

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) considered the most recent information on the status of ongoing fisheries and requests from industry and provides the following recommendations for 2010 inseason adjustments.

The GMT also received guidance from NMFS Northwest Region (NWR) regarding timing of implementation of inseason recommendations from this meeting. NMFS anticipates working to get any adjustments recommended by the Council as quickly as possible. Therefore, the GMT modeled for adjustments to fishery management measures beginning October 1, 2010.

Research Catch Updates

International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)

The IPHC research is finished and yelloweye rockfish catches were less than the scorecard projection from June 2010 (1.1 mt from the IPHC survey plus 0.2 mt from other research for a total of 1.3 mt). The total catch of yelloweye rockfish in the IPHC survey was only 0.3 mt. Therefore, the scorecard has been updated with total yelloweye rockfish research impacts of 0.5 mt, which includes 0.3 for IPHC and 0.2 mt for other research (NMFS trawl survey, etc).

Recreational Fisheries

Washington

Estimates through July indicate that catches are tracking as expected. No changes to fishery management measures are recommended and no changes to the scorecard are proposed. I.e., the scorecard values for canary and yelloweye rockfish reflect the Washington portion of the shared Washington and Oregon recreational harvest guideline (HG).

Oregon

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) took inseason action on July 23, 2010 restricting the recreational groundfish fishery to inside of 20 fathoms. Moving the fishery from inside 40 fathoms to inside 20 fathoms was intended to reduce the impact to yelloweye rockfish. Concurrent action was not taken by the Council because this action occurred between the June and September Council meetings.

Angler effort in the recreational groundfish fishery has continued to be high throughout the summer months. Angler trips through August in 2010 (2010 August data is preliminary and will not be finalized until early October) are up by over 9,400 trips (14 percent) from 2009 and 6,000 trip (10 percent) from 2008. Information received from ODFW Ocean Recreational Boat Survey (ORBS) samplers indicate that effort and catch for groundfish were low during Labor Day weekend, due to a combination of weather conditions, colder water off the Oregon coast causing the fish to be “off the bite”, and some opportunities for tuna and salmon. Angler effort, and associated impacts, for groundfish drops off greatly after Labor Day weekend in the Oregon

recreational groundfish fishery. The other source of yelloweye impacts in Oregon recreational fisheries is the halibut fishery. Angler trips for halibut in 2010 were also up (approximately 21 percent) over 2009. The central Oregon coast halibut seasons, nearshore and all-depth, are closed for the remainder of 2010, therefore there will be no further impacts from that fishery.

ODFW made an estimation of overfished species impacts (canary and yelloweye rockfish) on September 10, 2010 using finalized data through July, preliminary data through August, and approximations for Labor Day weekend based on discussions with ORBS samplers. Under status quo regulations, restricted to inside 20 fathoms for the remainder of the year, the Oregon recreational fishery yelloweye impacts are projected to be 2.8 mt, exceeding their 2.3 mt portion of the combined Washington/Oregon HG (4.9 mt). The yelloweye remainder in the scorecard with the Oregon recreational update and revised research impacts is 0.3 mt. The canary rockfish impacts are projected to be well below the 16.0 mt HG.

Request to Fish Seaward of the 20-fm Management Line in the Oregon Recreational Fishery

The GMT considered supplemental public comment requesting the opportunity to target lingcod and rockfish at specific sites deeper than 20-fm off the central Oregon coast (see Agenda Item I.2.c, Supplemental Public Comment, September 2010). Site-based recreational groundfish fishing opportunities seaward of management lines have not been analyzed through the biennial specifications process and are therefore not an available inseason option. **Therefore, the GMT recommends no site-based recreational groundfish fishing inside the RCA for the Oregon recreational groundfish fishery.**

California

Recreational catches in California are tracking as expected. No changes to fishery management measures are recommended. No changes to the scorecard are proposed.

Commercial Fisheries

Limited Entry Whiting Trawl Fishery

The GMT received an update on the Pacific whiting fishery from the NWR along with the latest whiting report (see [Preliminary Report 4](#)). The mothership fishery started May 15 and was closed on June 5 when the mothership whiting quota was attained. The shoreside season began on June 15 and has actively worked to avoid bycatch by implementing a series of voluntary stand downs. Catches of Pacific ocean perch are higher than preseason estimates (catch of 10.7 mt compared to 4.7 mt preseason projection); as such the scorecard has been updated to reflect a revised estimate based on the amount of whiting remaining (approximately 33 percent). Catcher-processors began fishing a few weeks ago and whiting catch rates are good and bycatch is low.

Limited Entry Non-whiting Trawl Fishery

Projections of 2010 fishing impacts were made for overfished and target species of the LE non-whiting trawl sector using the Trawl Bycatch Model (Hastie 2003). The model was run using historical landings, depth and geographic area information from fish tickets and logbook data from 2005 through 2009, as well as bycatch and discard rate estimates from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) from the same time period. The model was updated from the PacFIN Quota Species Monitoring system Best Estimate Report through Period 3, on August 18, 2010.

Projected impacts for modeled target species are currently beneath their respective trawl allocations or harvest guidelines, and rebuilding species are projected to be under their OYs in the current 2010 scorecard. Three alternative model runs are presented here for consideration, in order to explore a range of potential inseason management measures. Under Alternative 1 (A1), the No Action alternative (Table 1 and Table 2), Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries and trip limits remain as they were adopted by the Council at the June 2010 meeting.

Under Alternative 2 (A2), the petrale sole cutouts are closed during Period 6, and the seaward RCA boundary is set at 200 fathoms, north of 40°10' N. latitude. Trip limits under A2 remain the same as in A1 (Table 3 and Table 4). Impacts to petrale sole, which is under a Point of Concern (POC) framework in 2010, and a rebuilding plan beginning in 2011, were reduced from 1,063 mt to 1,028 mt by closing the cutouts. Petrale sole move to deeper waters in November through February, with their highest densities between 175 and 200 fm, and historical landings during the winter months have increased substantially when there has been opportunity. Petrale sole trip limits were kept at 6,300 pounds per bimonthly period coast-wide, under all three alternatives presented here. Closing the petrale cutouts also reduced projected impacts to Pacific ocean perch (POP) by 9.5 mt, compared with A1, and reduced impacts to darkblotched rockfish by 29.8 mt. Widow rockfish projected impacts were also reduced.

Looking at the projected impacts under A1 and A2, one could make a case for additional fishing opportunity, for some species to more fully attain their respective OYs. To address this, cumulative bimonthly trip limits were increased for a number of species in Alternative 3 (A3), compared with A1, in order to demonstrate projected impacts of increasing fishing opportunity for periods 5 and 6 (Tables 5 and 6). For example, sablefish trip limits were raised from 21,000 pounds to 24,000 pounds with large/small footrope gear, and from 9,000 pounds to 10,000 pounds for selective trawl gear. Moderate increases were also made for longspine and shortspine thornyheads, Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, "other flatfish", and slope rockfish in the North. Petrale sole trip limits were not changed from A1. The petrale cutouts are open under A3 in Period 6. Under A3, impacts on sablefish, longspine thornyheads, shortspine thornyheads, Dover sole, POP, and darkblotched rockfish were increased, as compared with A1 (Table 5 and 6). However, sufficient residuals exist in the scorecard to allow for these levels of rebuilding species catch.

With regard to increased darkblotched from a higher slope rockfish limit, the GMT discussed the concern that a higher limit may lead to some targeting. It is not possible with the model to predict the level that will induce targeting rather than just turning discard into landings, but there are numerous periods over the last five years where the limit has been 4,000 lbs/2 months (i.e., the model prediction of impacts should be fairly robust). The model predicts that at the proposed increase, when combined with all other impacts, the total take of darkblotched (218.8) in the scorecard will be within both the commercial harvest guideline of 288 mt and the 330 mt OY.

The GMT notes that A3 comes with both consideration of risk for the petrale sole rebuilding plan and of adequate fishing opportunity for the fleet during Period 6. The GAP requested that the petrale cutouts remain open for Period 6; they indicated that with them closed, there would be no access to petrale sole in December, particularly in the north. Bycatch data from the WCGOP indicate the highest densities of petrale sole are from 175 to 200 fm in Periods 1 and 6. In addition, it indicates substantial densities from 200 to 250 fm in those periods. However, those

data may be biased towards higher depths because of hauls predominantly progressing from deep to shallow, with the starting point of the haul recorded at the greatest depth.

The petrale sole OY is trawl dominant, and thus the risk of being too liberal with management measures, either by allowing too much access to winter spawning aggregations, or too high of trip limits would be toward exceeding the OY. Exceeding the OY could delay rebuilding, and incur lost revenue to fishermen, as well as if a new rebuilding plan is required, there is additional workload. Bycatch estimates for petrale sole trip limits this low exist only for one period in 2005, which is the oldest data year included in the trawl bycatch model; this data is weighted the lightest in calculating average bycatch rates, and is therefore the least informative to the model. Thus, the model is poorly informed about discard rates under low petrale trip limits, and could potentially underestimate petrale discard in a low trip limit situation such as the current one.

If leaving the cut outs open resulted in higher discards that exceed the OY and retard rebuilding, that would not be known until the observer data were available (generally two years later). By that time a new rebuilding plan would have been adopted, new ACLs set, and management measures designed without the benefit of that knowledge.

On the other hand, data from QSM of 2010 indicates that the model is slightly under-projecting petrale landings, compared with landings data from previous periods in 2010, and this suggests a possible additional buffer to that in the projected impacts tables, and a reduced risk of overage. The risk of being too conservative is to fail to attain the OY, resulting in a loss in potential revenue to the trawl fleet for the remainder of 2010.

Table 1. **Alternative 1, No Action** projected LE trawl impacts for 2010 (**petrale cutouts open in Period 6, status quo limits**) for management areas north and south of 40°10' N. latitude.

Species/Mgmt. group	North	South	Total	OY/HG/AI.	Total-HG	Total/HG
Canary	10.5	1.2	11.7			
POP	100.8	0.2	100.9			
Darkblotched	196.1	17.1	213.2			
Widow	8.0	6.3	14.3			
Bocaccio	1.4	20.6	22			
Yelloweye	0.2	0.0	0.3			
Cowcod	0.0	0.3	0.3			
Sablefish N of 36° N. lat.	2,451.3	341.2	2,792.4	2,955	-163	94%
Longspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,309.5	291.1	1,600.6	2,129	-528	75%
Shortspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,177.9	152.2	1,330.1	1,567	-237	85%
Dover	12,025.4	1,124.5	13,149.9	16,093	-2,943	82%
Arrowtooth	5,238.5	11.1	5,249.6	9,755	-4,505	54%
Petrale	875.3	188.1	1,063.4	1,140	-76	93%
Other flatfish	1,005.7	175.1	1,180.7	4,685	-3,504	25%
Slope rockfish	235.7	191.8		1,160/626		

Table 2. **Alternative 1, No Action** cumulative LE groundfish trawl trip limits and RCA boundaries, as adopted at the June, 2010 council meeting (**petrale cutouts open in Period 6**).

2-month period	RCA lines (fm)		2-month cumulative-poundage limits							
	shallow	deep	sable-fish	long-spine	short-spine	Dover sole	petrale sole	arrow-tooth	other flatfish	slope rockfish
N. of 40°10' N lat.										
Large/small footrope limits										
1	75	150	20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	6,000
2	75	200	20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	6,000
3	75	150/200	24,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	2,000
4	100	150/200	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	150,000	100,000	2,000
5	75	200	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	150,000	100,000	2,000
6	75	200-pco	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	150,000	100,000	2,000
Selective gear limits										
1	75	150	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	90,000	
2	75	200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	60,000	
3	75	150/200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	60,000	
4	100	150/200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	6,300	90,000	60,000	
5	75	200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	6,300	90,000	60,000	
6	75	200-pco	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	6,300	90,000	60,000	
38° - 40°10' N lat.										
1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
4	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	15,000
5	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	15,000
6	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	15,000
S. of 38° N lat.										
1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
4	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	55,000
5	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	55,000
6	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	55,000

Note: “**200-pco**” denotes the modified 200 fm seaward RCA with **petrale cutouts open**.

Chilipepper rockfish trip limit = 17,000 pounds/2 months.

Table 3. **Alternative 2**, projected LE trawl impacts for 2010, (**petrale cutouts closed**). Trip limit structure is the same as Alternative 1 (No Action) for management areas north and south of 40°10' N. latitude.

Species/Mgmt. group	North	South	Total	OY/HG/AI.	Total-HG	Total/HG
Canary	10.4	1.2	11.7			
POP	91.1	0.2	91.3			
Darkblotched	166.3	17.1	183.4			
Widow	6.8	6.3	13.1			
Bocaccio	1.3	20.6	21.9			
Yelloweye	0.2	0.0	0.2			
Cowcod	0.0	0.3	0.3			
Sablefish N of 36° N. lat.	2,443.2	341.2	2,784.4	2,955	-171	94%
Longspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,309.1	291.1	1,600.2	2,129	-529	75%
Shortspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,172.8	152.2	1,325.0	1,567	-242	85%
Dover	11,984.6	1,124.5	13,109.1	16,093	-2,984	81%
Arrowtooth	5,184.1	11.1	5,195.2	9,755	-4,560	53%
Petrale	840.1	188.1	1,028.2	1,140	-111	90%
Other flatfish	998.2	175.1	1,173.2	4,685	-3,512	25%
Slope rockfish	232.6	191.8		1,160/626		

Table 4. **Alternative 2**, LE groundfish trawl RCA boundaries for north of 40° 10' N. latitude during Period 6. Trip limit structure is the same as Alternative 1 (No Action). In the table, “200” denotes that the seaward RCA boundary is at 200 fm, with the **petrale cutouts closed in Period 6**, for this alternative.

2-month Period	RCA lines (fm)	
	shallow	deep
1	75	150
2	75	200
3	75	150/200
4	100	150/200
5	75	200
6	75	200

Table 5. **Alternative 3**, projected LE trawl impacts for 2010, under optional trip limit and RCA structure, **(increased non-petrale limits, petrale cutouts open in Period 6)**.

Pref Alt Species/Mgmt. group	North	South	Total	OY/HG/Al.	Total-HG	Total/HG
Canary	10.7	1.2	11.9			
POP	102.9	0.2	103.1			
Darkblotched	201.3	17.5	218.8			
Widow	8.1	6.3	14.4			
Bocaccio	1.4	21	22.4			
Yelloweye	0.2	0.0	0.3			
Cowcod	0.0	0.3	0.3			
Sablefish N of 36° N. lat.	2,535	355	2,890	2,955	-65	98%
Longspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,330	291	1,621	2,129	-508	76%
Shortspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,221	158	1,380	1,567	-187	88%
Dover	12,422	1,168	13,590	16,093	-2,503	84%
Arrowtooth	5,239	11	5,250	9,755	-4,505	54%
Petrale	875	188	1,063	1,140	-76	93%
Other flatfish	1,006	175	1,181	4,685	-3,504	25%
Slope rockfish	236	192	428	1160/626		

Table 6. **Alternative 3**, potential LE trawl cumulative trip limits and RCA structure, (**increased non-petrale limits, petrale cutouts open in Period 6**).

2-month period	RCA lines (fm)		2-month cumulative-poundage limits							
	shallow	deep	sable-fish	long-spine	short-spine	Dover sole	petrale sole	arrow-tooth	other flatfish	slope rockfish
N. of 40°10' N lat.										
Large/small footrope limits										
1	75	150	20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	6,000
2	75	200	20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	6,000
3	75	150/200	24,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	2,000
4	100	150/200	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	150,000	100,000	2,000
5	75	200	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	180,000	110,000	4,000
6	75	200-pco	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	180,000	110,000	4,000
Selective gear limits										
1	75	150	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	90,000	
2	75	200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	60,000	
3	75	150/200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	60,000	
4	100	150/200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	6,300	90,000	60,000	
5	75	200	10,000	5,500	5,500	70,000	6,300	100,000	70,000	
6	75	200-pco	10,000	5,500	5,500	70,000	6,300	100,000	70,000	
38° - 40°10' N lat.										
1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
4	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	15,000
5	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	15,000
6	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	15,000
S. of 38° N lat.										
1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
4	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	55,000
5	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	55,000
6	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	55,000

Note: “**200-pco**” denotes the modified 200 fm seaward RCA with **petrale cutouts open**.

Chilipepper rockfish trip limit = 17,000 pounds/2 months.

Sablefish Limited Entry and Open Access Daily Trip Limit (DTL) Fisheries South of 36° N. lat.

Landings data through July 31, 2010 indicate that LE and OA DTL removals for Conception Area sablefish (south of 36° N. lat) are higher than previous years (Table 7, Figure 1). Without inseason action, catches are expected to exceed the 2010 sablefish OY for south of 36° N. lat. of 1,258 mt. Under the same trip limit structure in 2009, only 54 percent of the Conception Area OY was attained (

Table 7, Figure 1). Favorable weather conditions early in the year in Morro Bay, combined with a greater number open access vessels in that area at the beginning of 2010, contributed to higher landings in January through March. Landings decreased in the open access sector from March through July, due mostly to poor weather conditions in Morro Bay. Had weather conditions been

more favorable it is reasonable to expect open access landings would have been higher. Although some limited entry vessels operate in Morro Bay, the majority of the fleet operates south of Point Conception (34°27' N lat) where they are less affected by weather. As such, limited entry landings, although higher in 2010, have remained fairly consistent and have not varied like the open access sector.

Table 7. Limited entry and open access landings in 2009 and 2010.

2009	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
LE	3.7	4.7	14.5	12.5	15.8	30.5	30.3	41.0	39.3	36.4	36.8	42.1	307.6
OA	7.4	5.0	10.8	19.4	36.3	27.2	36.2	35.2	38.4	54.4	89.1	78.0	437.6
Total	11.1	9.8	25.4	32.0	52.1	57.7	66.5	76.3	77.7	90.7	126.0	120.1	745.2

2010	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
LE	6.5	9.4	17.7	15.8	34.4	34.5	52.7
OA	31.1	39.8	51.0	36.1	43.5	46.3	23.4
Total	37.7	49.2	68.7	51.9	77.9	80.8	76.1

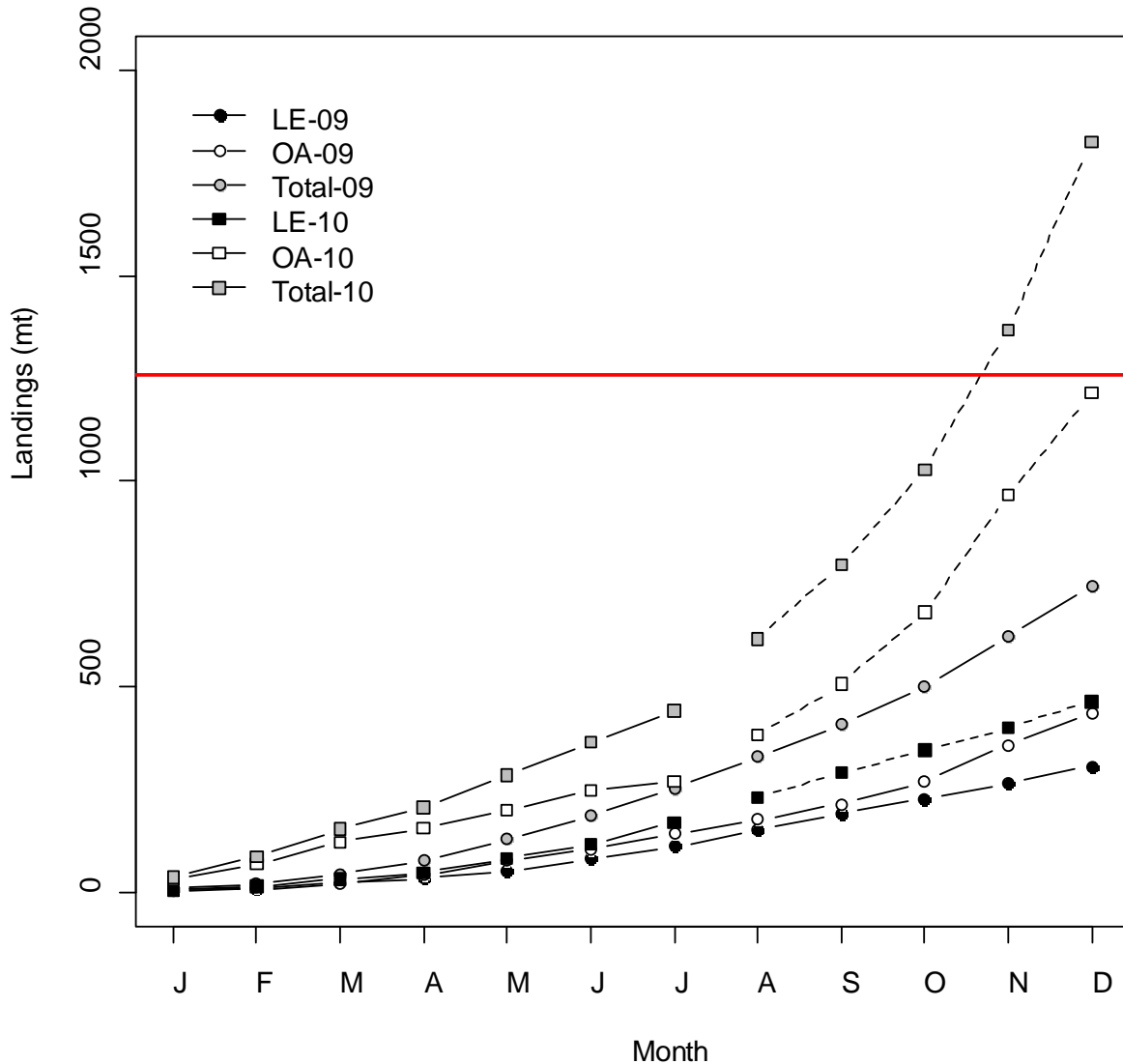


Figure 1. Limited entry and open access landings in 2009 and 2010 (straight line at top of figure represents the Conception Area OY)

In general, participation in the open access sector is highly variable and difficult to predict. Industry sources indicate that the open access fishery started out 2010 with a higher level of vessel participation which has further increased as a result of the higher September 2010 trip limits. These new vessels include both vessels that shifted effort south and new entrants from other fisheries.

On September 1, 2010 trip limits were previously scheduled to increase for both the limited entry and open access sectors based on inseason action taken in June 2009. Action was taken in June 2009 to address lower than anticipated removals. At the June 2010 Council meeting the GMT

did not investigate modifications to scheduled trip limits for this fishery, due in part to workload at that meeting and lack of new fishery data. Catch data from January through March were available at that time, but would have been insufficient to inform if there was need for inseason changes, and what magnitude of changes may be necessary. As such, the automatic trip limit adjustments from 2009 again went into effect on September 1, 2010.

Projected Total Landings for remainder of 2010, using 2009 as a proxy

In order to project total fleet landings for the remainder of 2010, the GMT used 2009 landings as a proxy. The same trip limits (both LE and OA sectors) were in place in 2009 as have been in place to date in 2010. The average of monthly LE landings from January through July in 2010 was 1.6 times greater than they were in 2009. Landings in the OA fishery were 3.2 times higher over the same period. To project landings from August through December, the GMT used 2009 landings from the same time period and applied multipliers of 1.6 and 3.2 for the LE and OA fisheries respectively (Table 8).

The GMT notes that the Morro Bay/Port San Luis EFP is currently underway in this area, with a total sablefish catch limit of 300 mt. The Nature Conservancy has indicated that as of September 2, 2010, 145 mt of sablefish is still remaining in this EFP. In projecting 2010 sablefish landings, the GMT assumed full attainment of the sablefish catch limit for this EFP (300 mt).

Using this method, and without inseason adjustments, the Conception Area is projected to exceed the 2010 sablefish OY by 567 mt (Table 9). The GMT notes that this value may be an underestimate since it is difficult to verify the number of vessels participating in the open access fishery, especially given the current change in trip limits for the rest of the year.

Table 8. Landings by fleet from January through July and projected August-December 2010 landings based on comparisons to 2009.

2010	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sub-Total
LE	6.5	9.4	17.7	15.8	34.4	34.5	52.7	61.6	58.9	54.6	55.2	63.1	464.3
OA	31.1	39.8	51.0	36.1	43.5	46.3	23.4	112.7	123.0	174.0	285.3	249.7	1,216.1

Table 9. Summary of projected landings for 2010 (mt).

Sub-total of landings	1,680
remaining EFP	145
Total projected landings	1,825
2010 OY	1,258
Overage	-567

Reducing trip limits in both the LE and the OA fishery

Landings of sablefish in the Conception Area are estimated to be 442 mt through July 31, 2010. The OY for the area is 1,258 mt. This leaves 671 mt for the OA and LE fisheries, after subtracting 145 mt of remaining EFP catch. Catch data from 2006-2009 indicate that the OA fishery landed approximately 60 percent of sablefish in the Conception area, with the remaining

40 percent landed by LE vessels. If trip limits for the LE fishery were reduced from 3,000 lbs per week to 2,800 lbs per week from October through December 2010, the LE fishery is projected to take 300 mt from August through the end of the year. An OA trip limit of 800 lbs per week, up to a maximum of 1,600 lbs per month effective October 1, 2010 could allow for an opportunity throughout the remainder of the year. If all of the GMT's assumptions are met this would result in full attainment of the OY (Table 10).

This alternative assumes that 70 vessels will continue to participate in the Conception area OA sablefish fishery and land 1,600 lbs per month (the proposed maximum). The GMT emphasizes that estimated landings (250 mt) and effort (in number of boats) by the southern OA fishery for August and September are considerably uncertain.

Table 10. Summary of Alternative 2 projected sablefish impacts.

Sub-total of landings	1,113
remaining EFP	145
Total projected landings	1,258
2010 OY	1,258
Residual	0

Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL) Fisheries North of 36° N. lat.

LIMITED ENTRY

Landings data through July 31, 2010 indicate that catches in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Daily Trip Limit fishery (LEFG-DTL) are higher than previous years (Figure 2**Error! Reference source not found.**). This is a result of recent attempts to better predict landings for this fishery using a trip-limit based model (see Agenda Item G.4.b, Supplemental GMT Report, November 2009). Indeed, landings through July 2010 (138 mt) are 33 percent higher than observed through July 2009 (104 mt). A 33 percent increase over 2009 landings would ultimately under-harvest the 2010 annual allocation by 55 mt (88 percent of the allocation would be landed during 2010 under this assumption). However, a significant increase in the bimonthly trip limit was recommended at June 2010 PFMC meeting (from 7,000 lbs/two months to 8,500 lbs/two months; Agenda Item B.5.b, Supplemental GMT Report 2, June 2010). Furthermore, this recommended increase only recently became effective on August 18, 2010 (National Marine Fisheries Service Public Notice, NMFS-SEA-10-12b, August 20, 2010). Therefore, because this fishery is tracking faster than before and the recent trip limit increase has been effective for only approximately three weeks, **the GMT does not recommend changing current trip limits for the LEFG-DTL sablefish fishery for periods 5 and 6.**

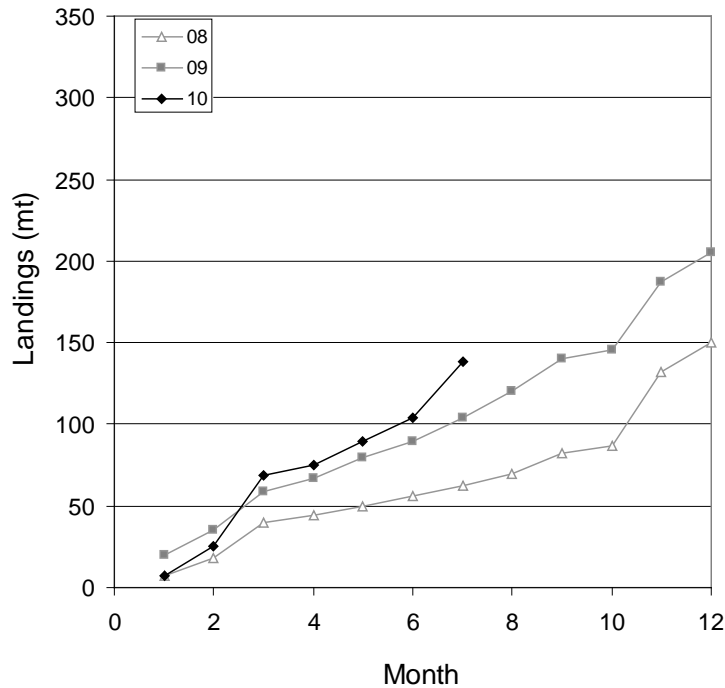


Figure 2. Monthly landings (mt) of sablefish for the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N latitude for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Data shown for 2010 are only through July 31.

OPEN ACCESS

Landings data through July 31, 2010 indicate that catches for the open access sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. are approximately 28 percent below the pace required for reaching its allocation of 529 mt for 2010 (Figure 3). Note that trip limits were unchanged between 2009 and 2010 (to date) and the 529 mt of sablefish that were landed by the open access sablefish fishery in 2009 is equal to the 2010 allocation for this fishery (Table 1). Assuming this open access sablefish fishery under-harvests its annual allocation by 28 percent, then we project that a total of 381 mt will be landed by December 31, 2010. This would leave approximately 148 mt of sablefish left unharvested by this fishery.

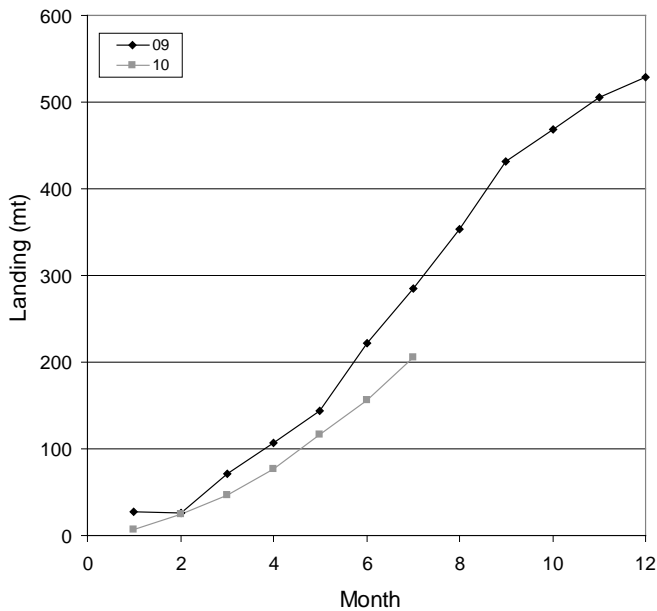


Figure 3. Monthly landings (mt) of sablefish for the Open Access Sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N latitude for 2009 and 2010. Data shown for 2010 are only through July 31.

Increasing the trip limit for this open access fishery can be risky, because potential effort (number of boats fishing) is not capped. The unpredictable nature of this fishery is made apparent by comparing annual landings with annual allocations (Table 11). Landings have exceeded the annual allocation for open access sablefish fishery north of 36° N. lat. for three of the past six years. Most contrast was demonstrated between 2004 and 2005, when the allocation was almost identical (627 – 629 mt). The allocation was under-harvested in 2004 by 27 percent whereas it was overharvested in 2005 by 44 percent.

Table 11. Open Access Sablefish DTL allocation, catch, and proportion of allocation for 2004 – 2009 north of 36° N. lat.

Year	Allocation (mt)	Landings (mt)	Proportion of Allocation
2004	629	458	0.73
2005	627	904	1.44
2006	613	698	1.14
2007	484	365	0.75
2008	484	491	1.01
2009	578	529	0.92
2010	529	.	.

The GMT notes that the OA DTL fisheries north and south of 36° N. latitude are not independent. Indeed, a likely reason that the northern OA DTL fishery is tracking low and the southern OA DTL fishery is tracking high relative to 2009 (see discussion above) is a shift in effort of open access boats from north to south and new entrants in the southern fishery. Indeed, effort for the northern fishery was 23 percent – 30 percent lower during Periods 1 and 2 of 2010 relative to 2009. Under this scenario, it is clear that effort could easily shift again from south to north if the southern fishery becomes constrained relative to status quo, especially if the southern OA DTL fishery is closed.

The GMT recently updated a model that will help predict landings of sablefish for this open access sablefish fishery (see Appendix A, Description of Projection Models, 2011-2012 Groundfish Harvest Specifications, Draft Environmental Impact Statement). This model was used to predict landings for periods 5 and 6 of 2010. We projected that the landings through August 31, 2010 would be 72 percent of that observed through August 31, 2009 (see above), or 255 mt. If no changes are made to trip limits for this fishery, then the model predicts 456 mt will be landed by December 31, 2010 (86 percent of the allocation). Considering the potential for a shift in effort back to the north, we modeled the potential impact of a shift in effort of thirty vessels from the south the north (beginning October 1, 2010); this increase in effort is predicted to result in total landings of 499 mt through December 31, 2010, or 94 percent of the allocation. Based on these results, **the GMT does not recommend changing current trip limits for the OA DTL sablefish fishery north of 36° N. latitude for periods 5 and 6.**

GMT Recommendations

1. For non-whiting LE trawl, adopt cumulative limit increases for sablefish, longspine thornyhead, shortspine thornyhead, Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, Other Flatfish, and slope rockfish (including darkblotched) as described in Alternative 3.
2. Consider whether to leave petrale cut outs open in Period 6.
3. Adopt lower sablefish DTL limits for both LE (2,800 lbs/week with no daily limit) and OA (800 lbs/week not to exceed 1,600 lbs/month) fisheries South of 36° N lat.

Projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2010 updated based on updated research and latest bottom trawl, Pacific whiting, and Oregon recreational data under No Action.

Fishery	Bocaccio b/	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl g/	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
Limited Entry Trawl - Non-whiting	25.1	11.7	0.3	213.2	100.9	14.3	0.3
Limited Entry Trawl - Whiting							
At-sea whiting motherships a/		3.3		6.0	0.5	67.0	0.0
At-sea whiting cat-proc a/		4.8		8.5	0.5	95.0	0.0
Shoreside whiting a/		5.9		10.5	16.5	117.0	0.0
Tribal whiting		4.3		0.0	7.2	5.0	0.0
Tribal							
Midwater Trawl		3.6		0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0
Bottom Trawl		0.8		0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Troll		0.5		0.0	0.0		0.0
Fixed gear		0.3		0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
Fixed Gear Sablefish	0.0	2.5	0.0	4.5	0.4	0.0	0.9
Fixed Gear Nearshore	0.3	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1
Fixed Gear Other	5.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
Open Access: Incidental Groundfish	0.8	1.7	0.0	15.0	0.0	3.3	0.3
Recreational Groundfish e/							
WA		20.9					5.4
OR						1.0	
CA	67.3	22.9	0.3			6.2	2.7
EFPs	11.0	1.3	0.2	1.5	0.1	11.0	0.2
Research: Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.							
	2.0	4.5	0.2	2.0	2.0	5.7	0.5
TOTAL	111.5	92.5	1.0	270.2	131.8	366.5	13.7
2010 OY f/	288	105	4.0	330	200	509	14
Difference	176.5	12.5	3.0	59.8	68.2	142.5	0.3
Percent of OY	38.7%	88.1%	25.0%	81.9%	65.9%	72.0%	97.9%
Key		= either not applicable; trace amount (<0.01 mt); or not reported in available data sources.					
<p>a/ Non-tribal whiting values for canary, darkblotched, and widow reflect bycatch limits for the non-tribal whiting sectors. All other species' impacts are projected from the GMT's whiting impact projection model. The Council may elect to change these bycatch limits when setting final whiting management measures in March 2010 or under any inseason action at any of their future meetings.</p> <p>b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.</p> <p>e/ For California, values in scorecard represent projected impacts for all species except canary and yelloweye rockfish, which are the prescribed harvest guidelines. For Washington and Oregon, the canary value represents the HG. For yelloweye, the value represents projected impacts for the Oregon fishery (2.8 mt) under no action and the Washington share of the HG (2.6 mt).</p> <p>f/ 2009 and 2010 OYs are the same except for darkblotched (291 mt in 2010), POP (200 mt in 2010), and widow (509 mt in 2010).</p> <p>g/ Regulations specify a commercial harvest guideline of 288 mt (see 75FR39178)</p>							

PFMC
09/14/10