

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

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

The GMT received guidance from National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Region (NMFS NWR) regarding timing of implementation of inseason recommendations from this meeting. Given the short amount of time between the March and April Council meetings, NMFS will combine the change in the incidental halibut retention regulations for the limited entry fixed-gear primary sablefish fishery (Council action at the March 2010 meeting) with the recommended adjustments from this meeting and will try to get those inseason adjustments to fishery management measures implemented by May 1, 2010.

### **Incidental Open Access Fishery Scorecard Updates**

The GMT considered new information from the Estimated Discard and Total Catch of Selected Groundfish Species in the 2008 U.S. West Coast Fisheries 2008 (i.e., Total Mortality Report) for observed incidental open access fisheries (e.g., pink shrimp trawl and California halibut trawl) as well as the best available data necessary to estimate other incidental open access fishery impacts (Agenda Item I.4.b Supplemental GMT Report). Updated catch projections for 2010 “Open Access: Incidental Fisheries” are included in the first scorecard appended at the end of this statement.

The GMT considered new information and analyses and updated the projected impacts to darkblotched rockfish in the limited entry trawl fishery from 230.6 mt to 321 mt, the increase was a result of catches north of 40°10' N. lat. See inseason discussion for the limited entry non-whiting trawl fishery below for more details.

This update is also reflected in the first scorecard.

### **Commercial Fisheries**

*Limited Entry non-whiting trawl fishery North of 40°10' N. lat.*

In November 2009, the GMT projected catch of darkblotched rockfish in the limited entry trawl fishery for 2010 to be 230.6 mt through the end of the year, and a total projected catch from all sectors through the end of the year to be 272.3 mt, or 93.6 percent of the 2010 darkblotched rockfish optimum yield (OY) (Agenda Item G.10.b Supplemental GMT Report, November 2009).

After reviewing preliminary data from 2010, the GMT is concerned that catches of darkblotched rockfish may be higher than previously projected. Further, beginning February 26, 2010, the slope rockfish and darkblotched cumulative trip limits in the limited entry trawl fishery north of 40°10' N. lat. increased from 1,500 lb per two months to 6,000 lb per two months. Without an

inseason adjustment, the GMT estimates that the catch of darkblotched rockfish (combined for both north and south of 40°10' N. lat.) would be 321 mt, which would exceed the darkblotched OY (see scorecard 1 below). The GMT notes that the projected catch of darkblotched rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. comprises 40 mt of the total projected catch in the limited entry trawl fishery line in the scorecard, which is unchanged from November 2009 (Agenda Item G. 10.b Supplemental GMT Report, November 2009).

The GMT analyzed a range of cumulative limits for “minor slope rockfish and darkblotched rockfish” under a range of possible discard rates and success rates of the fleet attaining the cumulative limit, based on a year with similar cumulative limits and rockfish conservation areas (RCA) configurations. Given the results of the analysis, the GMT recommends a 2,000 lbs/2 months cumulative limit for minor slope rockfish and darkblotched rockfish beginning on May 1, 2010 through the end of the year (Periods 3-6). With this trip limit reduction, the projected impacts to darkblotched rockfish (both north and south of 40°10' N. lat.) in the limited entry non-whiting trawl fishery would be 228 mt. This is reflected in the second scorecard appended to the end of this statement.

The GMT notes that reducing the cumulative limit for minor slope and darkblotched rockfish, to keep projected impacts of darkblotched rockfish below the 2010 OY, will reduce landings of other minor slope rockfish (excluding darkblotched). Prior to inseason action, the GMT projects impacts to slope rockfish (excluding darkblotched ) will be 417 mt and the total projected impacts to minor slope and darkblotched rockfish would be 729 mt. Assuming that the changes in trip limits do not affect the species composition of the landed catch, then the GMT anticipates that under the new trip limits the projected impacts to slope rockfish (excluding darkblotched) will be 262 mt and the total projected impacts to minor slope and darkblotched rockfish would be 490 mt, and the darkblotched rockfish OY would not be projected to be exceeded. Additional refinements to cumulative limits may be considered, along with new fishery information, in June 2010.

#### **GMT Recommendation**

1. Reduce the limited entry non-whiting trawl fishery north of 40°10' N. lat. trip limit for “minor slope and darkblotched rockfish” from “6,000 lb/2 months” to “2,000 lb./2 months”, starting May 1, 2010 through the rest of the year (e.g. Periods 3-6).

**Projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2010 updated with most recent EFP caps and 2008 WCGOP data for the nearshore and non-nearshore fixed gear fisheries and estimates of tribal whiting impacts. Non-tribal bycatch limits are those adopted through Council action in March 2010.**

Fishery	Bocaccio b/	Canary	Cow cod	Dkbl	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
<b>Limited Entry Trawl - Non-whiting</b>	16.1	21.3	1.5	<b>312.0</b>	100.8	21.6	0.6
<b>Limited Entry Trawl - Whiting</b>							
At-sea w hiting motherships a/		3.3		6.0	0.5	67.0	0.0
At-sea w hiting cat-proc a/		4.8		8.5	0.5	95.0	0.0
Shoreside w hiting a/		5.9		10.5	4.7	117.0	0.0
Tribal w hiting		4.3		0.0	7.2	5.0	0.0
<b>Tribal</b>							
Midw ater 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
<b>Fixed Gear Sablefish</b>	0.0	2.5	0.0	4.5	0.4	0.0	0.9
<b>Fixed Gear Nearshore</b>	0.3	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.3
<b>Fixed Gear Other</b>	5.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
<b>Open Access: Incidental Groundfish</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Recreational Groundfish e/</b>							
WA		20.9					5.1
OR						1.0	
CA	67.3	22.9	0.3			6.2	2.8
<b>EFPs</b>	11.0	1.3	0.2	1.5	0.1	11.0	0.4
<b>Research: Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.</b>							
	2.0	4.5	0.2	2.0	2.0	5.7	3.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	102.5	102.1	2.2	369.0	119.9	373.8	17.0
<b>2010 OY f/</b>	288	105	4.0	291	200	509	17
<b>Difference</b>	185.5	2.9	1.8	-78.0	80.1	135.2	0.0
<b>Percent of OY</b>	35.6%	97.3%	55.0%	126.8%	60.0%	73.4%	100.0%
Key		= either not applicable; trace amount (<0.01 mt); or not reported in available					
a/ Non-tribal whiting values for canary, darkblotched, and widow reflect bycatch limits for the non-tribal whiting sectors. All other							
b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.							
e/ Values in scorecard represent projected impacts for all species except canary and yellow eye rockfish, which are the prescribed harvest guidelines.							
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).							

**Projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2010 updated with the proposed inseason action for minor slope rockfish.**

Fishery	Bocaccio b/	Canary	Cow cod	Dkbl	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
<b>Limited Entry Trawl - Non-whiting</b>	16.1	21.3	1.5	<b>228.0</b>	100.8	21.6	0.6
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<b>Recreational Groundfish e/</b>							
WA		20.9					5.1
OR			1.0				
CA	67.3	22.9	0.3			6.2	2.8
<b>EFPs</b>	11.0	1.3	0.2	1.5	0.1	11.0	0.4
<b>Research: Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.</b>							
	2.0	4.5	0.2	2.0	2.0	5.7	3.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	102.5	102.1	2.2	285.0	119.9	373.8	17.0
<b>2010 OY f/</b>	288	105	4.0	291	200	509	17
<b>Difference</b>	185.5	2.9	1.8	6.0	80.1	135.2	0.0
<b>Percent of OY</b>	35.6%	97.3%	55.0%	97.9%	60.0%	73.4%	100.0%
Key		= either not applicable; trace amount (<0.01 mt); or not reported in available					
a/ Non-tribal whiting values for canary, darkblotched, and widow reflect bycatch limits for the non-tribal whiting sectors. All other							
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PFMC  
04/14/10