

**GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
 INSEASON MANAGEMENT FINAL ACTION**

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) considered the most recent information on the status of ongoing fisheries, research, and requests from industry and provides the following informational updates. The GMT is not recommending any inseason adjustments to fishery management measures at this time.

Informational Items

Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL)

In June, based on recommendations from the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) and the GMT, the Council reduced the trip limits for Periods 5 and 6 for the Open Access (OA) daily trip limit (DTL) fishery North of 36° N. lat. (OAN) from “300 lbs./day, or one landing per week of up to 850 lbs., not to exceed 1,700 lb./2 months” to “300 lbs./day, or one landing per week of up to 750 lbs., not to exceed 1,500 lbs./2 months.” The projections below for Limited Entry North of 36° N. lat. (LEN), OAN, and Limited Entry and Open Access South of 36° N lat. (LES and OAS) in Table 1 are based on PacFIN Quota Species Monitoring (QSM) Best Estimate Report (BER) with estimates through August 31, 2016, and hard data 90 percent complete through July for Washington, August for Oregon, and April for California.

Table 1: Projected landings and percent attainment for DTL fisheries

Sector	Projected Landings (mt)	Landing Target (mt)	Percent Attainment
LEN	231-241	258	89.9-93.7%
OAN	359.6	425	84.6%
LES	390-523	578	67.1-91.0%
OAS ^a	42.32	473	8.9%

^aDue to some corrections in the QSM BER, OAS projected landings were based on the BER estimate through August 31st and an 2011-2015 average for Periods 5 and 6.

As effort in the OAN fishery has been greater than predicted in Periods 2-4, by a factor of 2 in Periods 2 and 3 and approximately 40 percent in Period 4, the GMT explored projections if that effort trend continued. If effort were 50 percent greater than the model prediction in Periods 5 and 6, then the predicted percent attainment is 91.4 percent. At twice the effort (i.e., 100 percent greater), the predicted attainment is 98.2 percent.

Pacific ocean perch (POP) in At-Sea Sectors

In June, concerns on increased catch of Pacific ocean perch (POP) in the mothership (MS) sector was brought forth by industry and analyzed by the GMT. The Council recommended that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) continue to track inseason scientific research catch of POP and make any projected unused research amounts available to either at-sea sector. On September 1, NMFS published an inseason action that transferred 3.0 mt of POP from the scientific

research off-the-top deduction to the MS sector, increasing the amount of POP available to the MS sector from 7.2 mt to 10.2 mt ([81 FR 60288](#)).

Table 2 shows the current catch of canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, POP, widow rockfish, and Pacific whiting for both at-sea sectors in comparison to the allocations. Whiting allocations reflect the recent reapportionment of whiting from the tribal allocations ([Public Notice, NMFS-SEA-16-19, September 16, 2016](#)).

Table 2: Catch and percent attainment in at-sea sectors

Species	CP			MS		
	Mortality	Allocation	% Taken	Mortality	Allocation	% Taken
Canary	0.03	8.2	0.33%	0.35	5.8	6.03%
Darkblotched	1.25	9.4	13.27%	0.64	6.7	9.57%
POP	0.41	10.2	3.99%	5.16	10.2	50.62%
Widow	11.62	170	6.84%	59.98	120	49.98%
Whiting	47,416.77	114,149	41.54%	39,028.97	80,575	48.44%
Catch Weight (mt) queried from NPAC 09/09/2016 at 8:06 AM						

With the increase in allocation in POP, the MS sector could attain 95.7 percent of its whiting at the current bycatch rate ([10.2 mt POP allocation/ 5.16 mt POP taken] * 39,029 mt whiting taken= 77,150 mt of whiting). This is compared to 53 percent as predicted in June ([Agenda Item G.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)). The GMT further explored the probabilities of the MS sector exceeding their allocation of POP by using the bootstrap methodology (as seen in [Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 2](#)). Preliminary results that start the simulation from the total catch levels as of September 9 show that only 6 percent of the simulated MS seasons produce catches that reach or exceed the new 10.2 mt allocation. This is compared to 33 percent of simulations predicted in June.

F/V Ocean Hunter- Canary “Lightning Strike” Tow

On August 30, 2016 the F/V Ocean Hunter landed over 9,000 pounds of canary rockfish in a single tow, and went into deficit. If the vessel were able to acquire and transfer in the annual vessel limit of 9,806 pounds, they would still be unable to get out of deficit by 3,577 pounds.

Oregon Recreational Fishery

The GMT was informed about inseason actions taken by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in the Oregon recreational fishery (Agenda Item F.7.a, Supplemental ODFW Report). Due to higher than anticipated yelloweye rockfish impacts in both the recreational groundfish and halibut fisheries in May and June, as well as low usage rates of descending devices, ODFW restricted the Oregon recreational groundfish fishery to shoreward of the 20 fathom regulatory line beginning on July 15 (had been 30 fathoms in state regulations). Updated data through August indicated that yelloweye rockfish impacts had been reduced, and end of the year projections indicate that the depth restriction could be removed on October 1, and stay within the Oregon recreational harvest guideline (HG).

Overfished species scorecard update

The overfished species (OFS) scorecard (Attachment 1) has had the following updates:

Research

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annual longline stock assessment survey has concluded for 2016. The preliminary yelloweye rockfish mortality was 0.2 mt, leaving 0.9 mt of the scientific research portion of the off-the-top deduction unharvested. There is now a residual of 0.8 mt in the scorecard. The GMT also received preliminary data from the NMFS trawl survey, their impacts to POP were 3.0 mt and darkblotched rockfish 5.1 mt, both of which have been updated in the scorecard.

Incidental Open Access

The 2015 Groundfish Mortality report ([Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 3](#)) was used to update the Incidental Open Access (IOA) sector projected mortality, as the GMT believes these values are the best estimate of total impacts available at this time.

Tribal

The GMT was notified that the tribal landings of petrale sole are anticipated to exceed the 220 mt harvest target, due to higher than expected landings of petrale sole in the beginning of August. The tribes have taken action to reduce the landings of petrale sole within the tribal trawl fisheries by reducing the landing limit to one-fifth the previous landing limit in order to maintain a viable fishery as well as reduce impacts on petrale sole. Projected impacts from tribal fisheries in 2016 have been updated to 240 mt. This still leaves a residual of 11.5 mt in the scorecard.

Washington Recreational

Based on catch data that is complete through July, the Washington recreational scorecard catch projection for yelloweye rockfish was updated from 2.8 mt to 3.2 mt. The 2016 HG is 3.1 mt. The projected catch uses the catch from August through October 2015 as a proxy for the remainder of 2016. However, if catch from August through October 2016 is more similar to what was seen in 2013 and 2014, projected catch would be below the 2016 HG of 3.1 mt (~2.9 mt). Washington recreational inseason estimates do not reflect the use of descending devices although the final estimates will account for the use of descending devices after the estimates are error checked and finalized in early 2017. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is not proposing any changes to management measures for 2017.

Overfished Species Scorecard with 2015 GM Report and Projection Updates

Attachment 2 provides the overfished species scorecard presented in Attachment 1, but with adjusted projections for at-sea, non-nearshore, and nearshore sectors. Currently, projections in the scorecard assume that the sectors attain all of the allocation (at-sea), or are based on bycatch projection models (non-nearshore and nearshore). The 2015 Groundfish Mortality report ([Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 3](#)) was used to update the non-nearshore and nearshore projected impacts, as the GMT believes these values are the best estimate available at this time. At-sea projection estimates are based on the inseason bootstrap methodology for canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, and POP as described above. Estimates are based on the 0.5 quantile, which is considered “risk neutral”; this quantile was also used in the 2017-2018 biennial harvest specifications process as the source of projected impacts for the at-sea fleets.

Attachment 1. Allocations^a and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2016.

Fishery	Bocaccio b/		Canary		Cowcod b/		Dkbl		Petrale		POP		Yelloweye	
	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts
<i>Date: 16 September 2016</i>														
Off the Top Deductions	8.3	7.9	15.2	15.8	2.0	2.0	20.8	12.7	236.6	261.7	12.0	12.5	5.8	4.9
EFPc/	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Research d/	4.6	4.6	4.5	5.8	2.0	2.0	2.1	7.1	14.2	17.7	2.2	3.0	3.3	2.4
Incidental OA e/	0.7	0.3	2.0	1.3	--	--	18.4	5.3	2.4	4.0	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2
Tribal f/			7.7	7.7			0.2	0.2	220.0	240.0	9.2	9.2	2.3	2.3
Trawl Allocations	85.0	81.9	58.5	58.5	1.4	1.4	308.9	308.9	2,638.4	2,638.4	141.6	141.6	1.1	1.1
-SB Trawl	85.0	81.9	44.5	44.5	1.4	1.4	292.8	292.8	2,633.4	2,633.4	124.2	124.2	1.1	1.1
-At-Sea Trawl			14.0	14.0			16.1	16.1	5.0	5.0	17.4	17.4	0.0	0.0
a) At-sea whiting MS			5.8	5.8			6.7	6.7			10.2	10.2		
b) At-sea whiting CP			8.2	8.2			9.4	9.4			10.2	10.2		
Non-Trawl Allocation	268.7	186.1	51.3	46.3	2.6	1.2	16.3	6.3	35.0		7.5	0.4	12.1	12.2
Non-Nearshore	82.1		3.9					6.1				0.4	0.6	0.7
LE FG				1.0						0.4				
OA FG				0.2										
Directed OA: Nearshore	1.0	0.5	6.9	7.5				0.2		0.0			1.9	1.8
Recreational Groundfish														
WA			3.5	1.6				--		--		--	3.1	3.2
OR			12.0	12.0				--		--		--	2.8	2.8
CA	185.6	185.6	25.0	25.0		1.2		--		--		--	3.7	3.7
TOTAL	362.0	275.9	125.0	120.6	6.0	4.6	346.0	327.9	2,910.0	2,900.1	161.1	154.5	19.0	18.2
2016 Harvest Specification	362	362	125	125	6.0	6.0	346	346	2,910	2,910	164	164	19	19
Difference	0.0	86.1	0.0	4.4	0.0	1.4	0.0	18.1	0.0	9.9	2.9	9.5	0.0	0.8
Percent of ACL	100.0%	76.2%	100.0%	96.5%	100.0%	76.7%	100.0%	94.8%	100.0%	99.7%	98.2%	94.2%	100.0%	95.9%
Key			= not applicable											
	--		= trace, less than 0.1 mt											
			= Fixed Values											
			= off the top deductions											

a/ Formal allocations are represented in the black shaded cells and are specified in regulation in Tables 1b and 1e. The other values in the allocation columns are 1) off the top deductions, 2) set asides from the trawl allocation (at-sea petrale only) 3) ad-hoc allocations recommended in the 2013-14 EIS process, 4) HG for the recreational fisheries for canary and YE.

b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.

c/ EFPs are amounts set aside to accommodate anticipated applications. Values in this table represent the estimates from the 13-14 biennial cycle, which are currently specified in regulation.

d/ Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.

e/ The GMT's best estimate of impacts as analyzed in the 2015-2016 Environmental Impact Statement (Appendix B), which are currently specified in regulation.

f/ Tribal values in the allocation column represent the values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.

Attachment 2. Allocations^a and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2016.

Fishery	Bocaccio b/		Canary		Cowcod b/		Dkbl		Petrale		POP		Yelloweye	
<i>Date: 15 September 2016</i>	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts
Off the Top Deductions	8.3	7.9	15.2	15.8	2.0	2.0	20.8	12.7	236.6	261.7	12.0	12.5	5.8	4.5
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Research d/	4.6	4.6	4.5	5.8	2.0	2.0	2.1	7.1	14.2	17.7	2.2	3.0	3.3	2.4
Incidental OA e/	0.7	0.3	2.0	1.3	--	--	18.4	5.3	2.4	4.0	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2
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CA	185.6	185.6	25.0	25.0		1.2		--		--		--	3.7	3.7
TOTAL	362.0	281.8	125.0	122.7	6.0	4.6	346.0	329.0	2,910.0	2,902.2	161.1	154.3	19.0	17.9
2016 Harvest Specification	362	362	125	125	6.0	6.0	346	346	2,910	2,910	164	164	19	19
Difference	0.0	80.2	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	17.0	0.0	7.8	2.9	9.7	0.0	1.1
Percent of ACL	100.0%	77.8%	100.0%	98.2%	100.0%	76.7%	100.0%	95.1%	100.0%	99.7%	98.2%	94.1%	100.0%	94.3%
Key			= not applicable											
	--		= trace, less than 0.1 mt											
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