

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. Dan Erickson. 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 (1,110 weekly/3,300 bimonthly)

Industry has requested an increase in trip limits for sablefish for the balance of the year (Period 6). The GMT analyzed 3 alternatives for the Council to consider. The GAP supports **GMT Alternative 2, (1 landing per week of up to 1,850 lb., not to exceed 5,500 lb. per 2 months)**. The model suggests a sufficient buffer (est. 91 percent take) but still allows for a small opportunity to make a few extra dollars in what has been a very difficult market this year.

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 (period 6). Open access fishermen are currently working with a very narrow profit margin due to high fuel prices, poor sablefish prices and low trip limits. The GAP supports **GMT Alternative 2, (300 lb. per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,200 lb., not to exceed 2,400 lb. per 2 months)**. The GAP believes sablefish effort may actually be lower than the model predicts due to the District 10 Dungeness crab opener November 15. Those that choose to fish sablefish will appreciate the extra fish.

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

No action.

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

Current trip limit (300 daily/1,460 weekly/2,920 bimonthly)

Conception area Open Access sablefish catch is running well below its harvest guideline due in part to a very difficult market in the southern California region. Those that are able to find a buyer will appreciate the extra opportunity. The GAP supports **GMT Alternative 2, (380 lb. per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,800 lb., not to exceed 3,800 lb. per 2 months)**.

Limited Entry/Open Access Fixed Gear 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 deeper nearshore rockfish for the balance of the year (Period 6). The GMT analyzed this request and has noted that there would be a minimal increase in the bycatch of Canary rockfish (.1 MT?). The updated scorecard shows total projected impacts to Canary rockfish remain well below the ACL (84.3%). The GAP therefore recommends increasing the deeper nearshore rockfish trip limits from the current 900 lb. per 2 month period up to **1,000 lb. per 2 month period (Period 6)**.

Petrale Surplus Carry-Over in the Limited Entry Trawl Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Fishery

The GAP believes that the 10% Petrale Sole surplus carryover should be implemented. Based on informed discussion from participants (harvesters and processors) there is confidence that the allocation will not be exceeded in 2013. The GAP believes in principle that the carryover of surplus fish should always occur when allocations will not be exceeded. The ability to carry fish over also allows fishermen the ability to relax their harvesting effort and not feel that they have to fish right up to their allocation which can result in deficits that need to be covered.

Recreational Groundfish Fishery South of 34° 27' N. Latitude

The GAP recreational representative for the Southern California charter boat fleet wishes to inform the Council that they will be pursuing an inseason request to open the shelf rockfish fishery during the currently closed months of January and February of 2014. This request will be coming forward at the November Council meeting in Costa Mesa. The GAP supports consideration of this request.

Summary of GAP Recommendations

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

GMT Alternative 2, (1 landing per week of up to 1,850 lb., not to exceed 5,500 lb. per 2 months)

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

GMT Alternative 2, (300 lb. per day or 1 landing per week of up to 1,200 lb., not to exceed 2,400 lb. per 2 months)

- 3) Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery South of 36° N. Latitude.

No Action

- 4) Open Access Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery South of 36° N. Latitude.

GMT Alternative 2, (380 lb. per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,800 lb., not to exceed 3,800 lb. per 2 months)

- 5) Limited Entry/Open Access Fixed Gear Deeper Nearshore Rockfish South of 40° 10 N. Latitude.

Increase to 1,000 lb. per 2 month period (period 6)

- 6) Recreational groundfish South of 34° 27' N. Latitude

An inseason request to open the shelf rockfish fishery during the months of January and February 2014 (To be presented in November).

PFMC
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