

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE 2015-2016 GROUND FISH FISHERY

Introduction

Under Agenda Item C.4, the Council postponed action on selecting final preferred alternative (FPA) annual catch limits (ACLs) for Dover sole and widow rockfish as well as selection of the FPA for Amendment 24 and providing guidance on the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) language. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) provides the following comments to inform Council action on the FPA ACLs for Dover sole and widow rockfish under this agenda item. GMT comments on Amendment 24 and the associated FMP language can be found in our statement under Agenda Item C.4 ([Agenda Item C.4.b, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)). Further, this report contains information on the preliminary preferred fishery structures analyzed in the preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS, [Agenda Item C.4.a Attachment 6](#)) and highlights areas where, based on Council Action under Agenda Items C.4 and C.8, additional analysis is needed to inform final action in June.

Final Preferred Annual Catch Limits

Dover Sole ACL Alternatives

The Council is considering two Dover sole ACL alternatives for 2015 and 2016: 1) the status quo ACL of 25,000 mt and 2) an ACL of 50,000 mt.

Dover sole harvest has been limited in the past because of constraints due to sablefish allocations ([Agenda Item C.4.a. Attachment 3](#)). Figure 1 shows the coastwide catch by all sectors for Dover sole (light bars) and sablefish (black bars) from 2002 to 2012. During this period, the maximum catch of Dover sole was slightly more than 12,000 mt. The catch of Dover sole relative to sablefish has varied markedly among years.

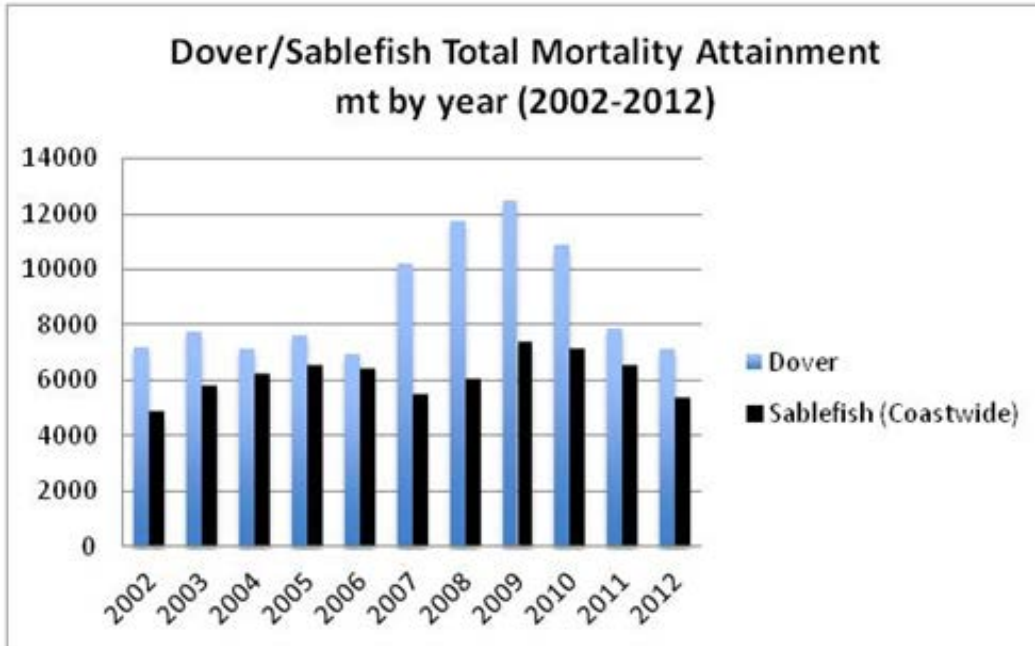


Figure 1. Annual catch and discard mortality of Dover sole and sablefish (mt).

First, although it is clear that Dover sole and sablefish co-exist to some degree (i.e., depth and bottom type), selectivity for one species over the other may change with shifts in fishing location (i.e., fishermen behavior) or as gear types evolve (i.e., use of a selective flatfish trawl or excluder devices may reduce the retention of sablefish relative to flatfish). This change in selectivity is difficult to predict. As such, some on the GMT question whether current selectivity patterns should influence the decision to limit the ACL (unless for some reason it became necessary to limit the Dover sole ACL to reduce the catch of another species with which it closely co-occurs, such as sablefish). Second, recent stock assessments indicate that the Dover sole stock is healthy, and the higher ACL of 50,000 mt is predicted to be sustainable (see [Agenda Item C.4.a. Attachment 3](#)).

Impacts of an increase in the Dover sole ACL to overfished species or non-overfished slope rockfish species should be considered; however availability of IFQ for co-occurring species such as sablefish and slope rockfish will likely limit access to the higher Dover sole ACL of 50,000 mt until more selective fishing gear and practices are used. IFQ management has been demonstrated to be an effective bycatch control mechanism that results in lower mortality of overfished species. The body shape and swimming patterns of most slope rockfish are more similar to sablefish than Dover sole; hence selective fishing gears that reduce sablefish catch would also likely reduce catch of slope rockfishes. Although petrale sole are more similar to Dover sole (shape and swimming behavior), petrale sole is projected to be rebuilt this year and are more patchily distributed than Dover sole. Hence, selective fishing practices may increase the ratio of Dover sole catch to petrale sole catch.

The GMT recommends the Council consider this information when recommending a Dover sole ACL.

Widow Rockfish ACL Alternatives

The Council is considering two widow rockfish ACL alternatives for 2015 and 2016: 1) the status quo ACL of 1,500 mt and 2) an ACL of 3,000 mt.

Figure 2 shows the catch of widow rockfish by sector for 2002-2012 (sectors catching less than 3 mt annually were omitted). Widow rockfish harvest has been limited during the past 10 years due to its previously overfished status, which resulted in low ACLs, but was declared rebuilt in 2013 based on the results of the 2013 assessment. Widow rockfish can be efficiently targeted using midwater trawl gear. Midwater trawlers have the ability to catch either ACL (1,500 mt or 3,000 mt), unless overfished species become constraining. Since the limited entry trawl fisheries are managed under IFQ, observer coverage is nearly 100 percent and catch accounting is much more precise than prior to IFQ. Additionally, IFQ management has been demonstrated to be an effective bycatch control mechanism of overfished species. However, even though a 3,000 mt constant catch is predicted to maintain the stock above the target B_{MSY} for the next 10 years under the more likely states of nature, numerous aspects of the stock's dynamics are uncertain ([Agenda Item C.4.a. Attachment 3](#)). **The GMT recommends the Council consider this information when recommending a widow rockfish ACL.**



Figure 2. Annual catch and discard of widow rockfish by sector from 2002 to 2012. Sectors catching less than 3 mt annually were omitted.

Fishery Harvest Guidelines (# 9 in the Action Item Checklist)

The GMT has received no new information regarding the off-the-top deductions from the ACLs for tribal, non-groundfish fisheries, and research. **As such, the set-aside values in Tables 10 and 11 in [Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#) are the best available data for the calculating preliminary preferred Fishery Harvest Guidelines (HG).** The GMT notes that the tribes may refine their off-the-top deduction requests prior to the June 2014 meeting.

HG for Component Species within a Complex (#10 in the Action Item Checklist)

The GMT confirmed the values for the blue rockfish HG in California and blackgill rockfish south of 40°10 N. latitude HG (Tables 8 and 9, [Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#)). The GMT notes that the values are consistent with the status quo approach.

If the Council would like the GMT to analyze a rougheye rockfish HG, in addition to the sorting requirement adopted under Agenda Item C.8, the Council should provide guidance on the range for analysis.

Allocations – Trawl and Non-trawl (#11 in the Action Item Checklist)

Attachment 1 contains the projected mortality of overfished species under Alternative 3, the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) for ACLs from November 2013 (described in the DEIS ([Agenda Item C.4.a Attachment 6](#) and below). Based on Council action under Agenda Item C.4 **the GMT recommends postponing further consideration of two-year allocations for canary and yelloweye rockfish based on the newly configured Other Fish complex and range of Nearshore Rockfish HGs.** That is, changing the allocation of nearshore rockfish ACL between states will result in changes to the projected overfished species impacts for canary and yelloweye rockfish. Further, the Council requested an analysis that would move 0.6 mt of yelloweye from the non-nearshore to the nearshore fishery, which is described below. All these components are interrelated and thus the Council should consider the holistic analysis at the June meeting. **The GMT does not believe such additional modeling and analysis will impact projections for bocaccio and petrale sole; therefore the Council could select PPA trawl and non-trawl 2-year allocations for those species at this time.**

The GMT notes that the two-year trawl and non-trawl allocations for longnose skate, Shelf Rockfish north and south of 40°10 N. latitude listed in the Action Item Checklist ([Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 1](#)) are consistent with the allocations under No Action.

The GMT speaks to the need for a spiny dogfish HG under Agenda Item C.9.b Supplemental GMT Report 2.

Set-Asides from the Trawl Allocation (#12 in the Action Item Checklist)

The GMT has received no new information regarding at-sea whiting set-asides since the values were adopted at the November 2013 Council meeting. As such, the set-aside values used in the DEIS analysis represent the best available data ([Agenda Item C.4.a Attachment 6](#)).

Supplemental GMT Report 2 under this agenda item discusses further the need to establish a spiny dogfish set-aside for the at-sea whiting fisheries.

HG Within Non-Trawl (#13 in the Action Item Checklist)

As mentioned above, the GMT recommends postponing further consideration of two-year allocations for canary and yelloweye rockfish until analysis is completed on the newly configured Other Fish complex and range of Nearshore Rockfish HGs adopted at this meeting. Similarly, the Council should postpone adoption of a within non-trawl allocation for canary and yelloweye rockfish until June. The GMT does not believe such additional modeling and analysis

will impact projections for bocaccio and petrale sole; therefore the Council could select PPA within non-trawl 2-year allocations for those species at this time.

The GMT notes that the two-year within non-trawl HG for black rockfish south of 42° N. latitude, blackgill south of 40° 10' N. latitude, and sablefish south 36° N. latitude are consistent with the allocations under No Action. A discussion of the range of Nearshore Rockfish HGs is provided below and in Agenda Item C.9.b Supplemental GMT Report 2.

Adopt Preliminary Preferred Fishery Structures (#14-20 in the Action Item Checklist)

In November 2013, the Council adopted a range of P* alternatives for analysis, with Alternative 3 selected as the PPA. The GMT analyzed this range of P* alternatives for 2015-2016 and beyond (Table 1, Alternatives 1-3). The preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS; [Agenda Item C.4.a Attachment 6](#)) contains specific management measures in response to the annual catch limits (ACLs) under the range of P* alternatives for 2015-2016 (see Section 4.2). Furthermore, the DEIS describes the long-term effects (i.e., the “and beyond”) of the application on different types of management measures during the biennial management process by linking their potential impacts to the environmental components (see Section 4.9).

Council actions under Agenda Item C.4 (Table 1, Alternative 4) will require the GMT to re-model fishery management measures and projected impacts for the nearshore commercial and recreational fisheries. That is, the Council action to leave in place the Other Fish complex consisting of only kelp greenling (coastwide), cabezon (WA), and leopard shark may result in changes to nearshore fishery management measures and impacts. Further, the Alternative 3 analyzed fishery impacts for most sectors without allocating the Nearshore Rockfish complex north ACL with a Nearshore Rockfish HG (described in detail below). At the time of this writing, the Council had just taken action under Agenda Item C.8 and we have not yet had time to discuss the implications of establishing a roughey rockfish sorting requirement.

Table 1. Range of P* alternatives analyzed by the GMT for 2015-2016 and beyond in the preliminary DEIS (Alternatives 1-3) and a summary of Council action under Agenda Item C.4.

Alternative	Key Harvest Specifications Components
Alternative 1	<p>P* 0.45</p> <p>Stock complexes consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Nearshore rockfish N/S (no HGs) b) Slope rockfish N/S (no HGs) c) Shelf rockfish N/S d) Other Flatfish <p>The No Action Other Fish Complex was deconstructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * EC species: finescale codling (a.k.a., Pacific flatnose), soupfin shark, spotted ratfish, all endemic skates - except longnose skate, and all endemic grenadiers. * Stock-specific harvest specifications for spiny dogfish (coastwide), cabezon (WA), kelp greenling (WA, OR, CA), and leopard shark (coastwide)
Alternative 2	P* 0.25, Stock Complexes same as Alternative 1
<p>Alternative 3 - Preliminary Preferred Alternative</p> <p>(see Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2, Tables 10-14)</p>	<p>P* of 0.45 for all stocks and complexes except arrowtooth (0.40), sablefish (0.40), spiny dogfish (0.35), starry flounder (0.40), lingcod south (0.40), longspine thornyheads (0.40), shortspine thornyheads (0.40), kelp greenling in WA (0.40), and the Other Flatfish complex (0.40).</p> <p>Stock Complexes same as Alternative 1</p>
<p>Alternative 4 - FPA (Analysis scheduled for June Council Meeting)</p>	<p>P* of 0.45 for all stocks and complexes except arrowtooth (0.40), sablefish (0.40), spiny dogfish (0.40), starry flounder (0.40), lingcod south (0.40), longspine thornyheads (0.40), shortspine thornyheads (0.40), kelp greenling in WA (0.40), and the Other Flatfish complex (0.40).</p> <p>Stock Complexes same as Alternative 1 except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Other Fish complex consisting of kelp greenling (coastwide), cabezon (WA), and leopard shark (coastwide)

Impact of Moving 0.6 mt of Yelloweye Rockfish from the Non-Nearshore Fishery to the Commercial Nearshore Fixed Gear Fishery

The GMT recommends that the Council postpone adopting a yelloweye rockfish HG at this meeting for two reasons. First, the ACL changes made under Agenda Item C.4 have left us with the need to remodel the nearshore fishery management measures and projected overfished species impacts. Second, we have analysis to explore the uncertainty in our projection models that we were unable to complete at this meeting but expect to have ready for the June Briefing Book.

Recent analysis and data provided to us by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) have allowed us to more fully evaluate the point estimates from our model that the Council uses to make allocation decisions, consider the needs of fishing communities, etc. We believe the topic is highly relevant here because allocating 0.6 mt of yelloweye away from the non-nearshore sector would leave no buffer between the HG and the projected impact.

We have completed preliminary analysis but only touch on some general considerations so as to further underscore the relevance of uncertainty. In brief, our point estimates and annual estimates of mortality are uncertain in part because they are subject to sampling error. This is especially so for a stock like yelloweye rockfish that is highly discarded. Some on the team see signs of sampling variation in yelloweye catch estimates in the non-nearshore and nearshore sectors.

Generally speaking, variability in estimates of catch produced from random sampling is a function primarily of the sample coverage rate and the frequency with which the species of interest are encountered. For a given coverage rate, species that are encountered with low frequency will be subject to more variability than species that are encountered with high frequency. Low sampling coverage rates will produce more volatile estimates than high sampling coverage. Volatility in estimates may not manifest for a number of years. That is, it is possible that estimates can remain low for a number of years and then spike when a rare event is observed. This is potentially what has led to increased estimates of yelloweye bycatch in the nearshore sectors; we believe yelloweye catch events to be relatively rare. The percentage of trips with observed yelloweye bycatch in the non-nearshore sector is displayed in Table 2. We have not yet calculated the same statistics for the nearshore sectors but can do so for June. WCGOP coverage rates in the non-nearshore and nearshore sectors are shown in Table 3 and Table 4.

The analysis we plan on producing for June is a simulation-based method where “true” catch is simulated based on patterns observed in the WCGOP data. This simulated dataset of “true” catch is then randomly sampled under realistic levels of sampling coverage we see in the fisheries. Together the simulated “true” and sampled catches allow an evaluation of how much variability we should expect to see. Our preliminary results suggest that the sampling coverage combined with the patterns of catch observed in the fishery suggest that we would expect to see catch estimates that are double the “true” catch about 10 percent of the time, and 50 percent higher 25 percent of the time. While preliminary, our primary modelers for these sectors believe that this level of uncertainty warrants closer scrutiny. We believe the analysis planned for June will better allow the Council to weigh the risk of this proposed reallocation.

Table 2. Percent of non-nearshore trips with observed yelloweye catch north of 36° N. latitude by year.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
% of obs. trips	7.4%	4.9%	3.0%	3.5%	2.7%	0.9%	1.7%	3.4%

Table 3. Estimated WCGOP coverage levels by year in the limited entry and open access non-nearshore sectors north of 36 N. latitude. Coverage is calculated as the percentage of observed sablefish landings to total sablefish landings in these sectors (Source: WGCOP Observer Coverage Rates 2002-2011) .

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Coverage	19%	18%	12%	29%	18%	23%	32%	8%	24%	21%

Table 4. WCGOP coverage levels by year in the Oregon and California nearshore fisheries. Coverage is calculated as the percentage of observed to total landings (lbs) of nearshore species. (Source: WGCOP Observer Coverage Rates 2002-2011).

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Coverage	7%	5%	7%	6%	4%	4%	5%	6%

Further, under the fishery structure described below, the Oregon and California commercial nearshore fisheries will approach or reach their state-specific allocation of yelloweye rockfish. The GMT points out that projected overfished species catch in both states may change depending on modeled results of Council actions taken under Agenda Item C.4 (e.g., ACL decisions regarding kelp greenling and the Other Fish complex, which will be modeled prior to the June Council meeting), and allocation decisions that the Council will make for nearshore rockfish in June. It is possible that both states may require additional yelloweye rockfish, depending on the outcome of June decisions. At the June meeting, the Council will consider the analysis described above to decide (a) whether 0.6 mt will be shifted from the non-nearshore fixed gear fishery to the commercial nearshore fishery and (b) how that amount may be apportioned between the states. We provide the following for your consideration. More detail and more analysis will be provided at the June meeting.

If this action were adopted, increased yelloweye allocation for California could potentially increase to 0.3 mt, as an example, if shared equally with Oregon. The California projected 2015-2016 mortalities for yelloweye north and south of 40°10' N. latitude are 0.2 mt and 0.1 mt, respectively. Using this ratio, and applying it to a 0.3 mt potential increase, would translate to an additional increased amount that equals the existing projected take for both areas in 2015 and 2016.

The formal 2015 and 2016 allocation is set at 1.2 mt for each year (Table 4.37, [Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 6](#)). Of this amount, California's projected take (0.3 mt) and Oregon's take

(0.9 mt) matches that allocation amount of 1.2 mt if compared to the No Action alternative. The additional 0.3 mt provides a buffer for the nearshore fishery, should the projected take of nearshore species increase during the next biennial cycle. However, since the 2015 and 2016 ACL for the nearshore fishery north of 40°10' N. latitude has been reduced to 69 mt, a 0.2 mt increase for northern California could allow some additional fishing opportunities for the small fleet working this area. Also, if modest trip limit increases are implemented for the lingcod fishery north of 40°10' N. latitude or as a result of opening additional periods, the additional yelloweye rockfish allocated to the state could compensate for the potential increased encounters with overfished species. Prior to the June Council meeting, the nearshore OFS mortality estimates will need to be recalculated as a result of Agenda Item C.4 decisions.

For Oregon, the projected yelloweye rockfish impact (0.9 mt) under Alternative 3 is equal to Oregon's allocation (0.9 mt). Hence, depending on the selection of the nearshore rockfish allocation method in June, and depending on management measure decisions made in June, it may be necessary to increase the state allocation to some level higher than 0.9 mt to continue the fishery under the current structure (i.e., 30 fm RCA coastwide). For example, the Council may consider increasing lingcod trip limits under this agenda item. In addition, there is some variation associated with the output from the overfished species model, so some buffer will help prevent potential disruptions to the fishery. As shown above, OFS mortality estimates will need to be recalculated prior to the June meeting as a result of Agenda Item C.4 decisions.

In the following sections, we describe the preliminary preferred fishery management measures under Alternative 3 noting where updates may be anticipated based on Council action under Agenda Item C.4 (i.e., Alternative 4). Analysis of the final preferred ACLs are anticipated in time to inform final Council action on management measures, which is scheduled for June 2014.

Treaty Tribal

While the treaty tribes have not proposed any changes to off-the-top deductions since November 2013, changes to the treaty off-the-top deductions for some overfished species are likely to occur as a result of bycatch modeling based on the final whiting allocation (i.e., after the final whiting rule). It is also possible that tribes may refine their off-the-top deduction requests prior to the June 2014 meeting. Such updates, depending on the timing, will be analyzed in the final preferred alternative after the June Council meeting.

Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota

Under Alternative 3, the shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery was based on the stocks and complexes described in Table 1. The shorebased IFQ fishery would operate under the same management measures as No Action, with a few modifications. The IFQ would be issued based on the 2015-2016 ACLs and resulting trawl allocations under Alternative 3. Legal-sized Pacific halibut individual bycatch quota (IBQ) would be limited to 15 percent of the Area 2A total constant exploitation yield (TCEY) for legal size halibut (net weight), not to exceed 100,000 pounds (45 mt) annually for legal size halibut (net weight), which is a reduction from status quo.¹ Analysis of new management measures for this sector include Groundfish Conservation Areas (GCAs) to reduce the catch of spiny dogfish and rougheye rockfish, if

¹ The change in Pacific halibut IBQ was recommended under Amendment 21-1 and implementing in regulations at 50 CFR 660.55 (m).

necessary and recommended by the Council ([Agenda Item C.4.b, REVISED GMT Report](#)). A requirement to use rockfish excluders for shorebased IFQ vessels targeting Pacific whiting was also analyzed and could be available, if necessary and recommended by the Council.

At this time, the GMT has not identified any harvest specifications actions under Agenda Item C.4 which would require additional analysis or projections of impacts for the shorebased IFQ fishery. Depending on the outcome of Agenda Item C.8 Slope Rockfish Restructuring, additional analysis may be needed in time to inform final Council action on management measures, which is scheduled for the June 2014 Council meeting.

The GMT recommends the Council adopt the PPA fishery structures for the shorebased IFQ described briefly above and in the DEIS ([Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 6](#)). Analysis of adding a sorting requirement, which was adopted under Agenda Item C.8, will be provided in June for final action.

At-Sea Sector

Under the PPA (Alternative 3), the at-sea whiting co-ops (catcher-processors and motherships) would operate under the same management measures described under No Action, with a few modifications. Allocations would be issued based the 2015-2016 ACLs and resulting at-sea trawl allocations under Alternative 3. Adjustments to the at-sea whiting set-asides may be necessary to accommodate the restructuring of the Other Fish complex, which removed spiny dogfish from the complex. A range of spiny dogfish set-asides and GCAs can be analyzed and made available to reduce spiny dogfish catch, if necessary and adopted by the Council ([Agenda Item C.4.b, REVISED GMT Report](#)). Management measures to reduce rougheye rockfish catch could be implemented, including rougheye GCAs and/or a requirement to use rockfish excluders for the at-sea whiting vessels, if necessary and adopted by the Council.

At this time, the GMT has not identified any harvest specifications actions under Agenda Item C.4 (Alternative 4), which would require additional analysis or projections of impacts for the at-sea sectors. Depending on the outcome of Agenda Item C.8 Slope Rockfish Restructuring, additional analysis may be needed in time to inform final Council action on management measures, which is scheduled for the June 2014 Council meeting.

The GMT recommends the Council adopt the PPA fishery structures for the at-sea sectors described briefly above and in the DEIS ([Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 6](#)). Analysis of adding a sorting requirement, which was adopted under Agenda Item C.8, will be provided in June for final action.

Non-Nearshore

Under the PPA (Alternative 3), the non-nearshore fixed gear fishery would operate under the same management measures as No Action, except trip limit increases for several species, including sablefish, are proposed to attain the ACLs. GCAs to reduce catch of spiny dogfish and/or rougheye rockfish could be implemented, if necessary and adopted by the Council ([Agenda Item C.4.b, REVISED GMT Report](#)).

At this time, the GMT has not identified any harvest specifications actions under Agenda Item C.4 (Alternative 4), which would require additional analysis or projections of impacts for the non-nearshore sectors. Depending on the outcome of Agenda Item C.8 Slope Rockfish Restructuring, additional analysis may be needed in time to inform final Council action on management measures, which is scheduled for the June 2014 Council meeting.

Nearshore Fisheries

Due to delays in receiving the harvest specifications needed to calculate harvest guidelines (HGs), the commercial and recreational fisheries analyses for Alternatives 1-3 were done without allocating the Nearshore Rockfish north ACL with a Nearshore Rockfish HG or range of China rockfish HGs (Table 1).

The projected landings and/or mortality of nearshore rockfish under Agenda Item C.4 (Table 1, Alternative 4) will require the GMT to re-model fishery management measures and projected impacts for the nearshore commercial and recreational fisheries. That is, the Council action to leave in place an Other Fish complex consisting of only kelp greenling (coastwide), cabezon (WA), and leopard shark may result in changes to nearshore fishery management measures and impacts. Further, under Agenda Item C.4 the Council recommended a range of Nearshore rockfish HGs be analyzed, which is discussed further in Agenda Item C.9.b Supplemental GMT Report 2. The resulting analyses can be provided for consideration by the Council in June.

COMMERCIAL NEARSHORE

Under Alternative 3, the nearshore fixed gear fishery would operate under the same management measures as No Action with a few modifications. Trip limit decreases or non-retention may be required for kelp greenling in Oregon and the Nearshore Rockfish complex north of 40°10' N. latitude to keep mortality at or within the complex ACL under the Alternative 3 (adjustments will be made under the FPA, Alternative 4 – see next paragraph). Some measures are analyzed to increase retention of lingcod in the nearshore fisheries, including the elimination of the prohibition on lingcod retention in Periods 1, 2, and 6, as well as increased lingcod trip limits for the open periods (see [Agenda Item C.4.b, REVISED GMT Report](#)). Removing or modifying the gear restrictions on fishing for “Other Flatfish” in the non-trawl RCA, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and in the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCAs) were analyzed.

Council action under Agenda Item C.4 (Table 1, Alternative 4), will require the commercial nearshore model to be rerun to inform management measures and projected impacts. For example, the kelp greenling landing inputs to the nearshore model were limited by the kelp greenling ACL under the Alternative 3 in the DEIS ([Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 6](#)), but will now be increased given Council action under Agenda Item C.4 regarding the Other Fish complex. Further, Alternative 4 will be analyzed with the newly adopted nearshore rockfish HG as described under Agenda Item C.4.

For Oregon, essentially all nearshore rockfish, kelp greenling, and cabezon allocated to the commercial fishery would be harvested under the action alternatives. Under all action alternatives shown in the DEIS ([Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 6](#)), the projected yelloweye rockfish mortality would remain within the Oregon share of the nearshore HG for yelloweye rockfish (i.e., 0.9 mt of yelloweye was allocated, and we projected that yelloweye mortality

would approach 0.9 mt). Although complete analysis of Alternative 4 and the Nearshore Rockfish HG cannot be completed until the June Council meeting, it appears that the Oregon share of the yelloweye rockfish HG may be constraining. That is, additional yelloweye rockfish may be need to be allocated to the nearshore fishery; otherwise management measures (e.g., adjustments to the shoreward boundary of the non-trawl RCA) may be required to remain below the 0.9 mt allocation of yelloweye rockfish for Oregon.

Under Agenda Item C.4, changes to kelp greenling management and a narrowed set of options for Nearshore Rockfish HGs were adopted. New modeling will be necessary to estimate catch of overfished species based on the new harvest specifications. For example, higher kelp greenling landings would be allowed under the final preferred ACL, compared to Alternative 3 ([Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 6](#)). Projected mortality of yelloweye rockfish may also approach the yelloweye HG under Alternative 3. The Council could either revise the yelloweye rockfish HG analyzed under Alternative 3 or recommend additional management measures to keep mortality within the yelloweye rockfish HG (e.g., RCA adjustments). Updated analyses provided in June may indicate that implementation of a Nearshore Rockfish HG may require additional management measures, for example trip limit reductions or non-retention.

For California's northern nearshore fishery, revised ACLs and range of nearshore rockfish HGs may result in more restrictive management measures for the nearshore fishery. While the north of 40°10' N. latitude California fishery is relatively small, with only about 20 participants taking nearshore rockfishes, additional decreases in allowable take (even small decreases), coupled along with such natural events as the 2011 tsunami, have and will continue to negatively impact communities.

WASHINGTON RECREATIONAL

Under the action alternatives, Washington recreational fisheries would operate under the same management measures as No Action, except the season dates for the depth closure in the North Coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4) would be shorter than under No Action. In the South Coast (Marine Area 2), the prohibition on lingcod retention seaward of 30 fathoms in the area south of 46° 58' N. latitude on Fridays and Saturdays from July to August 31 would be removed. Lastly, in the Columbia River Area (Marine Area 1), the southern boundary for the year-round lingcod closure would be moved three miles north.

As described previously, under Agenda Item C.4, a narrowed set of options for Nearshore Rockfish HGs were adopted. Updated analyses provided in June may indicate that implementation of a Nearshore Rockfish HG may require additional management measures, for example bag limit reductions or non-retention.

OREGON RECREATIONAL

Under the action alternatives, the Oregon recreational fishery would operate under the same management measures as under No Action. Currently yelloweye rockfish drives all season structure and management measures in the Oregon recreational fishery. However depending on the Nearshore Rockfish HG option, there may be a need for further restrictions to reduce impacts to nearshore rockfish species. Once those decisions are made, the public and state advisory groups will need to be consulted and a range of management measures identified. Updated

analysis will hopefully be provided in June, however any additional management measures for nearshore rockfish should not change the projected impacts for canary and yelloweye rockfishes in the current analysis.

As described previously, under Agenda Item C.4, changes to kelp greenling management and a narrowed set of options for Nearshore Rockfish HGs were adopted. New modeling will be necessary to estimate catch of overfished species based on the new harvest specifications. Updated analyses provided in June may indicate that implementation of a Nearshore Rockfish HG may require additional management measures, for example bag limit reductions or non-retention.

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL

Season lengths and depth restrictions were explored for the California recreational fisheries, with extension of season length in Management Areas North of Point Conception (34° 27' N latitude) and a return to a 60 fm line depth restriction in the Southern Management Area (south of 34° 27' N. latitude) contemplated in the options analyzed. An increase in the lingcod bag limit from two to three fish can be accommodated given projected impacts. Season and depth restrictions analyzed to date for the California recreational fishery reflect the limitations posed by overfished and non-overfished species assuming continuation of the current management regime for the Nearshore Rockfish complex. The effects of alternative management schemes in which a state harvest guideline is in place will need to be analyzed to determine whether additional management measures will be needed to stay within the harvest guideline under each allocation alternative. Between now and June, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff can analyze reductions to bag limits or non-retention if needed to reduce catch of nearshore rockfish, including China rockfish, as a result of HG allocations. Public comments received between now and June would provide further guidance as to which management measures would be preferred if any are necessary to reduce mortality. All other management measures would be the same as under No Action.

GMT Recommendations

1. Recall the GMT comments on Amendment 24 and the associated FMP language in [Agenda Item C.4.b, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#).
2. Consider this information in this report when recommending a Dover sole ACL.
3. Consider information in this report when recommending a widow rockfish ACL.
4. Confirm the set-aside values in Tables 10 and 11 in [Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#).
5. Confirm blackgill rockfish south of 40°10 N. latitude and blue rockfish in California HGs as shown in Tables 8 and 9 in [Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#).
6. If the Council would like the GMT to analyze a roughey rockfish HG, in addition to the sorting requirement adopted under Agenda Item C.8, the Council should provide guidance on the range for analysis.
7. Postpone further consideration of the two-year trawl/non-trawl and within non-trawl allocations for canary and yelloweye rockfishes until June. The GMT believes that given action under Agenda Item C.4, including the range of Nearshore Rockfish HGs, further analysis is necessary to inform decision-making. The GMT does not believe such

additional modeling and analysis will impact projections for bocaccio and petrale sole; therefore the Council could select PPA trawl and non-trawl 2-year allocations for those species at this time.

8. Adopt PPA fishery structures for the shorebased IFQ and at-sea whiting fisheries. Analysis of adding a sorting requirement, which was adopted under Agenda Item C.8, will be provided in June for final action.
9. Postpone adoption of the PPA fishery structures for the non-nearshore commercial, nearshore commercial, and recreational fisheries. The GMT believes that given action under Agenda Item C.4, including the range of Nearshore Rockfish HG, further analysis is necessary to inform decision-making.

Attachment 1. Draft scorecard for 2015. Allocations and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2015, based on analysis of the PPA.

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: 5 April 2014</i>														
Off the Top Deductions	8.3	8.3	15.2	15.2	2.0	2.0	20.8	20.8	236.6	236.6	15.0	15.0	5.8	5.8
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	4.5	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	14.2	14.2	5.2	5.2	3.3	3.3
Incidental OA e/	0.7	0.7	2.0	2.0	--	--	18.4	18.4	2.4	2.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2
Tribal f/			7.7	7.7			0.2	0.2	220.0	220.0	9.2	9.2	2.3	2.3
Trawl Allocations	81.9	81.9	56.9	56.9	1.4	1.4	301.3	301.3	2,544.4	2,544.4	135.9	135.9	1.0	1.0
-SB Trawl	81.9	81.9	43.3	43.3	1.4	1.4	285.6	285.6	2,539.4	2,539.4	118.5	118.5	1.0	1.0
-At-Sea Trawl			13.7	13.7			15.7	15.7	5.0	5.0	17.4	17.4		
a) At-sea whiting MS			5.6	5.6			6.5	6.5			7.2	7.2		
b) At-sea whiting CP			8.0	8.0			9.2	9.2			10.2	10.2		
Non-Trawl Allocation	258.8	118.0	49.9	31.9	2.6	1.2	15.9	4.9	35.0		7.2	0.3	11.2	9.7
Non-Nearshore	79.1	0.0	3.8	1.1				4.7		0.3		0.3	1.1	0.5
LE FG														
OA FG														
Directed OA: Nearshore	1.0	0.4	6.7	7.0				0.2		0.0		0.0	1.2	1.3
Recreational Groundfish														
WA			3.4	0.8				--		--		--	2.9	2.8
OR			11.7	3.2				--		--		--	2.6	2.2
CA (based on Option 2)	178.8	117.6	24.3	19.8		1.2		--		--		--	3.4	2.9
TOTAL	349.0	208.2	122.0	104.0	6.0	4.6	338.0	327.0	2,816.0	2,781.0	158.1	151.2	18.0	16.6
2015 Harvest Specification	349	359	122	122	10.0	10.0	338	338	2,816	2,816	158	158	18	18
Difference	0.0	150.8	0.0	18.1	4.0	5.4	0.0	11.0	0.0	35.0	-0.1	6.8	0.0	1.4
Percent of ACL	100.0%	58.0%	100.0%	85.2%	60.2%	46.2%	100.0%	96.7%	100.0%	98.8%	100.1%	95.7%	100.0%	92.0%
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 2013-2014 Environmental Impact Statement (Appendix B), which are currently specified in regulation.

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