

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFF-THE-TOP DEDUCTIONS (SET-ASIDES)

Deductions to the annual catch limits (ACL) or annual catch targets (ACT) are made to account for fishing-related mortality resulting from scientific research, non-groundfish fisheries (also called incidental open access fisheries), Pacific Coast treaty Indian tribal harvest, and, as necessary, exempted fishing permits (EFPs). These deductions are important accountability measures that increase the likelihood that catches will remain below ACLs or ACTs.

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the available data and provides the following recommended updates to information contained in the 2013-2014 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), [Appendix C](#) (Attachment 2). An explanation on how the set-aside recommendations were derived is provided below and final values provided in Appendix 1. These tables have been updated to reflect Council actions at this meeting, including changes to the Other Fish complex. The Council decision on the Other Fish complex establishes species-specific harvest specifications for spiny dogfish and potentially kelp greenling, Washington cabezon and Leopard shark and designates the remaining species as ecosystem components<sup>1</sup>. For slope rockfish, the GMT only considers set-asides relative to the status quo complexes at this time. Set-asides for the various complex configurations will be evaluated over winter.

Additionally, set-asides taken from the trawl allocation are needed to accommodate bycatch in the at-sea whiting fishery. The GMT provides information on historical catch to inform the Council decision on set-asides for the at-sea whiting fishery for the 2015-2016 cycle below.

Lastly, a Pacific halibut set-aside is necessary to accommodate bycatch in the at-sea whiting fisheries and in the shorebased trawl sector south of 40°10 N. latitude. The 2014 Pacific halibut set-aside is 10 mt. At this time the GMT does not have any information to inform changes to this set-aside and as such recommends the 2014 value is used in the analysis.

### Exempted Fishing Permits

The Council adopted preliminary EFPs for public review and their associated set-asides for both non-overfished and overfished species for 2015-2016 under Agenda Item H.2. The Council adopted the set-asides recommended by the GMT ([Agenda Item, H.2.b, Supplemental GMT Report, Table 1](#)) with modifications to increase the set aside for canary rockfish to 1.0 mt and yelloweye rockfish to 0.03 mt based on updated set aside requests from the applicants. These set-asides are summarized in Appendix 1.

### Scientific Research

Research activities include the NMFS trawl survey, International Pacific Halibut Commission longline survey, and other Federal and state research. For the 2013-2014 cycle, the Council approach was to establish research set-asides equal to the maximum historical scientific research catch from 2005-2010, except for canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish.

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<sup>1</sup> Kelp greenling, Washington cabezon and Leopard shark would either be managed as individual species or as a complex.

The Council policy for canary and yelloweye rockfish was not based on the maximum historical value. The Council considered the high canary rockfish research catches of 7.2 mt in 2006 a rare event. The largest catches came from the NMFS trawl survey, and surveys in later years

encountered substantially less canary. The Council adopted a 4.5 mt canary rockfish set-aside, which is higher than the average research catch from 2005-2010. For yelloweye rockfish, the Council adopted a 3.3 mt research set-aside based on anticipated research needs of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (1.1 mt), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (1 mt), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (1 mt), and other projects (0.2 mt).

For 2015-2016, research catch from the 2011 and 2012 West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) Groundfish Mortality Reports was summarized with previous year's estimates. The GMT followed the same approach recommended by the Council for the 2013-2014 process for recommending the research set-asides for 2015-2016 summarized in Appendix 1. As stated under [Agenda Item H.10. b. Supplemental GMT Report 3](#), for cowcod, the GMT requests the Council provide flexibility in the analysis to consider higher research values than the 0.2 mt in Attachment 1.

#### Non-Groundfish Fisheries (Incidental Open Access)

Following the same approach that was used for 2013-2014, estimates of impacts in the incidental open access fisheries were derived from the maximum values in the 2007-2012 WCGOP Groundfish Mortality Reports. The exception is that the recommended set-aside for longnose skate is based only on catch data from the 2009-2012 Groundfish Mortality Reports to reflect when catches of longnose skate were removed from the other skate category and reported individually.

The GMT recommends the Council adopt the 2015-2016 set-asides for the incidental open access fisheries, as displayed in Appendix 1.

#### Tribal

The Tribal fisheries consist of trawl (bottom, mid-water, and whiting), fixed gear, and treaty troll. As a placeholder for the coming biennium, the set asides for tribal fisheries should reflect the most recent estimates of bycatch across all fisheries reflected in the latest overfished species scorecard ([Agenda Item H.9.b. Supplemental GMT Report](#)) with some exceptions. In June of 2013, the projected impacts for overfished species in the scorecard were updated based on the final rule for the 2013 tribal allocation of whiting. Since that time, it has come to our attention that in the preliminary estimate of treaty fisheries management measures, the Quileute Tribe has indicated that they have not received requests from their fishermen to participate in the whiting fishery. The GMT uses a weighted average approach to estimate bycatch associated with the tribal whiting fishery each year. These latest bycatch estimates for the whiting fishery, as well as the preliminary proposed treaty tribal management measures are reflected in the set-asides listed in the table below. The GMT has read the letter submitted by the Makah Tribe ([Agenda H.10.b. Supplemental Tribal Report \(Makah\)](#)) and understands they may be requesting an increase to yellowtail, widow, and Pacific cod and will provide numbers by June 2014. Additional adjustments may be provided as the Tribes refine their fisheries proposals for 2015-2016 prior to June 2014 and are further likely to be changed based on final bycatch estimates from the 2013 whiting fishery.

The GMT recommends the Council adopt the tribal set-asides as displayed in Attachment 1.

At-Sea Whiting Set-asides

Unlike set-asides that are taken as off-the-top deductions after setting the ACL, set-asides for some overfished species (petrale and yelloweye) and non-overfished species are taken from the trawl allocation to accommodate bycatch in the at-sea whiting fishery. Like other set-asides, these impacts are not managed inseason, so the set-aside amounts need to be set high enough to accommodate anticipated catch.

The GMT reviewed the recent catch from 2011-2012 and recommends set-asides for the 2015-2016 cycle for all species, except spiny dogfish as displayed in Table 1.

Historical spiny dogfish catch for the at-sea whiting sector and the total estimated fishing mortality from the WCGOP Groundfish Mortality Reports for all sectors is summarized for 2009-2012 (Table 2). The GMT notes that catch in 2011 was significantly higher than all other years, therefore using an average that incorporates that year of high catch is likely precautionary compared to typical years. The Council should consider the historical mortality of spiny dogfish in the at-sea sectors when establishing a set-aside.

Table 1. Recommended set-asides from the trawl allocation to accommodate bycatch in the at-sea whiting fishery for 2015-2016. Bolded values represent changes from the 2013-2014 set-asides and overfished species are shown in all caps.

Species/Species Group	Value in 2014 Regulations (mt)	GMT Recommendations for 2015-2016 (mt)
PETRALE SOLE	5	5
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	0	0
Arrowtooth flounder	20	<b>45.2</b>
Dover sole	5	5
English sole	5	5
Lingcod (N. of 42° N. lat.)	15	15
Longnose skate	5	5
Other fish	520	<b>N/A</b>
Spiny dogfish		<b>TBD</b>
Other flatfish	20	20
Pacific cod	5	3
Minor shelf rockfish (N. of 40°10' N. lat.)	35	35
Minor slope rockfish (N. of 40°10' N. lat.)	100	100
Sablefish N of 36°	50	50
Starry Flounder	5	5
Longspine Thornyhead (N. of 32°27' N. lat.)	5	5
Shortspine Thornyhead (N. of 32°27' N. lat.)	20	20
Yellowtail Rockfish (N. of 40°10' N. lat.)	300	300

Table 2. Historical spiny dogfish catch for the at-sea whiting sector and the total estimated fishing mortality for all sectors from the 2009-2012 WCGOP Groundfish Mortality Reports.

	2012	2011	2010	2009	Min	Max	Avg. (2009-2012)
Spiny dogfish Non-Tribal at-sea whiting sector (mt)	177.8	725.07	277.7	163.4	163.4	725.07	335.99
Spiny dogfish Total estimated mortality all sectors (mt)	830.8	1661.7	1215.1	1206.9	830.8	1661.7	1234.5

## **GMT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Adopt the EFP, research, incidental open access, tribal set-asides, and associated fishery harvest guidelines in Appendix 1 for preliminary analysis in the DEIS.**
- 2. Adopt the at-sea whiting trawl set-asides in Table 1, column labeled “GMT Recommendations for 2015-2016”, for preliminary analysis in the DEIS.**
- 3. Consider historical spiny dogfish mortality and establish an appropriate at-sea whiting set-aside for preliminary analysis in the DEIS.**
- 4. Adopt a 10 mt Pacific halibut set-aside, to accommodate bycatch in the at-sea Pacific whiting fisheries and in the shorebased trawl sector south of 40°10 N. lat. (estimated to 5 mt each), for preliminary analysis in the DEIS.**

Appendix 1. GMT proposed set-asides for overfished and non-overfished speices for 2015 (in mt).

Species	Area	ACL	Tribal	EFP	Research	OA	Set-aside Total	Fishery HG
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	5,497	2,041	0	16.39	30	2,087	3,409.6
Black	N of 46°16' N. lat.	402	14	0	0	0	14	388.0
Black	S of 46°16' N. lat.	1,000	0	1	0	0	1	999.0
<b>BOCACCIO</b>	S of 40°10' N. lat.	349	0	3	2.6	0.7	6	342.7
Cabezon	46°16' to 42° N. lat.	47	0	0	0	0	0	47.0
Cabezon	S of 42° N. lat.	154	0	0	0	0	0	154.0
California scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	114	0	0	0	2	2	112.0
<b>CANARY ROCKFISH</b>	Coastwide	122	7.7	1	4.5	2	15	106.8
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,628	0	200	9	5	214	1,414.0
<b>COWCOD</b>	S of 40°10' N. lat.	16	0	0.015	0.2	0	0	15.8
<b>DARKBLOTCHED ROCKFISH</b>	Coastwide	338	0.2	0.1	2.1	18.4	21	317.2
Dover sole	Coastwide	25,000	1,497	0	41.9	55	1,594	23,406.1
English sole	Coastwide	11,040	91	0	5.8	7	104	10,936.2
Lingcod	N of 40°10' N. lat.	2,830	250	0	11.67	16	278	2,552.3
Lingcod	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,004	0	0.2	1.1	7	8	995.8
Longnose skate	Coastwide	2,000	56	0	13.18	3.8	73	1,927.0
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	3,170	30	0	13.5	3	47	3,123.5
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	1,001	0	0	1	2	3	998.0
Minor nearshore rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	75	0	0	0	0	0	75.0
Minor nearshore rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,168	0	0	2.6	1.4	4	1,164.0
Minor shelf rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,943	30	3	13.4	26	72	1,870.6
Minor shelf rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,621	0	1	9.6	9	20	1,601.4
Minor slope rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.		36	1	8.1	19	64	(64.1)
Minor slope rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.		0	1	2	17	20	(20.0)
Other flatfish	Coastwide	8,620	60	0	19	125	204	8,416.0
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	400	0	7.04	2	409	1,191.0
Pacific whiting	Coastwide			1	1061	2,000	3,062	(3,062.0)
<b>PETRALE SOLE</b>	Coastwide	2,816	220	0	14.2	2.4	237	2,579.4
<b>PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH</b>	Coastwide	158	9.2	0	5.2	0.6	15	143.0
Sablefish	N of 36° N. lat.	4,793	401	4	26	35	466	4,327.0
Sablefish	S of 36° N. lat.	1,719	0	0	3	2	5	1,714.0
Shortbelly	Coastwide	50	0	0	2	0	2	48.0
Shortspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,745	50	0	7.22	2	59	1,685.8
Shortspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	923	0	0	1	41	42	881.0
Spiny dogfish	Coastwide	1,912	111.8	1	12.5	49.53	175	1,737.0
Splitnose	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,715	0	1.5	9	0	11	1,704.5
Starry flounder	Coastwide	1,534	2	0	0	8.3	10	1,523.7
Widow	Coastwide	1,500	60	9	7.9	3.3	80	1,419.8
<b>YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH</b>	Coastwide	18	2.3	0.03	3.3	0.2	6	12.2
Yellowtail	N of 40°10' N. lat.	11,213	677	10	16.6	3	707	10,506.4

Overfished species are presented in all caps

Highlighted cells represent values that are higher than 2013-2014

Appendix 1. GMT proposed set-asides for overfished and non-overfished speices for 2016 (in mt).

Species	Area	ACL	Tribal	EFP	Research	OA	Set-aside Total	Fishery HG
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	5,328	2,041	0	16.39	30	2,087	3,240.6
Black	N of 46°16' N. lat.	404	14	0	0	0	14	390.0
Black	S of 46°16' N. lat.	1,000	0	1	0	0	1	999.0
<b>BOCACCIO</b>	S of 40°10' N. lat.	362	0	3	2.6	0.7	6	355.7
Cabazon	46°16' to 42° N. lat.	47	0	0	0	0	0	47.0
Cabazon	S of 42° N. lat.	151	0	0	0	0	0	151.0
California scorpionfish	S of 34°27' N. lat.	111	0	0	0	2	2	109.0
<b>CANARY ROCKFISH</b>	Coastwide	125	7.7	1	4.5	2	15	109.8
Chilipepper	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,619	0	200	9	5	214	1,405.0
<b>COWCOD</b>	S of 40°10' N. lat.	16	0	0.015	0.2	0	0	15.8
<b>DARKBLOTCHED ROCKFISH</b>	Coastwide	346	0.2	0.1	2.1	18.4	21	325.2
Dover sole	Coastwide	25,000	1,497	0	41.9	55	1,594	23,406.1
English sole	Coastwide	7,754	91	0	5.8	7	104	7,650.2
Lingcod	N of 40'10° N. lat.	2,719	250	0	11.67	16	278	2,441.3
Lingcod	S of 40'10° N. lat.	946	0	0.15	1.1	7	8	937.8
Longnose skate	Coastwide	2,000	56	0	13.18	3.8	73	1,927.0
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	3,015	30	0	13.5	3	47	2,968.5
Longspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	952	0	0	1	2	3	949.0
Minor nearshore rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	75	0	0	0	0	0	75.0
Minor nearshore rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,166	0	0	2.6	1.4	4	1,162.0
Minor shelf rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.	1,952	30	3	13.4	26	72	1,879.6
Minor shelf rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,622	0	1	9.6	9	20	1,602.4
Minor slope rockfish north	N of 40°10' N. lat.		36	1	8.1	19	64	(64.1)
Minor slope rockfish south	S of 40°10' N. lat.		0	1	2	17	20	(20.0)
Other flatfish	Coastwide	7,496	60	0	19	125	204	7,292.0
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,600	400	0	7.04	2	409	1,191.0
Pacific whiting	Coastwide			1	1061	2,000	3,062	(3,062.0)
<b>PETRALE SOLE</b>	Coastwide	2,910	220	0	14.2	2.4	237	2,673.4
<b>PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH</b>	Coastwide	164	9.2	0	5.2	0.6	15	149.0
Sablefish	N of 36° N. lat.	5,241	401	4	26	35	466	4,775.0
Sablefish	S of 36° N. lat.	1,880	0	0	3	2	5	1,875.0
Shortbelly	Coastwide	50	0	0	2	0	2	48.0
Shortspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat.	1,726	50	0	7.22	2	59	1,666.8
Shortspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat.	913	0	0	1	41	42	871.0
Spiny dogfish	Coastwide	1,897	111.8	1	12.5	49.53	175	1,722.0
Splitnose	S of 40°10' N. lat.	1,746	0	1.5	9	0	11	1,735.5
Starry flounder	Coastwide	1,539	2	0	0	8.3	10	1,528.7
Widow	Coastwide	1,500	60	9	7.9	3.3	80	1,419.8
<b>YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH</b>	Coastwide	19	2.3	0.03	3.3	0.2	6	13.2
Yellowtail	N of 40°10' N. lat.	10,634	677	10	16.6	3	707	9,927.4
Overfished species are presented in all caps								
Highlighted cells represent values that are higher than 2013-2014								
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