

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Introduction

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 recommendations for 2013 inseason adjustments.

The GMT also received guidance from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region (NWR) regarding timing of implementation of inseason recommendations from this meeting. NMFS anticipates implementing potential routine inseason adjustments to 2013 fishery management measures potentially as early as May 15, 2013.

2013 Action Items

Recreational Fisheries

- See [Agenda Item D.8.b, Supplemental WDFW Report](#)

The GMT concurs with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) recommendation that the Council adopt Federal regulations that conform to state regulations recently adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. State regulations that conform to regulations implemented into Federal regulation by NMFS provide consistency for stakeholders and strengthen the ability to enforce regulations pertaining to recreational groundfish fishing in coastal waters. To provide this consistency, the GMT is recommending that the following regulations be approved by the Council and adopted into Federal regulations through inseason action.

Between the U.S./Canada border and 48°10' N. lat. (Cape Alava; Washington Marine Area 4):

- 1 Adopt a minimum size of 18 inches for cabezon and reduce the daily bag limit from 2 per angler per day to 1 per angler per day.
- 2 Reduce the minimum size for lingcod from 24 inches to 22 inches.

Bag limits for cabezon were analyzed as part of the harvest specification and management measure analysis for the 2011-2012 biennial cycle, when a daily bag limit of 2 per day was adopted. WDFW does not currently have a minimum size limit for cabezon. The 2009 status of cabezon stocks off Oregon and California <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/stock-assessments/by-species/cabezon/> shows that approximately 70 percent of the cabezon off Oregon are mature by the time they reach 17 inches. This suggests that, if there is some similarity in the Washington and Oregon cabezon stocks, that an 18 inch minimum size is reasonable to provide additional protection to cabezon stocks off Washington.

The lingcod size limit in the Washington recreational fishery in all management areas except for the area north of Cape Alava is 22 inches. The size limit north of Cape Alava was kept at 24 inches to maintain consistency with the adjacent Washington management area east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line.

The Council considered reducing, or removing, the minimum size limit for lingcod in both the commercial and recreational fisheries for the 2013-2014 cycle. The environmental effects of the action(s) were included in the 2013-2014 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS; September_2012-AppendixC_13-14_FEIS_SPEX). Therefore, as stated in the preamble for the proposed rule for 2013-2014, adjustments to lingcod size limits are considered a routine measure and may be implemented through inseason action (77 FR 67974,67988 (November 14, 2012)).

2013 Informational Items

Scorecard updates

The overfished species scorecard is in Attachment 1.

GMT Recommendations:

- 1 **Adopt Federal regulations that conform with the Washington recreational regulations; specifically Between the U.S./Canada border and 48°10' N. lat. (Cape Alava, Washington Marine Area 4):**

- a. Adopt a minimum size of 18 inches for cabezon and reduce the daily bag limit from two per angler per day to one per angler per day.**
- b. Reduce the minimum size for lingcod from 24 inches to 22 inches.**

PFMC
04/08/13

Attachment 1. Scorecard for 2013 Allocation and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2013

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 07 April 2013</i>														
Off the Top Deductions	8.4	8.4	17.5	17.5	0.1	0.1	20.8	20.8	234.0	234.0	16.5	16.7	5.8	5.8
EFPc/	6.0	6.0	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Research d/	1.7	1.7	4.5	4.5	0.1	0.1	2.1	2.1	11.6	11.6	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	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2
Tribal f/			9.5	9.5			0.1	0.1	220.0	220.0	10.9	10.9	2.3	2.3
Trawl Allocations	74.9	74.9	52.5	52.5	1.0	1.0	281.4	281.4	2,323.0	2,323.0	126.8	126.8	1.0	1.0
---SB Trawl	74.9	74.9	26.2	26.2	1.0	1.0	266.7	266.7	2,318.0	2,318.0	109.4	109.4	0.6	0.6
---At-Sea Trawl			8.6	8.6			14.7	14.7	5.0	5.0	17.4	17.4		
a) At-sea whiting M			3.6	3.4			6.1	6.1			7.2	7.2		
b) At-sea whiting Cl			5.0	4.8			8.6	8.6			10.2	10.2		
Non-Trawl Allocation	236.7	125.5	46.0	27.2	1.9	0.8	14.8	3.5	35.0	2.2	6.7	0.2	11.2	10.4
Non-Nearshore	72.3		3.5										1.1	
LE FG				0.9				2.8				0.2		0.4
OA FG				0.1				0.5				0.0		0.1
Directed OA: Nearshore	0.9	0.5	6.2	7.2		0.0		0.2					1.2	1.1
Recreational Groundfish														
WA			3.1	0.9				--		--		--	2.9	2.9
OR			10.8	4.7				--		--		--	2.6	2.5
CA	163.5	125.0	22.4	13.4		0.8		--		--		--	3.4	3.4
TOTAL	320.0	208.8	116.0	97.2	3.0	1.9	317.0	305.7	2,592.0	2,559.2	150.0	143.7	18.0	17.2
2013 Harvest Specification	320	320	116	116	3.0	3.0	317	317	2,592	2,592	150	150	18	18
Difference	0.0	111.2	0.0	18.8	0.0	1.1	0.0	11.3	0.0	32.8	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.8
Percent of OY	100.0%	65.3%	100.0%	83.8%	100.0%	64.7%	100.0%	96.4%	100.0%	98.7%	100.0%	95.8%	100.1%	95.7%
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 aside 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 8), 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.