

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss progress of this year's fishery and possible inseason adjustments. The GMT discussion was led by Mr. Bob Leos. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery North of 36° N. Latitude

Current trip limit (950 weekly/2,850 bimonthly)

Industry has requested an increase in trip limits for sablefish for the balance of the year (periods 4 through 6). The GMT analyzed 2 alternatives for the Council to consider. The GAP supports **GMT Alternative 1, (1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb., not to exceed 3,000 lb. per 2 months)**. The model suggests a sufficient buffer (est. between 88 percent to 93 percent take) depending on which price assumption is used.

Open Access Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery North of 36° N. Latitude

Current trip limit (300 daily/800 weekly/1,600 bimonthly)

Open Access representatives on the GAP have requested exploring the possibility of an increase in trip limits for sablefish for the remainder of the year (periods 4 through 6). Open access fishermen are currently working with a very narrow profit margin due to high fuel prices combined with very low trip limits. The GAP supports **GMT Alternative 1, (350 lb. per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb., not to exceed 3,200 lb. per 2 months)**.

Limited Entry/Open Access Fixed Gear Shallow/Deeper Nearshore Rockfish South of 40° 10' N. Latitude

Current trip limit (900 lb. per 2 month period)

The Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association requested an increase in the trip limits for both shallow nearshore and deeper nearshore rockfish for the balance of the year (periods 4 through 6). The GMT analyzed this request and has noted that this fishery has already been projected to exceed its allocation of Canary rockfish by .1 MT (GMT Table 4 Scorecard Projected Impacts). Therefore the GAP does not support this request as any increase in nearshore trip limits would likely increase this overage of Canary rockfish.

Open Access Fixed Gear Lingcod South of 42° N. Latitude

The Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association requested opening Lingcod in December of this year with a 400 pound monthly limit. The GAP notes this fishery has been closed to Lingcod fishing for decades during this time of year to protect nesting spawning

females. The GAP believes bycatch impacts to Canary and/or Yelloweye rockfish would increase with this request. We note that a similar request has been brought forward for the 2015/2016 fishing seasons and is currently being analyzed under the Biennial Specifications package. The GAP does not support this request as an inseason action and prefers holding off until the final Specs analysis has been completed before considering again in the future.

Summary of GAP recommendations

1) Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery North of 36° N. Latitude

GMT Alternative 1, (1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb., not to exceed 3,000 lb. per 2 months)

2) Open Access Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery North of 36° N. Latitude

GMT Alternative 1, (350 lb. per day or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb., not to exceed 3,200 lb. per 2 months)

PFMC

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