2-month shelf rockfish closure is in place to align with the two-month nearshore rockfish closure that has been in place since 2004 to prevent bycatch and discard of nearshore species while targeting shelf species. In 2006, trip limit tables erroneously included shelf rockfish trip limits for March and April, suggesting that the fishery had been opened. This error was corrected in subsequent trip limit tables, and the closure was reincorporated into 2007 and 2008 regulations as intended. As bycatch concerns still exist, the GMT recommends that the closure continue as scheduled.

All Gears

Bronzespotted rockfish South of 40°10' N lat.

At their January meeting, the GMT heard a presentation from SWFSC staff on a preliminary data review conducted on bronzespotted rockfish. The results of the review suggest that bronzespotted rockfish maybe at very low levels of abundance. Because bronzespotted rockfish have similar life histories and habitat preferences as cowcod, the CCAs have likely been providing defacto protection for the stock. The GMT believes that further consideration of needed action should be given to the issue under the 2009-2010 management measures.

Future Inseason Considerations

As evidenced by this report, the GMT continues to receive a variety of requests from the commercial and recreational fisheries for inseason changes to management measures. The GMT views the inseason process as the avenue to take corrective actions for management measures that were analyzed and adopted through the biennial specifications process. Management proposals brought forward that were not analyzed in the specification's EIS, require additional analyses and multi-meeting Council attention. The GMT will continue to work with the GAP to keep lines of communications open and facilitate the process.

GMT Recommendations

1. Adopt Washington recreational RCA changes.
2. Adopt RCA boundary changes and appropriated trip limits
 - Closing the shoreward area north of Cape Alava;
 - Closing the shoreward area between Cape Arago and Humbug Mountain;
 - Restricting the shoreward area between Leadbetter point and the OR/WA border to 60 fm from April 1 through period 5;
 - Reducing cumulative limits for selective flatfish trawl gear in the north for sablefish, dover sole, petrale sole, and combining arrowtooth and other flatfish into one group and setting that limit at 70,000 lbs.;
 - Establishing a 150 fm RCA seaward boundary north of Cascade Head beginning April 1 through period 4 and setting a 200 fm seaward RCA boundary from Cascade Head to 40°10' N lat.; and
 - Increasing opportunities for lingcod and shortspine thornyhead in areas seaward of the trawl RCA in the north.
 - To control the catch of darkblotched rockfish, slope rockfish limits are reduced in the north to 1,500 lbs per two months beginning in period 3 through 6.
3. Consider increasing lingcod trawl limits to 4,000 lb/ 2 month for large and small footrope trawl gear seaward of the RCA north of 40°10' N lat. and south of 40°10' N lat.
4. Consider modifications to the current whiting fishery bycatch limits for canary, darkblotched, and widow rockfish.
5. If the Council wishes to constrain the non-primary whiting fishery to current catch levels, the GMT recommends a 4,000 lb/trip limit for large and small footrope throughout the year. If the Council chooses to retain the current trip limit structure that may provide for an expanded fishery, the GMT notes that the associated bycatch rates may not be known until participating vessels are incorporated into the next annual complement of the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program.
6. Analyze regulations for unmonitored vessels that are targeting whiting with midwater trawl gear in the RCA during the primary season within the Amendment 10 analysis.

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart G -- 2007-2008 Trip Limits for Limited Entry Trawl Gear North of 40°10' N. Lat.

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read § 660.301 - § 660.399 before using this table

112006

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC	
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{6/}:							
North of 48°10.00' N. lat.	75 fm - modified 250 fm 7/	75 fm - 250 fm	shore - 150		shore - 200	shore - 200 7/	
48°10.00' N. lat. - 46°38.17' N. lat.			75 fm - 150 fm		75 fm - 200 fm	75 fm - 200 fm 7/	
46°38.17' N. lat. - 46°16.00' N. lat.			60 fm -150 fm		60 fm -200 fm	75 fm - 200 fm 7/	
46°16.00' N. lat. - 45°03.83' N. lat.			75 fm - 150 fm		75 fm - 200 fm	75 fm - 200 fm 7/	
45°03.82' N. lat. - 43°20.83' N. lat.			75 fm - 200 fm				75 fm - 200 fm 7/
43°20.83' N. lat. - 42°40.50' N. lat.			shore - 200fm				shore - 200 fm 7/
42°40.50' N. lat. -40°10.00' N. lat.			75 fm - 200 fm				75 fm - 200 fm 7/

Selective flatfish trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all trawl gear (large footrope, selective flatfish trawl, and small footrope trawl gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA. Midwater trawl gear is permitted only for vessels participating in the primary whiting season.

See § 660.370 and § 660.381 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.390-660.394 and §§ 660.396-660.399 for Conservation Area Descriptions and Coordinates (including RCAs, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).

State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.

1	Minor slope rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	4,000 lb/ 2 months		1,500 lb/ 2 months		
2	Pacific ocean perch	3,000 lb/ 2 months				
3	DTS complex					
4	Sablefish					
5	large & small footrope gear	13,000 lb/ 2 months		15,000 lb/ 2 months		13,000 lb/ 2 months
6	selective flatfish trawl gear	5,000 lb/ 2 months	8,000 lb/ 2 months	5,000 lb/ 2 months		
7	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	5,000 lb/ 2 months	8,000 lb/ 2 months	5,000 lb/ 2 months		
8	Longspine thornyhead					
9	large & small footrope gear	22,000 lb/ 2 months				
10	selective flatfish trawl gear	3,000 lb/ 2 months				
11	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	3,000 lb/ 2 months				
12	Shortspine thornyhead					
13	large & small footrope gear	7,500 lb/ 2 months		10,000 lb/ 2 months		
14	selective flatfish trawl gear	3,000 lb/ 2 months				
15	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	3,000 lb/ 2 months				
16	Dover sole					
17	large & small footrope gear	80,000 lb/ 2 months		60,000 lb/ 2 months		80,000 lb/ 2 months
18	selective flatfish trawl gear	40,000 lb/ 2 months		38,000 lb/ 2 months		25,000 lb/ 2 months
19	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	40,000 lb/ 2 months		38,000 lb/ 2 months		25,000 lb/ 2 months
20	Whiting					
21	midwater trawl	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.				
22	large & small footrope gear	Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip. -		4,000 lb/trip		
23	Flatfish (except Dover sole)					
24	Arrowtooth flounder					
25	large & small footrope gear	100,000 lb/ 2 months		Arrowtooth included within other flatfish limits		
26	selective flatfish trawl gear	90,000 lb/ 2 months				
27	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	90,000 lb/ 2 months				

TABLE 3 (North)

Table 3 (North). Continued

28	Flatfish (except Dover sole) (con't)				
29	Other flatfish ^{3/} , English sole, starry flounder, & Petrale sole				
30	large & small footrope gear for Other flatfish ^{3/} , English sole, & starry flounder	110,000 lb/ 2 months	110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 30,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	110,000 lb/ 2 months (including arrowtooth), no more than 20,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	
31	large & small footrope gear for Petrale sole	50,000 lb/ 2 months		30,000 lb/ 2 months	
32	selective flatfish trawl gear for Other flatfish ^{3/} , English sole, & starry flounder	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 16,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 25,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	70,000 lb/ 2 months (including arrowtooth), no more than 20,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	30,000 lb/ 2 months (including arrowtooth), no more than 8,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.
33	selective flatfish trawl gear for Petrale sole				
34	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 16,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 25,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	70,000 lb/ 2 months (including arrowtooth), no more than 20,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	30,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 8,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.
35	Minor shelf rockfish ^{1/} , Shortbelly, Widow & Yelloweye rockfish				
36	midwater trawl for Widow rockfish	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During primary whiting season: In trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting, combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip, cumulative widow limit of 1,500 lb/ month. Mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for primary whiting season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.			
37	large & small footrope gear	300 lb/ 2 months			
38	selective flatfish trawl gear	300 lb/ month	1,000 lb/ month, no more than 200 lb/ month of which may be yelloweye rockfish	300 lb/ month	
39	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	300 lb/ month	300 lb/ 2 months, no more than 200 lb/ month of which may be yelloweye rockfish	300 lb/ month	
40	Canary rockfish				
41	large & small footrope gear	CLOSED			
42	selective flatfish trawl gear	100 lb/ month	300 lb/ month	100 lb/ month	
43	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	CLOSED			
44	Yellowtail				
45	midwater trawl	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During primary whiting season: In trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting: combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip, cumulative yellowtail limit of 2,000 lb/ month. Mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for primary whiting season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.			
46	large & small footrope gear	300 lb/ 2 months			
47	selective flatfish trawl gear	2,000 lb/ 2 months			
48	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	300 lb/ 2 months			
49	Minor nearshore rockfish & Black rockfish				
50	large & small footrope gear	CLOSED			
51	selective flatfish trawl gear	300 lb/ month			
52	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	CLOSED			
53	Lingcod ^{4/}				
54	large & small footrope gear	4,000 lb/ 2 months			
55	selective flatfish trawl gear	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
56	multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/}	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
57	Pacific cod	30,000 lb/ 2 months	70,000 lb/ 2 months	30,000 lb/ 2 months	
58	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months	
59	Other Fish ^{5/}	Not limited			

TABLE 3 (North) con't

1/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish.
 2/ Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.
 3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.302 and include butter sole, curffin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.
 4/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.
 5/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.302 and include sharks, skates, rattfish, morids, grenadiers, and kelp greenling. Cabezon is included in the trip limits for "other fish."
 6/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat/long coordinates set out at § 660.390.
 7/ The "modified 250 fm" line is modified to exclude certain petrale sole areas from the RCA.
 8/ If a vessel has both selective flatfish gear and large or small footrope gear on board during a cumulative limit period (either simultaneously or successively), the most restrictive cumulative limit for any gear on board during the cumulative limit period applies for the entire cumulative limit period.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart G -- 2007-2008 Trip Limits for Limited Entry Trawl Gear South of 40°10' N. Lat.

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read § 660.301 - § 660.399 before using this table

112006

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) ^{6/}:						
40°10' - 38° N. lat.	100 fm - modified 200 fm ^{7/}	100 fm - 150 fm			100 fm - modified 200 fm ^{7/}	
38° - 34°27' N. lat.	100 fm - 150 fm					
South of 34°27' N. lat.	100 fm - 150 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm around islands					
Selective flatfish trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all trawl gear (large footrope, selective flatfish trawl, and small footrope trawl gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA.						
See § 660.370 and § 660.381 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.390-660.394 and §§ 660.396-660.399 for Conservation Area Descriptions and Coordinates (including RCAs, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).						
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.						
1 Minor slope rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish						
2 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	15,000 lb/ 2 months		10,000 lb/ 2 months		15,000 lb/ 2 months	
3 South of 38° N. lat.	40,000 lb/ 2 months					
4 Splitnose						
5 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	15,000 lb/ 2 months		10,000 lb/ 2 months		15,000 lb/ 2 months	
6 South of 38° N. lat.	40,000 lb/ 2 months					
7 DTS complex						
8 Sablefish	14,000 lb/ 2 months					
9 Longspine thornyhead	22,000 lb/ 2 months					
10 Shortspine thornyhead	7,500 lb/ 2 months					
11 Dover sole	70,000 lb/ 2 months					
12 Flatfish (except Dover sole)						
13 Other flatfish ^{3/} , English sole, & starry flounder						
14 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	110,000 lb/ 2 months	Other flatfish, English sole, starry flounder & Petrale sole: 110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 30,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.	Other flatfish, English sole, starry flounder, arrowtooth flounder & Petrale sole: 110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 25,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.			110,000 lb/ 2 months (including arrowtooth)
15 South of 38° N. lat.						50,000 lb/ 2 months
16 Petrale sole	50,000 lb/ 2 months					50,000 lb/ 2 months
17 Arrowtooth flounder						
18 40°10' - 38° N. lat.	10,000 lb/ 2 months		Arrowtooth included within other flatfish limits			
19 South of 38° N. lat.						
20 Whiting						
21 midwater trawl	Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED. -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED.					
22 large & small footrope gear	Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip. -		4,000 lb/trip			

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South). Continued

23	Minor shelf rockfish^{1/}, Chilipepper, Shortbelly, Widow, & Yelloweye rockfish			
24	large footrope or midwater trawl for Minor shelf rockfish & Shortbelly	300 lb/ month		
25	large footrope or midwater trawl for Chilipepper	2,000 lb/ 2 months	12,000 lb/ 2 months	8,000 lb/ 2 months
26	large footrope or midwater trawl for Widow & Yelloweye	CLOSED		
27	small footrope trawl for Minor Shelf, Shortbelly, Widow & Yelloweye	300 lb/ month		
28	small footrope trawl for Chilipepper	500 lb/ month		
29	Bocaccio			
30	large footrope or midwater trawl	300 lb/ 2 months		
31	small footrope trawl	CLOSED		
32	Canary rockfish			
33	large footrope or midwater trawl	CLOSED		
34	small footrope trawl	100 lb/ month	300 lb/ month	100 lb/ month
35	Cowcod	CLOSED		
36	Minor nearshore rockfish & Black rockfish			
37	large footrope or midwater trawl	CLOSED		
38	small footrope trawl	300 lb/ month		
39	Lingcod^{4/}			
40	large footrope or midwater trawl	1,200 lb/ 2 months	4,000 lb/ 2 months (Seaward of the RCAs only)	
41	small footrope trawl			
42	Pacific cod	30,000 lb/ 2 months	70,000 lb/ 2 months	30,000 lb/ 2 months
43	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months
44	Other Fish^{5/} & Cabezon	Not limited		

TABLE 3 (South) con't

1/ Yellowtail is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish.

2/ POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.302 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

5/ Other fish are defined at § 660.302 and include sharks, skates, ratfish, morids, grenadiers, and kelp greenling.

6/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat/long coordinates set out at § 660.390.

7/ The "modified 200 fm" line is modified to exclude certain petrale sole areas from the RCA.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.