

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FINAL ACTION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss progress of this year's fishery and possible inseason adjustments. The GMT discussion was led by Ms. Jessi Doerpinghaus and Mr. Bob Leos. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

Open Access Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery North of 36° N. Latitude

Current trip limit (300 daily/1,000 weekly/2,000 bimonthly)
Beginning July 1st (300 daily/850 weekly/1,700 bimonthly)

During the April Council meeting, the GAP open access representatives expressed their concerns about the noticeable effort increase occurring in the sablefish daily-trip-limit (DTL) fishery. This effort increase was likely due to the domoic acid issue that delayed the opening of the Dungeness crab fishery. In response, the Council reduced open access (OA) DTLs to become effective July 1st in an effort to slow the fishery down enough to allow the fishery to continue through the end of the year. GMT analysis of the latest model projected landings suggest these reduced trip limits may not be enough to maintain the fishery until year's end (as illustrated in Table 3 of the GMT Report). If current effort continues, the model projects an estimated 115% attainment.

The GAP OA representatives suggest a further trip limit reduction is likely necessary and request a decrease in the limits to the following: **(300 lb. per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 750 lb., not to exceed 1,500 lb. per 2 months to begin September 1st)**. The model suggests with normal seasonal effort, these limits may get us through the end of the year with projected attainment at around 96%.

Limited Entry/Open Access Fixed Gear Minor Nearshore Rockfish and Black Rockfish between 40° 10' N. Latitude and 42° N. Latitude

Current trip limit (6,000 lb. per 2-month period, of which no more than 1,200 lb. may be species other than Black Rockfish)

Responding to industry requests the GMT analyzed a range of potential trip limit increases for the commercial black rockfish fishery in northern California. The GMT is recommending a trip limit increase as follows: **For periods 5 and 6 increase to 7,000 lb. per 2 month period, of which no more than 1,200 lb. may be species other than Black Rockfish.**

The GAP supports the GMT recommendation to increase the trip limits for black rockfish.

POP Bycatch in the Groundfish Fishery

Because of increasing encounter rates of POP occurring in many sectors of the groundfish fishery, the GAP requests the Council review the current scorecard POP amounts, evaluate projected POP catches, and consider scheduling an inseason action at the September 2016 meeting to make POP available to those sectors in need. For example, the GAP suggests there may be as much as 7.1 mt of unused POP available in the current scorecard under the non-trawl allocations.

GAP recommendations:

1) Open Access Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery North of 36° N. Latitude

GMT Alternative , (300 lb. per day or 1 landing per week of up to 750 lb., not to exceed 1,500 lb. per 2 months) for periods 5 and 6

2) Limited Entry/Open Access Fixed Gear Minor Nearshore Rockfish and Black Rockfish north of 40° 10' N. latitude to 42° N. latitude

7,000 lb. per 2 month period, of which no more than 1,200 lb. may be species other than Black rockfish for periods 4, 5 and 6

3) POP bycatch

Explore the possible availability of surplus POP

PFMC

06/26/16