

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

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) considered the most recent information on the status of ongoing fisheries and provides the following considerations and recommendations for 2008.

RESEARCH CATCHES

Canary Rockfish

The GMT June scorecard listed a value of 5.5 mt for total research take of canary rockfish, with 5.2 mt of this tonnage coming from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) bottom trawl survey. The NWFSC provided the GMT with updated 2008 bottom trawl survey catch estimates of canary rockfish. At that time, the NWFSC had completed all surveying off of Washington's coast, and two areas of potentially high canary catch remain to be surveyed (southern Oregon and Cape Mendocino). The take of canary rockfish as of Tuesday, September 9, 2009, was 0.5 mt. NWFSC staff have indicated that the highest amount of canary catch in the areas remaining in the survey is 1 mt, with one smaller area where canary are often found that may be passed in the next couple of days. Based on the available information, the GMT attributed 2.0 mt to the NWFSC survey, bringing the total research catch estimate for canary rockfish to 2.3 mt, down from the original 5.5 mt assigned to research catch in the scorecard.

The scorecard, with the most up to date fishery projections through the end of 2008 projects that 4.1 mt of canary rockfish will remain unharvested if no inseason actions are taken. The GMT discussed a range of options available to the Council to utilize some portion of the remaining canary. The GMT notes that the available options depend on the date of implementation, and certain fishing opportunities may be restricted depending on when the inseason action becomes effective. If the inseason action is effective in early October, the following actions may benefit fishery participants:

- Liberalization of non-whiting trawl opportunities shoreward of the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) in the north
- Increase in the Pacific whiting canary bycatch limit

If inseason actions do not become effective until November 1, non-whiting trawl adjustments shoreward of the trawl RCA in the north will not benefit trawlers because the opportunities will largely be over for the year. An increase in the canary rockfish bycatch limit on November 1 may allow at-sea sectors the ability to prosecute whiting, but shoreside whiting opportunities may largely be over by November.

RECREATIONAL

The scorecard has been updated to reflect projected overfished species impacts for all states through the end of the year.

California

Data available through August 10th indicated that the harvest guideline (HG) of yelloweye rockfish was projected to be exceeded by the California recreational fishery under status quo management. Therefore, inseason action was taken on September 2, 2008 by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to close the recreational fishery in the area north of Point Arena to the Oregon/California border to stay within their yelloweye HG of 2.1 mt (Agenda Item I.1 CDFG Informational Report). With this inseason closure, the recreational fishery is projected to stay within their harvest guidelines for other overfished species. CDFG requested that the Council take conforming action to close federal waters in the North Central Management Area (North of Point Arena) and the North Management Area for recreational boat based fishing for rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, kelp greenling, and other associated state and Federal groundfish species. The GMT recommends taking conforming action to close the recreational fishery for groundfish in the area between the Oregon/California border and Point Arena.

Oregon

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) took inseason action on July 7, 2008 to restrict the recreational fishery, including a 20 fathom depth restriction and a 5 fish marine bag limit (rockfish, greenling, cabezon, etc.). Moving the fishery from inside 40 fm to inside 20 fm was intended to prevent the yelloweye HG of 3.3 mt from being exceeded. The daily bag limit reduction was intended to slow the catch of species with state limits. Concurrent action was not taken by the Council because this action occurred between Council meetings. Angler effort in the recreational fishery was lower in August than expected due to several factors, including weather and tuna availability. From March through July, 2008, bottom fish angler effort had increased 24 percent over 2007. In August, 2008, angler effort was 20 percent less than in 2007. To maximize recreational harvest opportunity, while staying within harvest guidelines, Oregon liberalized their regulations effective September 7, 2008. Liberalization of state regulations will not require a change in Federal regulations, because the September 7, 2008 changes essentially reverted back to what is currently in Federal regulations; therefore, no Council action is needed.

Washington

No changes are proposed for the recreational fisheries in Washington.

COMMERCIAL

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish DTL Fishery North of 36° N. lat.

The GMT received a request to increase the weekly and monthly limit in the limited entry fixed gear sablefish limits north of 36° N. lat. The Council adopted an increase in the daily limit in this fishery in June from 300 lbs per day to 500 lbs per day, which became effective August 1. Limited data exist to evaluate the effect of this daily limit increase, however available information indicates that catch in the limited entry daily trip limit (DTL) portion of the sablefish fishery is less than the allocation, and has been substantially less than the allocation in recent years.

Unfortunately quota species monitoring (QSM) system catch reports reflecting catches through recent weeks have been delayed. Because of this delay, the GMT has little recent information to distinguish the amount of DTL sablefish catch that is attributed to open access versus limited entry DTL vessels. However, data from previous months and previous years is applicable, especially in the limited entry sector where effort is restricted and does not widely fluctuate as fishing opportunities are adjusted. These past data indicate that the total number of limited entry

vessels participating in the DTL fishery in the past several years has ranged from 37 to 43 vessels north of the Conception area (36° N. lat.), while the catch of limited entry DTL sablefish has been more than 100 metric tons below the allocation (for example, in 2006 limited entry fixed gear DTL vessels landed 106 mt out of a 359 mt allocation).

Using this historic participation and catch information, the GMT evaluated a potential increase in the weekly and bimonthly limit for period 6. Assuming 43 vessels participate in the fishery and attain their bimonthly limit, the GMT estimated that the bimonthly limit could be raised from 5,000 lbs to 6,500 lbs in period 6 and catches would remain within the limited entry DTL allocation. While it is unlikely that each vessel will attain the 6,500 lb per two month limit, the GMT has little information with which to evaluate the effect of the recent increase in the daily limit in this fishery. **Therefore, the GMT recommends a 6,500 lb per two month limit** as it would increase opportunities in the fishery without jeopardizing exceedence of the allocation. The weekly limit, while less critical to the control of overall catch in the fishery, can influence effort in the fishery even though this portion of the fishery is limited. In order to align the weekly limit increase with the recent increase in the daily limit and remain consistent with the order of magnitude recommended increase in the bimonthly limit, **the GMT recommends that the weekly limit be raised from 1,000 lb per week to 1,500 lb per week.**

Sablefish South of 36° N. lat.

Recent catch projections for sablefish south of 36° N. lat. indicate that catch is tracking higher than anticipated, though little information is available with which to indicate the effect of recent open access catch limit reductions which went into effect on August 1. Industry has indicated that the thornyhead fishery is an economically important fishery and closure of the sablefish fishery could prevent access to thornyheads since some sablefish is taken incidentally with thornyheads.

The GMT identified sources of sablefish catch (Table 1) and the effect these catch sources may have on the potential for exceeding the optimum yield (OY) or coming in under the OY. The amount of catch that may occur in the open access portion of the fishery is somewhat uncertain, as is the amount of catch that trawl effort may encounter in the area. However, past information on the open access portion of the Conception area sablefish fishery and information from trawl participants in the Conception area indicate that the catch of sablefish in both of these sectors should be limited to an additional 15 to 20 mt through the end of the year. When combined with the amount of catch expected in the limited entry fixed gear sector, total catch in the area is not expected to exceed the OY (211 mt). The GMT will re-visit this issue in November if necessary.

Table 1. Estimated catch of sablefish in the Conception Area

	Marginal Catch	Cumulative Catch
Conception Area Sablefish OY	211	
Current Catch	147	147
Plus Remaining TNC	18	165
Plus Remaining LE FG Est	25	190
Plus Remaining OA and Trawl	15 to 20	205 to 210

Open Access

Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL) North of 36° N. lat.

The GMT received a request to increase the sablefish DTL limits north of 36° N. lat. The current trip limits are 300 lb / day, one landing per week of up to 700 lb, not to exceed 2,100 lb / 2 months.

As in the limited entry portion of the DTL fishery, there is little recent information with which to evaluate the amount of DTL sablefish catch that can be attributed to the open access or limited entry sectors. However, at the June meeting catch estimates indicated that sablefish catch in the open access sector was in line with projections through that time, meaning that no changes to fishing opportunity was justified. The GMT has been unable to track the total DTL catches over the summer because of the QSM delays. However, July, August, and September are the peak months in this fishery north of the Conception area and so there is little reason to believe that fishery has dropped off track since June. **Therefore, the GMT does not recommend increasing trip limits in this fishery at this time.**

Shelf Rockfish South of 34° 27' N. lat. (Point Conception)

The GMT received a request from industry to increase the shelf rockfish trip limits south of Point Conception (34° 27' N. lat.) from 750 lb/ 2 months to 1,000 lb/ 2 months due to lower than anticipated effort in this area. Landings of shelf rockfish are currently tracking approximately 25 percent lower than previous years. This decrease may be attributed to the requirement for VMS on open access vessels and higher fuel costs. Historically shelf rockfish trip limits have been set at a low level to decrease interactions with overfished species. The GMT examined a variety of information that could influence the impacts of increased trip limits, including observer data and the potential magnitude of effort shifts from the area north of Point Conception.

Observer data south of Point Conception indicate low overfished species bycatch, but these rates are based on a limited number of observations (less than 70). It is unclear whether encounter rates for bocaccio and widow would increase with increased effort. If the encounter rate remains constant, even if effort increases, then any increase in overfished species interactions as a result of increased opportunities would already be accounted for in the scorecard. A CDFG analysis indicates that the proposed change to trip limits may result in a 6.1 percent increase above originally projected catch of shelf rockfish. This small increase may result in little if any increase above projected overfished species impacts. The GMT notes that the scorecard is not fully prescribed for bocaccio or widow rockfish therefore any small increase in impacts could be accommodated.

The GMT also examined potential effort shifts from the north as a result of higher trip limits south of Point Conception. Input from industry indicates this amount of an increase in trip limits would not provide an economic impetus for an effort shift from the north.

Current data indicates shelf rockfish catches south of 34°27' N. lat. are well within the allowable OY. **Therefore, the GMT recommends that the open access shelf rockfish limit south of Point Conception be increased from 750 lbs / 2 months to 1,000 lbs / 2 months for period 6 only.**

TRAWL

Tribal Whiting Trawl

Tribal whiting fisheries have engaged in heightened bycatch management during the 2008 fishery, due to the effort to try and manage within 0.7 mt of canary rockfish in the June 2008 scorecard. To keep bycatch of canary rockfish low, the fishery operated when higher concentrations of whiting were available. Anecdotal information from the tribal fishery indicated that the earlier aggregations of whiting were not seen this year. The tribes have indicated that 1.3 mt of canary rockfish is a minimum threshold to be able to prosecute the tribal whiting fishery for the remainder of 2008, but they will continue diligent bycatch management in an effort to manage below the new bycatch projection of 1.3 mt.

Limited Entry Non-Tribal Whiting Trawl

NMFS closed all sectors of the non-tribal whiting fishery on August 19, 2008 when the canary bycatch limit of 4.7 mt was reached. None of the three sectors reached their whiting allocation before the fishery was closed (Table 2). Of note, the 2008 whiting allocation was higher than in 2007 yet there was no corresponding increase in the canary bycatch limit.

Table 2: Catches of whiting in the non-tribal whiting fishery through August 19, 2008 (NMFS Preliminary Report #10 – 2008 Whiting Fishery, August 26, 2008)

Non-tribal Sector	Allocation for 2008 (mt)	Whiting Catch (mt) through August 19, 2008	Percent Whiting Allocation Taken	Allocation remaining (mt)
Shore-based	97,669	34,716	35.5%	62,953
Mothership	55,811	46,866	84.0%	8,945
Catcher/Processor	79,065	49,269	62.3%	29,796

Bycatch limits

Industry would like to see the non-tribal whiting fishery re-opened with an increased canary rockfish bycatch limit. The GMT sees two major sets of issues for the Councils consideration.

First, although there is room in the scorecard to increase the whiting fishery's canary bycatch limit, the GMT cannot provide the Council with a rough estimate of the fishing opportunity that might occur after the re-opening in terms of days the fishery might be open or what percentage of the remaining whiting allocations the sectors would likely obtain. Canary bycatch is very difficult to project in the whiting fisheries because bycatch events are rare and subject to seasonal, interannual, latitudinal, and depth-based variations in the bycatch rate. Projecting what canary bycatch might be in this potential re-opening is made even more difficult because the re-opening would occur at a time of year when the fishery isn't normally prosecuted. Very little bycatch information is available for the shoreside and mothership sectors because they do not tend to fish whiting in the fall.

The GMT discussed last year's re-opening of the whiting fishery at this meeting and also during the 2009-10 specifications and management measures process. The mothership sector did not participate at all in the re-opening and participation from the shoreside sector was limited. The GMT has been told that the 150 fm depth restriction in place during the re-opening was the major reason for the limited shoreside participation last year and that it would be equally problematic this year. The fishery was re-opened with the 150 fm depth restriction because

there was only 0.7 mt remaining in the whiting fishery’s canary bycatch limit. Other compounding reasons for the limited shoreside participation in last year’s re-opening suggested to the GMT include poor weather conditions, the normal northerly migratory pattern of whiting, and the availability of whiting in the tribal fishery.

The GMT also heard public testimony and anecdotal evidence about the voluntary cooperation and inseason management undertaken this summer in the shoreside sector. These voluntary measures included stand-downs by the fleet, latitudinal closures, and use of real time bycatch information. Although the team acknowledges that this type of cooperation and real time management likely reduced the sector’s canary bycatch rate, there is no way for the team to verify that the shoreside sector will continue to employ these methods or to independently evaluate how effective the methods might be during a fall re-opening.

The second set of considerations relates to NMFS ability to re-open, monitor, and close the fishery if necessary to prevent the canary bycatch limit from being exceeded. The team heard from NMFS staff about their improved ability to close the fishery prior to exceeding a bycatch limit. New components of the fish ticket verification program included shoreside catch monitors at the plants, electronic reporting of landings, and a requirement for self-reporting of discard events. The GMT understands that there were some start-up issues with the shoreside catch monitor program, but overall monitoring was improved from 2007.

NMFS ability to monitor the fishery and close in time to keep within the bycatch limits also depends on having enough catch information to establish catch patterns upon which the need for closure could be based. Guidance from whiting fishery managers at the Region suggested that approximately 8-9 days of fishing (with an additional day to close the fishery) would be needed to provide this information.

Based on this need the GMT developed several possible estimates of a canary bycatch limit that would be needed in order for the fishery to run at least 9 days (Table 3). These estimates are based upon sector specific bycatch rates that were observed during the 2008 fishing year. The relatively pessimistic estimate assumes another lightning strike tow of canary occurs and the remaining 8 days of the fishery proceed, with additional canary impacts based on the average sector specific canary bycatch rates observed this year. The medium estimate is based on the average sector specific canary bycatch rates observed this year. The relatively optimistic rate is based upon the average sector specific bycatch rates observed in 2008, minus the lightning strike observed in June.

Table 3. Canary bycatch limit increase necessary for the fishery to operate 9 Days.

	Canary metric tons
9 DAY (RELATIVELY PESSIMISTIC)	2.567983
9 DAY (MEDIUM)	1.33965312
9 DAY (RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC)	1.070019623

A re-opening of the fishery would still present some risk of exceeding the new canary bycatch limit, and depending on the amount of canary left in the scorecard, possibly even the canary OY. The potential for canary “disaster tows” in the whiting fishery complicates NMFS’ ability to close the fishery on projection. Data since 2005 indicate that the largest single tow of canary in the whiting fishery was slightly greater than 1.3 mt. By far, the majority of tows do not catch

canary, but of those that do, canary catch is typically less than 0.1 mt. The quantity of canary encountered in past whiting tows is indicative of the risk associated with re-opening the fishery and the possible catch that may occur in the fishery. While the largest tow has been in excess of 1 mt, Figure 1 below illustrates that this tow was largely an exception, meaning the possibility of this happening again this year may be slight, though certainly possible.

In addition, the GMT heard reports from NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) regarding reported at sea discard events by shore-based vessels toward the end of the season. These self-reported events were primarily last-tow, topping off events. NMFS applied bycatch rates to these discards and included them in the total bycatch estimates used to close the fishery. The GMT has received reports of “camera-off” events that are being investigated by OLE. Camera information has not yet been analyzed for these events and potential catches were not taken into account.

The GMT recognizes the need for the fishery, especially for the shoreside sector, to re-open as early in October as possible to access the remaining whiting allocations before the fish disaggregate late in the season. An optimistic opening date, under estimates given to the team, would fall between October 7-15. Another issue brought to the team’s attention related to the shoreside catch monitor component of the fishery. This was the first year for the fish ticket verification program. The monitors that were trained at the beginning of the season left after the closure of the fishery. The team understands that it is uncertain whether new monitors could be trained and in place for the re-opening.

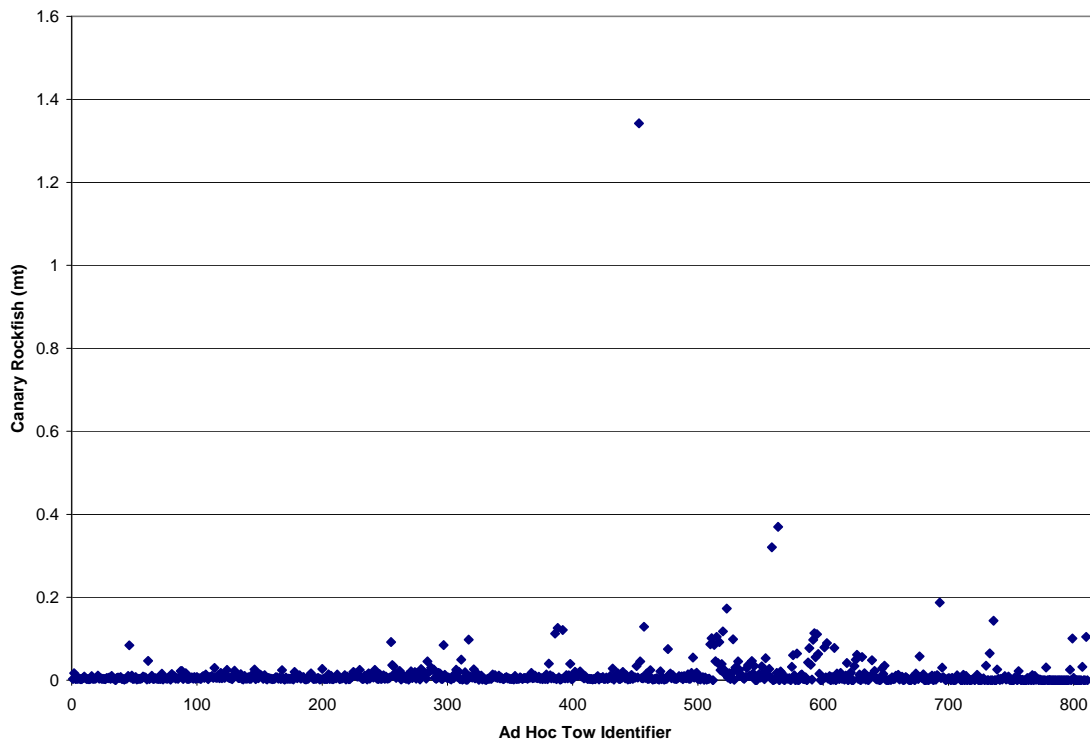


Figure 1. Metric tonnage of canary rockfish per limited entry non-tribal whiting trawl tow for those tows containing canary rockfish.

The GMT recommends that the Council preliminarily consider an increase in the Pacific whiting canary bycatch limit under this agenda item, but wait to finalize recommendations until the inseason agenda item on Friday, when trawl survey results are more complete.

Limited Entry Non-Whiting Trawl

Landings of shelf target species north of 40°10' N. lat are tracking behind projections originally made for the catch of those species in March and June of this year. Anecdotal information and catch records suggest that effort in areas shoreward of the trawl RCA are down from previous years. It appears that much of the potential shoreward effort in the north may have been discouraged by the implementation of a 60 fathom shoreward boundary. In addition, available catch data and anecdotal information indicates that more effort has shifted to pink shrimp than in past years due to opportunities there.

South of 40°10' N. lat., landings have followed a similar pattern. The volume of shelf target species in that area has been less than originally predicted, though the reasons for the smaller than expected volume are not clear. Figures at the end of this document show shelf target species landings this year compared to the past two years. Each figure represents coastwide trawl landings (in pounds) by month, beginning with April and ending in July.

Other target species (primarily DTS) are near expected catch levels, with few exceptions. If no inseason action is taken in the multi-species trawl fishery, the following mortality levels are expected to occur through the end of the year. These mortality levels are compared to the projection made in June as reflected in the June scorecard (for overfished species) and to the allocation, harvest guideline, or OY (whichever is most appropriate) for target species. As illustrated in this table, the estimated take of all overfished species is now lower than predicted at the June meeting and the take of target species is expected to be less than the targeted catch amount (the allocation/HG/or OY) for target species.

Table 4. Estimated take of overfished species compared to the projected take in June 2008 scorecard.

		North	South	Total	June Scorecard Est/ Allocation/HG/OY
Rebuilding Species	Canary	5.8	2.4	8.2	9.0
	POP	101.7	0.0	101.7	103.2
	Darkbltch	217.4	31.1	248.5	252.5
	Widow	1.9	5.6	7.5	7.7
	Bocaccio	-	10.3	10.3	11.8
	Yelloweye	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.6
	Cowcod	-	0.6	0.6	0.7
Target Species	Sablefish	2,226	568	2,794	2,810
	Longspine	509	385	894	2,220
	Shortspine	849	418	1,268	1,634
	Dover	10,026	2,191	12,217	16,500
	Arrowtooth	3,487	64	3,551	5,800
	Petrals	2,006	288	2,294	2,499
	Other Flatfish	1,154	537	1,691	4,884
	Slope Rockfish	88	223	310	1160N/626S

Because the catch of several target species is tracking behind projections and estimated impacts of overfished species are lower than estimated at the June meeting, increases in the trip limits for petrale and Dover sole are proposed coastwide. Selective flatfish trawl limits in the north are not liberalized in this proposal. However, the GMT evaluated two different approaches for liberalizing RCA boundaries in the north as a result of the canary remaining in the scorecard. The first evaluation examines the possibility of re-opening the areas shoreward of the trawl RCA north of Cape Alava and between Cape Arago and Humbug mountain to 60 fathoms beginning October 1 (or as early as possible) through the end of the year. The second option evaluates the possibility of shifting the shoreward boundary of the RCA in the north to 75 fathoms while leaving the area north of Cape Alava and the area between Cape Arago and Humbug mountain closed beginning October 1 (or as early as possible) through the end of the year. The following table illustrates the bycatch implications of making these adjustments.

Table 5. Options and associated canary impacts for the non-whiting trawl sector.

Option	Area	Estimated Canary Take if Effective October 1
Option 1 (re-open closed areas shoreward of RCA)	Opt 1a: North of Cape Alava	1.1 mt (9.3 mt total)
	Opt 1b: Cape Arago to Humbug mt.	0.7 mt (8.9 mt total)
	Opt 1a and 1b combined	1.8 mt (10 mt total)
Option 2 (shift shoreward boundary to 75 fathoms)	Shoreward boundary to 75 fathoms in north (but closed north of Alava and between Arago and Humbug)	0.4 mt (8.6 mt total)

The GMT received a request to increase the cumulative limits on chilipepper south of 40°10' N. lat. for vessels using small footrope gear. Observer data indicate a large discard rate of chilipepper in the south (approximately 70 percent), particularly for vessels fishing shoreward of the trawl RCA. The GMT considered this proposal in the context of possible impacts on overfished species and the effect this potential cumulative limit adjustment would have on the discard of chilipepper. In the past, the GMT has identified a relationship between chilipepper and bocaccio in the trawl fishery. Bocaccio and cowcod are the overfished species most commonly encountered when targeting chilipepper south of 40° 10' N. lat and the projected catch of these species is less than 50% of their respective OYs. The GMT does not believe that a modest increase in the chilipepper limit would risk exceeding the OYs for bocaccio or cowcod even if such an increase resulted in the targeting of those species and a subsequent change in the behavior of fishermen in that area. The effect of this increase on other overfished species (canary rockfish) in this area is expected to be nominal because this catch limit increase is not expected to induce targeting. Since some residual for these species is still available in the scorecard, the GMT does not believe that the proposed increase in the chilipepper limit would risk exceeding canary OY. Therefore, in order to reduce discard and provide increased opportunity in areas south of 40° 10' N. lat. **the GMT recommends increasing chilipepper limits from 2,000 lbs to 5,000 lbs for vessels using small footrope trawl gear in period 6.**

The following is a summary of proposed inseason adjustments for the multi-species trawl fishery:

- Increase petrale sole in the north to 45,000 in period 6 for vessels using large footrope trawl gear

- Increase Dover sole in the north to 90,000 in period 6 for vessels using large footrope trawl gear
- Increase petrale sole in the south to 65,000 in period 6
- Increase Dover sole in the south to 90,000 in period 6
- Increase chilipepper limits in the south to 5,000 in period 6 for vessels using small footrope

Table 6. Cumulative Limits under Proposed Option

Area	Period	Sable	Longsp	Shortsp	Dover	Otr Flat	Petrale	Arrow'th	Slope Rk
North Large Footrope	1	14,000	25,000	12,000	80,000	110,000	40,000	150,000	1,500
	2	14,000	25,000	12,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	3	19,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	20,000	150,000	1,500
	4	24,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	20,000	150,000	1,500
	5	24,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	20,000	150,000	1,500
	6	19,000	25,000	25,000	90,000	110,000	45,000	150,000	1,500
North SFFT	1	5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	70,000	10,000	10,000	1,500
	2	5,000	3,000	3,000	50,000	70,000	18,000	10,000	1,500
	3	5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	50,000	18,000	10,000	1,500
	4	7,000	3,000	3,000	50,000	80,000	18,000	10,000	1,500
	5	7,000	3,000	3,000	50,000	80,000	16,000	10,000	1,500
	6	7,000	3,000	3,000	50,000	80,000	10,000	10,000	1,500
38 - 40 10	1	14,000	25,000	12,000	80,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	15,000
	2	14,000	25,000	12,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	3	19,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	4	24,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	5	24,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	6	19,000	25,000	25,000	90,000	110,000	65,000	10,000	15,000
S 38	1	14,000	25,000	12,000	80,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	55,000
	2	14,000	25,000	12,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	3	19,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	4	24,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	5	24,000	25,000	25,000	80,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	6	19,000	25,000	25,000	90,000	110,000	65,000	10,000	55,000

Note: chilipepper limits are increased to 5,000 lbs in period 6 for vessels using small footrope trawl gear south of 40° 10' N. lat.

Table 7. Estimated Impacts Resulting from Proposed Action

		North	South	Total	June Scorecard Est/ Allocation/HG/OY
Rebuilding Species	Canary	5.8	2.4	8.2	9.0
	POP	103.5	0.0	103.5	103.2
	Darkblotched	222.0	31.6	253.7	252.5
	Widow	2.0	5.6	7.6	7.7
	Bocaccio	-	10.3	10.3	11.8
	Yelloweye	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.6
	Cowcod	-	0.6	0.6	0.7
Target Species	Sablefish	2,226	568	2,794	2,810
	Longspine	509	385	894	2,220
	Shortspine	849	418	1,268	1,634
	Dover	10,181	2,218	12,399	16,500
	Arrowtooth	3,487	64	3,551	5,800
	Petrale	2,103	298	2,402	2,499
	Other Flatfish	1,154	537	1,691	4,884
	Slope Rockfish	88	223	310	1160N/626S

Summarization of Canary Rockfish Status and Opportunities

Existing projections of canary rockfish catch in the 2008 fishery results in 4.1 metric tons being unattributed to any fishery. The following options and their impacts have been assessed by the GMT for using this remaining amount and is provided for the Council’s consideration (Table 8).

Table 8. Summary of possible uses of unattributed canary rockfish.

	Additional Canary mt
Canary Remainder in the Scorecard	4.1 mt
Pacific Whiting Fishery Bycatch Limit	TBD
Non-whiting RCA liberalization North of Cape Alava	1.1 mt
Non-whiting RCA liberalization from Cape Arago to Humbug mt.	0.7 mt
Non-whiting shoreward RCA liberalization to 75 fathoms in north (but closed north of Alava and between Arago and Humbug)	0.4 mt

GMT Recommendations:

1. Take concurrent action in the California recreational fishery to close federal waters in the North and North-Central management areas.
2. Increase the limited entry fixed gear sablefish DTL limits north of 36° N. lat. to one landing per week up to 1,500 lb, and 6,500 lb per 2 months; same daily limit of 500 lb.
3. Increase open access shelf rockfish limits south of Point Conception (34° 27’ N. lat) to 1,000 lb per 2 months for period 6 only.
4. Increase Non-whiting trawl cumulative limits as outlined in bold in table 6.

5a. Consider a preliminary increase in the Pacific whiting canary bycatch limit, but wait to finalize decisions until Friday when trawl survey results are more complete.

5b. Consider a preliminary liberalization of trawl RCA boundaries in the north as outlined in tables 5 and 8, but wait to finalize decisions until Friday when trawl survey results are more complete.

PFMC
9/10/08

2008 Projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species prior to inseason adjustments - updated at the Septmeber Council meeting.

9/09/08

Fishery	Bocaccio b/	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
Limited Entry Trawl- Non-whiting	10.3	8.2	0.6	248.5	101.7	7.5	0.5
Limited Entry Trawl- Whiting							
At-sea whiting motherships a/		4.7		7.2	14.5	195.6	0.0
At-sea whiting cat-proc a/			0.0				
Shoreside whiting a/			0.0				
Tribal whiting		1.3		0.0	0.6	6.1	0.0
Tribal							
Midwater Trawl		1.8		0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0
Bottom Trawl		0.8		0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Troll		0.5		0.0	0.0		0.0
Fixed gear		0.3		0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
Limited Entry Fixed Gear		0.8					1.8
Sablefish	13.4		0.0	0.6	0.3	0.9	
Non-Sablefish			0.1	0.4		0.5	
Open Access: Directed Groundfish							
Sablefish DTL	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3
Nearshore (North of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.0	2.5		0.0	0.0	0.5	2.2
Nearshore (South of 40°10' N. lat.)	0.1			0.0	0.0		
Other	10.6	1.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Open Access: Incidental Groundfish							
CA Halibut	0.1	0.0		0.0	0.0		
CA Gillnet c/	0.5			0.0	0.0	0.0	
CA Sheephead c/				0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CPS- wetfish c/	0.3						
CPS- squid d/							
Dungeness crab c/	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0		
HMS b/		0.0	0.0	0.0			
Pacific Halibut c/	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pink shrimp	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Ridgeback prawn	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Salmon troll	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2
Sea Cucumber	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spot Prawn (trap)							
Recreational Groundfish e/							
WA		1.2					2.8
OR		4.3				1.4	3.3
CA	47.8	9.0	0.2			6.6	2.1
EFPs	7.7	0.1	0.2	0.6		2.7	0.1
Research: Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs. f/							
	2.0	2.3	0.2	2.0	2.0	1.1	3.0
TOTAL	93.2	39.9	1.4	259.6	122.9	263.3	18.9
2008 OY	218	44.0	4.0	330	150	368	20
Difference	124.8	4.1	2.7	70.4	27.1	104.7	1.1
Percent of OY	42.7%	90.7%	33.8%	78.7%	82.0%	71.5%	94.3%
Key	= either not applicable; trace amount (<0.01 mt); or not reported in available data						

a/ Non-tribal whiting numbers reflect bycatch limits for the non-tribal whiting sectors.

b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.

c/ Mortality estimates are not hard numbers; based on the GMT's best professional judgment.

d/ Bycatch amounts by species unavailable, but bocaccio occurred in 0.1% of all port samples and other rockfish in another 0.1% of all port samples (and squid fisheries usually land their whole catch).

e/ Values in scorecard represent projected impacts for WA and OR. However, harvest guidelines for 2008 are as follows: canary in WA and OR combined = 8.2 mt; yelloweye in WA and OR combined = 6.8 mt.

f/ Research projections updated November 2008.