

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

In the inseason action adopted under Agenda Item E.7, the Council adopted an increase in the weekly trip limit for sablefish in the open access fixed gear fishery south of 36° N Lat. from 700 to 800 lbs per week, with no change in the daily (300 lbs) limit. However, the GMT recommendations were based on a set of assumptions regarding how rapidly such changes could be implemented into regulations. As a result of new information regarding the time necessary to implement both these and future in-season regulatory actions, the GMT recognized that there would be reduced flexibility to make trip limit changes that would facilitate attainment of the sablefish optimum yield (OY) later in the season. Consequently, the GMT re-evaluated this action. As current catches are tracking well below the OY, the GMT recommends increasing the current trip limits to 350 lbs per day or one landing of 1,050 lbs per week. The GMT will consider at the September meeting whether additional changes in these limits are appropriate, and there will be the opportunity to reduce these limits late in the season if effort shifts or higher than expected catches results.

GMT Recommendations

Adopt sablefish trip limits of 350 lbs per day, or one landing of 1,050 lbs per week, for the Open Access fixed gear fishery in the Conception Area (south of 36° N Lat).

PFMC
06/14/07