The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) met to discuss inseason adjustments and concerns. The GMT highlighted that, because of adjustments to projections in the scorecard, the yelloweye difference amount is lower than previous projections. Current projections indicate 99.4 percent of the yelloweye optimum yield (OY) will be attained, which would provide a 0.1 mt margin.

Based on the GMT’s revised projections and because it is very early in the season, the GAP recommends the Council not make any changes in the scorecard at this time. The predictions on yelloweye impacts are based on full attainment of yelloweye amounts in directed fisheries and the EFPs. Past performance demonstrates that most likely neither will be attained, thus leaving some yelloweye margin.

With the above comments in mind, the GAP provides the following recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations will not increase yelloweye impacts beyond current projections.

WHITING SECTOR SPECIFIC BYCATCH LIMITS

The GAP discussed this issue with whiting industry representatives. Bycatch management was much smoother in 2009, in large part, because of the sector-specific limits. The 2009 amounts were sufficient to cover potential bycatch, provided sufficient incentives to not race to fish, and did not diminish opportunities in non-whiting fisheries. Therefore, the GAP recommends 2009 amounts for canary and darkblotched be used again in 2010. For widow, the GAP requests consideration of amounts higher than 2009 if the scorecard can accommodate these increases. As widow is close to rebuilt, it is possible that encounter rates could increase and constrain the whiting fishery.

SOUTH OF 36° N  Fixed Gear Sablefish

Limited entry -- Remove the daily limit in the daily-trip-limit (DTL) fishery. Removal of the daily limit should reduce regulatory discards. The cumulative weekly limit would be 1,500 lb.

Open access -- Retain the daily and weekly limits, but increase the current cumulative limit of 8,000 lb per 2/months to 9,000 lb per 2/months. Currently, many fishermen are landing the 1,500 lb per week limit and the small increase from 8,000 lb to 9,000 lb would allow for six full trips per period. This would also reduce discards.
NORTH OF 36°  Fixed Gear Sablefish

Open access -- Current seasonal landings are less than projected and the fish have gone unharvested in recent years. Trip limit increases have occurred too late in the year for the northern fleet to properly attain the limits due to bad weather incurred late in the season. This fishery fishes too deep to impact yelloweye. The new limits would be as follows:

300 lb daily, one landing per week up to 1,000 lb and a bi-monthly limit of 3,000 lb.

PFMC
03/10/09