The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) engaged in a joint discussion regarding potential inseason actions for the remainder of 2011. Following this initial inseason discussion the GAP wishes to recommend the following:

**Fixed Gear Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL) Fisheries**

**Limited Entry (LE) DTL, North of 36 N Lat.**

Current GMT projections indicate the limited entry DTL fishery in the north will exceed their 273 mt HG by 6 percent or roughly 17 mt. GMT estimates for the primary sablefish fishery project 95 percent attainment leaving a residual of 77 mt. Team estimates for the northern open access fishery are 98 percent attainment which could also leave a small residual.

Noting the GMT projections, the GAP believes there will be a buffer of at least 80 mt of sablefish in the north. Therefore the GAP suggests the Council should take no action on inseason for the LE DTL north and use 17 mt of this available 80 mt buffer to allow the fishery to finish out the year. The GAP would also make the point that many DTL fishermen will be switching to Dungeness crab fishing in early November thus reducing effort in the DTL fishery. Poor weather typically occurs during period 6 and that could restrict catches as well. The GAP questions whether the LE DTL north will even reach its projected attainment.

**The GAP recommends no action for Limited Entry DTL Sablefish North of 36 N Lat.**

**Conception area Fixed Gear Sablefish DTL**

**Limited Entry DTL, South of 36 N Lat. (Conception area)**

Current GMT projections estimate the Conception area LE DTL fishery will exceed its HG by 12 percent or roughly 47 mt. The GAP notes this HG is a soft target allocation as a part of the total Southern Non-Trawl Allocation set aside of 733 mt of sablefish. GMT catch projections for the Conception Open Access DTL are running at only 64 percent of its HG and will have a residual of 116 mt. Noting these projections the GAP recommends the following:

**The GAP recommends no action for LE DTL, South of 36N Lat**

**Open Access DTL, South of 36 N Lat.**

Industry reps indicate that the current weekly trip limit of 1200 pounds is too low to make it economically viable to fish. Suggestions of a minimum 1500 pounds for the weekly limit have been expressed by ALL fixed gear fishermen for several years in Conception due to very long
distances run to access the fishing grounds. The current quota species monitoring landings data indicates that Conception Open Access (OA) fishermen are not fishing since the lower 1200 pound weekly trip limit was implemented this past March. Although the GAP recognizes how volatile the Conception OA fishery is, we suggest increasing the weekly limit to 1500 pounds with the bi-monthly cap increased to 3000 pounds. Combining this increase with the no action recommendation for the LE DTL still leaves a buffer of 60 mt in Conception to cover any OA effort increase.

The GAP therefore recommends increasing the trip limits from “300 lbs. per day/1,200 lbs. one landing per week/not to exceed 2,400 lbs. per 2 months” to “300 lbs. per day/1,500 lbs. one landing per week/not to exceed 3,000 lbs. per 2 months,” effective November 1 through the end of the year.

Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear south of 40 10’N Lat:

Shallow Nearshore Rockfish

GMT analysis has indicated this fishery is tracking well below its HG. Industry has requested a trip limit increase up to either 800 lbs or 1000 lbs for period 6. GMT analysis reveals no impacts to overfished species so the GAP recommends increasing the trip limits from the current “600 lbs/2 months” up to “1,000 lbs/2 months” effective November 1 through the end of the year.

In summary, the GAP inseason recommendations for Council consideration are as follows:

Limited Entry DTL, Sablefish North of 36 N Lat.
  o No Action

Limited Entry DTL, South of 36 N Lat.
  o No Action

Open Access DTL, South of 36 N Lat.
  o Increase the trip limits from “300 lbs per day/1,200 lbs one landing per week/not to exceed 2,400 lbs per 2 months” to “300 lbs per day/1,500 lbs one landing per week/not to exceed 3,000 lbs per 2 months,” effective November 1 through the end of the year.

Limited Entry/Open Access Fixed Gear South of 40 10’ N Lat.; Shallow Nearshore Rockfish
  o Increase the trip limits from “600 lbs/2 months” up to 1,000 lbs/2 months effective November 1 through the end of the year.

PFMC
09/16/11