

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received a presentation on the Economic Data Collection Program (ECDP) from Dr. Todd Lee and Erin Steiner. The GMT would like to thank both for describing the methods and providing some preliminary results for that program. We would also like to emphasize the usefulness and timeliness of this information for managing west coast groundfish fisheries (e.g., for developing the 2015-2016 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures and for evaluating electronic monitoring).

The GMT had some discussion regarding the fishery categories currently defined by the ECDP. Currently, the ECDP is summarizing data for the following fisheries: (1) at-sea whiting, (2) shoreside whiting, (3) Dover, thornyhead, sablefish (DTS) trawl, (4) non-whiting, non-DTS trawl, (5) groundfish while using fixed gear with a trawl permit (gear switching), (6) crab, (7) shrimp, and (8) other, which includes salmon, halibut, tuna, and groundfish fixed gear with a fixed gear endorsement.

The GMT recommended that at least one additional category and definition be provided for the shoreside non-whiting, non-DTS trawl. One recommendation is to add a non-whiting midwater trawl category. In addition, there are some who suggest the “non-whiting, non-DTS trawl” category be divided into “nearshore flatfish trawl” and “bottom rockfish” trawl. The GMT notes, however, that confidentiality provisions may prohibit summarizing data using categories at this level of resolution.

The GMT would like to continue communication with the Dr. Lee and Ms. Steiner as the categories and definitions are further developed.

GMT Recommendations:

- **Add a new trawl category: non-whiting midwater trawl.**
- **Continue GMT involvement and communication to help refine fishery categories and definitions.**