

THE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

**Action items/Industry requests:**

- Request to increase the shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish Period 6 trip limits, south of 40°10' N. latitude, to 1,000 pounds
- Request to increase the blackgill rockfish open access sector Period 6 trip limit, south of 40°10' N. latitude by 100 pounds from its current amount of 475 pounds

**Informational items:**

- Research catch update
- Overfished Species 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.

**1. ACTION ITEMS**

1.1. Industry requests for changes to Period 6 trip limits for shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish, and open access blackgill rockfish, south of 40°10' N. latitude

*1.1.1. Summary of issues*

Industry submitted a request for Council consideration to increase the Period 6 (November and December) trip limit for the shallow and deeper nearshore rockfishes south of 40°10' N. latitude to 1,000 pounds for each complex (Agenda Item J.4.c, Public Comment, September, 2014). Industry also requested that the open access blackgill rockfish trip limit of 475 pounds for period 6, south of 40°10' N. latitude, be increased by 100 pounds. Regarding the need for a blackgill rockfish trip limit increase, industry contends that the present bi-monthly blackgill rockfish trip limit makes it difficult to have a profitable trip and points out that commercial fishermen from Port San Luis (Avila) are highly dependent on groundfish.

*1.1.2. Shallow and deeper nearshore rockfishes*

The 2014 non-trawl trip limits for these two complexes are already set at 1,000 pounds for Period 6. Therefore, the GMT did not need to complete an analysis.

### *1.1.3. Blackgill rockfish*

A blackgill rockfish harvest guideline was implemented in 2013 and 2014 along with trip limit reductions for both the limited entry and open access non-trawl fixed-gear sectors south of 40°10' N. latitude. The 2013 West Coast Groundfish Observer Program Groundfish Mortality Report is expected at the November 2014 Council meeting, which will allow the GMT to evaluate whether mortality was within the blackgill rockfish harvest guideline in 2013. At the November 2014 meeting, the Council could then task the GMT with exploring trip limit increases for 2015, if desired.

## **2. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### 2.1. Research

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has concluded their 2014 standardized stock assessment survey, including expanded stations off of Northern California, and some research stations in Washington. There is anticipated to be some additional work in northern Puget Sound in October, which may increase the Washington numbers. The preliminary estimate of yelloweye rockfish impacts is 0.8 mt (Table 1). In the overfished species scorecard, the set-aside for the IPHC survey was 1.1 mt, with an additional 1.0 mt set-aside of research in Washington. Based on this information, the projected impact to yelloweye rockfish for research from the IPHC survey has been reduced by 0.3 mt (from 1.1 mt to 0.8 mt) in the scorecard (total research from 3.3 mt to 3.0 mt). The GMT will adjust the scorecard at the November meeting if there are any further updates on research.

### 2.2. Scorecard Update

The current scorecard is presented in Table 1, which reflects changes to yelloweye rockfish estimates as a result of the IPHC survey discussed in Section 2.1.

### **GMT Recommendations:**

- 1. No 2014 Period 6 trip limit increase is necessary for both the shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. latitude since the requested amount is already in place.**
- 2. Maintain the status quo trip limit amount for the open access blackgill rockfish non-trawl fixed-gear sector south of 40°10' N. latitude for the remainder of 2014. At a future time, when enough data are available, an analysis may be completed to determine the effectiveness of the current trip limit amount.**

**Table 1 . 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		Cow cod 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 : 9 September 2014</b>															
<b>Off the Top Deductions</b>	8.4	9.3	17.5	17.2	0.1	0.2	20.8	17.5	234.0	234.0	16.5	13.2	5.8	5.5	
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	2.6	4.5	4.5	0.1	0.2	2.1	2.1	11.6	11.6	5.2	5.2	3.3	<b>3.0</b>	
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	9.2			0.1	0.2	220.0	220.0	10.9	7.4	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	<b>278.4</b>	<b>278.4</b>	<b>2,378.0</b>	<b>2,378.0</b>	112.3	112.3	1.0	1.0	
<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			<b>6.3</b>	6.3			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	125.4	47.4	26.4	1.9	0.8	<b>15.5</b>	4.5	<b>35.0</b>	2.2	<b>6.8</b>	0.2	11.2	10.3	
Non-Nearshore	76.2		3.7										1.1		
LE FG				0.8				3.6				0.2		0.4	
OA FG				0.1				0.7				0.0		0.0	
Directed OA: Nearshore	0.9	0.4	6.4	6.5		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>	337.0	213.7	119.0	97.7	3.0	2.1	330.0	315.7	2,652.0	2,619.2	153.0	143.1	18.0	<b>16.8</b>	
<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	123.3	0.0	21.3	0.0	0.9	0.0	14.3	0.0	32.8	0.0	9.9	0.0	<b>1.2</b>	
<b>Percent of ACL</b>	100.0%	63.4%	100.0%	82.1%	100.0%	68.7%	100.0%	95.7%	100.0%	98.8%	100.0%	93.5%	100.0%	93.4%	
Key			= not applicable												
		--	= trace, less than 0.1 mt												
			= 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°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 the values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.