

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss possible inseason adjustments. The GMT discussion was led by Mr. Dan Erickson. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

Limited Entry/Open Access fixed gear south of 40° 10' N. latitude

The Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association (PSLCFA) requested an increase in the bi-monthly trip limits for both shallow nearshore and deeper nearshore rockfish south of 40° 10' N. latitude to 1,000 lbs. per 2 months for period 6. These limits are already scheduled to go into effect November 1st so no action is needed.

Open Access fixed gear south of 40° 10 N. latitude

The PSLCFA also made a request to increase the open access blackgill rockfish trip limits south of 40° 10' N. latitude by 100 lbs. from the current 475 lbs. per 2 month period to 575 lbs. for period 6. Fishermen are encountering blackgill bycatch in the directed sablefish fisheries and this request would reduce regulatory discards. The data from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program Mortality Report will not be available until the November Council meeting. This data will better inform the GMT analysis of the blackgill rockfish trip limit increase request to ensure that mortality was within the harvest guidelines in 2013. At this time the request to increase the trip limits cannot be accommodated, however, there may be an opportunity to revisit this for the 2015 season.

Finally, the GAP appreciates the GMT effort put forth in developing the informational report on the selected species scorecard. The GAP notes that the implementation of electronic fishtickets for open access and limited entry fixed gear will hopefully provide more timely information on landed species.

PFMC
09/15/14