

THE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON CONSIDERATION  
OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

**Action items:**

- Proposed trip limit increases for the limited entry and open access fixed-gear sablefish DTL sectors north and south of 36° N. latitude for 2014.
- Request to increase the open access slope rockfish complex bimonthly trip limits for south of 40° 10' N. latitude for 2014.
- California recreational request to open the Southern Management Area during the January/February period and/or to change the current depth restriction in this area.

**Informational items:**

- IFQ snapshot
- OFS Scorecard update

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) considered the most recent information on the status of ongoing fisheries, research, and requests from industry and provides the following recommendations for 2014 inseason adjustments.

The GMT also received guidance from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) regarding timing of implementation of inseason recommendations from this meeting.

## **1. ACTION ITEMS**

### 1.1. 2014 Fixed Gear Sablefish, Daily-Trip-Limit (DTL) Fisheries

This section discusses 2014 inseason considerations for the four fixed gear daily trip limit (DTL) fisheries, including both limited entry (LE) and open access (OA), north and south of 36° N. latitude. Hereafter, they will be referred to as follows: LE North, LE South, OA North, and OA South.

#### 1.1.1. Current status and Alternatives

Alternative trip limits under the No Action Alternative and Alternative 1 for the sablefish DTL fisheries in 2014 are shown in Table 1. Current projections under the alternatives are shown in Table 2. The 2014 projection for the LE North fishery assumes a uniform seasonal ex-vessel price throughout 2014, at the 2013 bimonthly average ex-vessel price of \$2.54 per pound. Ex-vessel price is one predictor in the projection model. Assumptions about ex-vessel price in the LE North fishery in 2014 are shown in Table 3. From 2004 through 2011, the bimonthly price followed a predictable seasonal pattern, but during 2012 and 2013, that pattern has disappeared, and was replaced with one of general decline. However, current landings data, and some market reports tell of a potential recovery of ex-vessel prices and market for sablefish, to an unknown

degree. Thus, a working assumption of a uniform price was assumed in the case of 2014, since the beginning date, and extent of a potential recovery is not known with any certainty. Uncertainty in the landings forecast for 2014 in this fishery is bracketed by using the lowest and highest bimonthly price during 2013.

Projected attainment for the four sablefish DTL fisheries under Alternative 1 is within the range generally recommended by the Council, of between 90 and 95 percent, with the exception of the OA North fishery, which has a projected attainment of 99%, and the OA South fishery, which has been maintained at a lower level in recent years, partially to allow some buffer for the LE South fishery. The reason for the higher than usual projected attainment in the OA North fishery under Alternative 1 is that actual landings have been running much lower than projected for the past two years. The risk associated with beginning the year with this projection is low, given that adjustment could be made as early as March, when the average bimonthly landings are only one third of their typical peak (Period 5), over the historical period since 2004. Members of the GAP have related in the past that this alternative contains the minimum weekly limit that is necessary in order to maintain reasonably profitable operations.

Table 1. Trip limits (pounds per vessel) under the alternatives for the fixed gear sablefish DTL fisheries in 2014.

Fleet	Area	Period	2014 No action trip limits			2014 Alt. 1 trip limits		
			Bimonthly	Week	Day	Bimonthly	Week	Day
LE	North	1	2,850	950	na	2,850	950	na
		2	2,850	950	na	"	"	na
		3	2,850	950	na	"	"	na
		4	3,300	1,110	na	"	"	na
		5	3,300	1,110	na	"	"	na
		6	5,500	1,850	na	"	"	na
OA	North	1	1,400	700	300	1,600	800	300
		2	1,400	700	300	"	"	300
		3	1,400	700	300	"	"	300
		4	1,600	800	300	"	"	300
		5	1,600	800	300	"	"	300
		6	2,400	1,200	300	"	"	300
LE	South	All	NA	1,930	NA	NA	2,000	NA
OA	South	All	3,050	1,525	300	3,200	1,600	300

Table 2. Forecasted landings (mt) and attainment under the alternatives, for the fixed gear sablefish DTL fisheries in 2014.

<b>2014 No Action</b>	LE N	OA N	LE S	OA S	South sum
Projected landings	249.6	326.9	399.7	266.7	666.5
Landing target	214	319	483	393	876.0
Difference	-35.6	-7.9	83.3	126.3	209.5
Percent attainment	117%	102%	83%	68%	76%
<b>2014 Alternative 1</b>					
Projected landings	201.7	316.7	437.8	279.7	717.5
Landing target	214	319	483	393	876.0
Difference	12.3	2.3	45.2	113.3	158.5
Percent attainment	94%	99%	91%	71%	82%

Table 3. Forecasted landings (mt) and attainment under the no action alternative and alternative 1, and different assumptions about ex-vessel sablefish price, for the LE North DTL fishery in 2014.

<b>Assumed ex-vessel price &gt;</b>	<b>2014 ave.</b>	<b>2014 low</b>	<b>2014 high</b>
<b>LE N, No Action</b>	<b>2.54</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>2.66</b>
Projected landings	249.6	232.5	261.8
Landing target	214	214	214
Difference	-35.6	-18.5	-47.8
Percent attainment	117%	109%	122%
<b>LE N, Alt. 1</b>			
Projected landings	201.7	186.4	212.4
Landing target	214	214	214
Difference	12.3	27.6	1.6
Percent attainment	94%	87%	99%

## 1.2. Slope Rockfish Complex Trip Limits South of 40°10' N Latitude

The GMT received a request to increase the 2014 bimonthly cumulative trip limits for the open access fixed-gear slope rockfish complex for the area south of 40°10' N. latitude (Agenda Item H.9.c Public Comment, November 2013). The request did not specify a proposed trip limit amount; it only requested that the current 10,000 pound bimonthly trip limits be increased subject to the Council's preference.

Upon further consideration, the GMT concluded that there is not enough time to evaluate and analyze an increase to the slope rockfish complex in time for implementation by January 1, 2014. Linked to that is the team's concern about what the estimated bycatch harvest of blackgill rockfish would be, if such a slope rockfish complex increase were implemented. Another concern is the possibility of an unanticipated sizable increase in the number of participants that would move into this fishery as a result of a trip limit increase. Blackgill rockfish is now managed utilizing a harvest guideline approach and thus has separate bimonthly trip limits for both the limited entry and open access non-trawl fixed-gear sectors. Additionally, bank rockfish (the major target species for this complex) has not been assessed since July 2000, and little is

known of the stock's current status. The GMT, therefore, is requesting Council guidance on its preferences on how to proceed. One suggestion would be to delay further consideration for this proposal until the March 2014 Council meeting. Another suggested option would be to hold off for 2014 altogether and then include this proposal as part of the 2015-2016 SPEX and management measure package. Going with either suggested option, the GMT would have a more reasonable amount of time to analyze the proposal.

### 1.3 California Recreational Request for Southern Management Area Changes

The Sportfishing Association of California submitted a request to consider opening the California recreational groundfish season in the Southern Management Area in January and February and/or change the RCA shoreward depth restriction from 50 fm to 60 fm in 2014. Preliminary analyses indicate that such actions could not be accommodated without the risk of a harvest guideline overage for bocaccio. As such, the Association withdrew its request and no further analysis was conducted. However, they have requested that these management measures be analyzed for 2015-2016 under the regulatory specification process in addition to a four fish bag limit for bocaccio.

#### GMT Recommendations:

1. Establish sablefish trip limits for limited entry fixed-gear north of 36° N lat. in 2014 to “950 lb/week, not to exceed 2,850 lb/two months” in periods 1 through 6
2. Establish sablefish trip limits for open access fixed-gear north of 36° N lat. in 2014 to “300 lb/day, or one landing per week of up to 800 lb, not to exceed 1,600 lb/two months” in periods 1 through 6
3. Establish sablefish trip limits for limited entry fixed-gear south of 36° N lat. in 2014 to “2,000 lb/week” in periods 1 through 6
4. Establish sablefish trip limits for open access fixed-gear south of 36° N lat. in 2014 to “300 lb/day, or one landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/two months” in periods 1 through 6
5. Request guidance on how to proceed with the proposal to increase the slope rockfish complex trip limits for the fixed-gear open access sector south of 40°10' N latitude. The GMT is suggesting two alternative for Council's consideration:
  1. Delay further consideration for this proposal until the March 2014 Council meeting.
  2. Include this proposal as part of the 2015-2016 SPEX and management measure package.

### 1.3 IFQ Snapshot

Table 4. 2013 IFQ quota species harvest as of November 1, 2013. These data were generated from the NOAA West Coast Groundfish IFQ Application.

IFQ Species	Sector Quota Pounds	Catch to Date	Lnds (mt)	% landed	Quota Pounds Remaining	% Remaining
Arrowtooth flounder	8,479,264	4,627,520	2,099.04	54.57%	3,851,744	45.43%
Bocaccio rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	165,126	28,303	12.84	17.14%	136,823	82.86%
Canary rockfish	87,964	19,175	8.70	21.80%	68,789	78.20%
Chilipepper rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,423,983	847,470	384.41	34.96%	1,576,513	65.04%
Cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat.	2,205	484	0.22	21.95%	1,721	78.05%
Darkblotched rockfish	587,976	171,320	77.71	29.14%	416,656	70.86%
Dover sole	49,018,682	15,299,128	6,939.68	31.21%	33,719,554	68.79%
English sole	14,032,486	444,771	201.75	3.17%	13,587,715	96.83%
Lingcod north of 40°10' N. lat.	2,695,305	729,932	331.10	27.08%	1,965,373	72.92%
Lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat.	1,089,993	35,436	16.07	3.25%	1,054,557	96.75%
Longspine thomyheads north of 34°27' N. lat.	4,100,267	2,084,280	945.43	50.83%	2,015,987	49.17%
Minor shelf rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,119,948	60,612	27.49	5.41%	1,059,336	94.59%
Minor shelf rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	178,574	41,010	18.60	22.97%	137,564	77.03%
Minor slope rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.	1,712,835	359,997	163.29	21.02%	1,352,838	78.98%
Minor slope rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	829,181	247,209	112.13	29.81%	581,972	70.19%
Other flatfish	9,236,501	1,593,011	722.59	17.25%	7,643,490	82.75%
Pacific cod	2,480,830	291,609	132.27	11.75%	2,189,221	88.25%
Pacific halibut (IBQ) north of 40°10' N. lat.	236,660	62,140	28.19	26.26%	174,520	73.74%
Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N. lat.	241,241	76,637	34.76	31.77%	164,604	68.23%
Pacific whiting	216,707,790	208,323,137	94,495.37	96.13%	8,384,653	3.87%
Petrale sole	5,110,315	3,482,072	1,579.47	68.14%	1,628,243	31.86%
Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.	4,030,050	3,435,987	1,558.56	85.26%	594,063	14.74%
Sablefish south of 36° N. lat.	1,327,800	176,001	79.83	13.26%	1,151,799	86.74%
Shortspine thomyheads north of 34°27' N. lat.	3,054,183	1,523,460	691.04	49.88%	1,530,723	50.12%
Shortspine thomyheads south of 34°27' N. lat.	110,231	5,009	2.27	4.54%	105,222	95.46%
Splitnose rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat.	3,346,838	72,924	33.08	2.18%	3,273,914	97.82%
Starry flounder	1,656,774	7,592	3.44	0.46%	1,649,182	99.54%
Widow rockfish	2,191,016	458,098	207.79	20.91%	1,732,918	79.09%
Yelloweye rockfish	2,205	128	0.06	5.80%	2,077	94.20%
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat.	5,809,905	1,032,692	468.43	17.77%	4,777,213	82.23%

### 1.5 Overfished Species Scorecard Update

The November 2013 (Table 5) scorecard has no updates since the September Council meeting. The sectors/fisheries have been examined and all are expected to proceed through the end of 2013 as projected in September. A scorecard for the beginning of 2014 is also presented (Table ). This is based on allocations and projected impacts for 2014 from the 2013-2014 Final Environmental Impact Statement, and updates to projected impacts for research for bocaccio and cowcod based on the 2011 and 2012 mortality reports. Additionally, it is the GMT's understanding that the holder of one of the 2014 exempted fishing permits (EFP) may be requesting additional yelloweye rockfish to pursue their project under this agenda item. The annual catch limit for yelloweye rockfish is fully prescribed for 2014. The current projected impacts have a 0.8 mt residual.

## 1.4 OFS Scorecard

**Table 5 . Scorecard for November 2013. Allocations<sup>a</sup> and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2013.**

Fishery	Bocaccio b/		Canary		Cowcod b/		Dkbl		Petrale		POP		Yelloweye	
	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts
<b>Date : 16 October 2013</b>														
<b>Off the Top Deductions</b>	8.4	8.4	17.5	18.1	0.1	0.1	20.8	17.7	234.0	234.0	16.5	20.6	5.8	5.1
EFPc/	6.0	6.0	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Research d/	1.7	1.7	4.5	4.5	0.1	0.1	2.1	2.1	11.6	11.6	5.2	5.2	3.3	2.6
Incidental OA e/	0.7	0.7	2.0	2.0	--	--	18.4	15.0	2.4	2.4	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2
Tribal f/			9.5	10.1			0.1	0.4	220.0	220.0	10.9	14.8	2.3	2.3
<b>Trawl Allocations</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>281.4</b>	<b>281.4</b>	<b>2,323.0</b>	<b>2,323.0</b>	<b>126.8</b>	<b>126.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
---SB Trawl	74.9	74.9	26.2	26.2	1.0	1.0	266.7	266.7	2,318.0	2,318.0	109.4	109.4	0.6	0.6
---At-Sea Trawl			8.6	8.6			14.7	14.7	5.0	5.0	17.4	17.4		
a) At-sea whiting MS			3.6	3.6			6.1	6.1			7.2	7.2		
b) At-sea whiting CP			5.0	5.0			8.6	8.6			10.2	10.2		
<b>Non-Trawl Allocation</b>	<b>236.7</b>	<b>125.5</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Non-Nearshore	72.3		3.5										1.1	
LE FG				0.9				2.8				0.2		0.4
OA FG				0.1				0.5				0.0		0.1
Directed OA: Nearshore	0.9	0.5	6.2	7.2		0.0		0.2					1.2	1.1
Recreational Groundfish														
WA			3.1	0.9				--		--		--	2.9	2.9
OR			10.8	4.7				--		--		--	2.6	2.5
CA	163.5	125.0	22.4	13.4		0.8		--		--		--	3.4	3.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>320.0</b>	<b>208.8</b>	<b>116.0</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>317.0</b>	<b>302.6</b>	<b>2,592.0</b>	<b>2,559.2</b>	<b>150.0</b>	<b>147.6</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>16.5</b>
<b>2013 Harvest Specification</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Difference</b>	0.0	111.2	0.0	18.2	0.0	1.1	0.0	14.4	0.0	32.8	0.0	2.4	0.0	1.5
<b>Percent of ACL</b>	100.0%	65.3%	100.0%	84.3%	100.0%	64.7%	100.0%	95.5%	100.0%	98.7%	100.0%	98.4%	100.0%	91.8%
Key			= not applicable											
		--	= trace, less than 0.1mt											
			= Fixed Values											
			= off the top deductions											

a/ Formal allocations are represented in the black shaded cells and are specified in regulation in Tables 1b and 1c. The other values in the allocation columns are 1) off the top deductions, 2) set asides from the trawl allocation (at-sea petrale only) 3) ad-hoc allocations recommended in the 2013-14 EIS process, 4) HG for the recreational fisheries for canary and YE.

b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.

c/ EFPs are amounts set aside to accommodate anticipated applications. Values in this table represent the estimates from the 13-14 biennial cycle, which are currently specified in regulation.

d/ Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.

e/ The GMT's best estimate of impacts as analyzed in the 2013-2014 Environmental Impact Statement (Appendix B), which are currently specified in regulation.

f/ Tribal values in the allocation column represent the values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.

**Table 6. Scorecard for the beginning of 2014. Allocations<sup>a</sup> and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2014.**

Fishery	Bocaccio b/		Canary		Cowcod b/		Dkbl		Petrale		POP		Yelloweye	
	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts
<b>Date: 4 November 2013</b>														
<b>Off the Top Deductions</b>	8.4	<b>9.3</b>	17.5	18.1	0.1	<b>0.2</b>	20.8	17.7	234.0	234.0	16.5	20.6	5.8	5.8
EFPC/	6.0	6.0	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Research d/	1.7	<b>2.6</b>	4.5	4.5	0.1	<b>0.2</b>	2.1	2.1	11.6	11.6	5.2	5.2	3.3	3.3
Incidental OA e/	0.7	0.7	2.0	2.0	--	--	18.4	15.0	2.4	2.4	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2
Tribal f/			9.5	10.1			0.1	0.4	220.0	220.0	10.9	14.8	2.3	2.3
<b>Trawl Allocations</b>	79.0	79.0	54.1	54.1	1.0	1.0	293.7	293.7	2,383.0	2,383.0	129.7	129.7	1.0	1.0
<b>---SB Trawl</b>	79.0	79.0	41.1	41.1	1.0	1.0	278.3	278.3	2,378.0	2,378.0	112.3	112.3	1.0	1.0
LE Trawl I - Non-whiting a/	60.0	60.0	20.0	20.0		0.0		0.0		0.0	119.4	119.4		0.2
Shoreside whiting		0.0	5.9	5.9		0.0		0.0		0.0	119.4	119.4		
<b>---At-Sea Trawl</b>			13.0	13.0			15.4	15.4	5.0	5.0	17.4	17.4		
<b>a) At-sea whiting MS</b>			5.4	5.4			6.4	6.4			7.2	7.2		
<b>b) At-sea whiting CP</b>			7.6	7.6			9.0	9.0			10.2	10.2		
<b>Non-Trawl Allocation</b>	249.6	125.7	47.4	27.2	1.9	0.8	15.0	3.5	35.0	2.2	7.0	0.2	11.2	10.4
Non-Nearshore	76.2		3.7										1.1	
LE FG				0.9				2.8				0.2		0.4
OA FG				0.1				0.5				0.0		0.1
Directed OA: Nearshore	0.9	<b>0.7</b>	6.4	7.2		0.0		0.2					1.2	1.1
Recreational Groundfish														
WA			3.2	0.9				--		--		--	2.9	2.9
OR			11.1	4.7				--		--		--	2.6	2.5
CA	172.5	125.0	23.0	13.4		0.8		--		--		--	3.4	3.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>337.0</b>	<b>214.0</b>	119.0	99.4	3.0	<b>2.1</b>	329.5	314.9	2,652.0	2,619.2	153.2	150.5	18.0	17.2
<b>2014 Harvest Specification</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Difference</b>	0.0	123.0	0.0	19.6	0.0	0.9	0.5	15.1	0.0	32.8	-0.2	2.5	0.0	0.8
<b>Percent of ACL</b>	100.0%	63.5%	100.0%	83.6%	100.0%	68.7%	99.8%	95.4%	100.0%	98.8%	100.1%	98.4%	100.0%	95.7%
Key			= not applicable											
		--	= trace, less than 0.1mt											
			= Fixed Values											
			= off the top deductions											

a/ Formal allocations are represented in the black shaded cells and are specified in regulation in Tables 1b and 1e. The other values in the allocation columns are 1) off the top deductions, 2) set asides from the trawl allocation (at-sea petrale only) 3) ad-hoc allocations recommended in the 2013-14 EIS process, 4) HG for the recreational fisheries for canary and YE.

b/ South of 40°0' N. lat.

c/ EFPs are amounts set aside to accommodate anticipated applications. Values in this table represent the estimates from the 13-14 biennial cycle, which are currently specified in regulation.

d/ Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.

e/ The GMT's best estimate of impacts as analyzed in the 2013-2014 Environmental Impact Statement (Appendix B), which are currently specified in regulation.

f/ Tribal values in the allocation column represent the values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.