

In November 1999, the Council clarified its intent about which limit applies if a vessel fishes in both the limited entry and open access fisheries in the same cumulative period: If the limited entry limit is larger, the open access limit may be taken with open access gear and is counted toward the limited entry limit. If the open access limit is larger, the limited entry limit applies, but may be taken entirely with open access gear. This clarification was included in the annual specifications for 2000. Also at the November 1999 meeting, the Council adopted a placeholder trip limit for groundfish taken in the pink shrimp fishery, stating the intention to review the placeholder prior to the opening of the shrimp season. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) suggests the January limits not be used for reference; the measures are similar but not identical to the 1999 limits, which were constrained by the open access limits for individual groundfish species or groups. The issue of trip limits, and how to apply them when a vessel conducts both limited entry and open access fishing during a cumulative period, needs to be resolved at the March Council meeting.

#### GMT recommendations

1. Regarding operating in both limited entry and open access fisheries: The GMT wants the same trip limits to apply to all vessels participating in the pink shrimp fishery, regardless of whether a vessel has a limited entry permit or not. In addition, the GMT believes pink shrimp vessels should not be constrained by the open access individual species limits. However, this raises the issue of what to do if a vessel then fishes other species during the cumulative period (either in another open access fishery or the limited entry groundfish fishery). Vessels trip limits can't be duplicate, since they are per vessel per cumulative period.

[reg changes: if we adopt #1 above, vessels in the pink shrimp fishery would be exempted from Paragraph IV.A.(11) that states limited entry vessels are constrained by the limited entry limit if it is smaller than the open access limit, and there was language in paragraph IV.C. that Dave Thomas didn't like...I think it was "Unless otherwise specified, a vessel operating in the open access fishery is subject to, and must not exceed any trip limit, frequency limit, and/or size limit for the open access fishery." but I cant remember what the issue was. Dave...help?]

2. Groundfish trip limits for pink shrimp vessels: The GMT supports the overall groundfish per trip limit of 500 pounds/day, not to exceed 2,000 pounds per trip. However, shrimp vessels must not be allowed to thwart the conservation efforts by other fishing sectors for overfished and depleted stocks. Therefore, the GMT recommends the following individual species limits.

a. Canary rockfish: the GMT believes a monthly limit of 300 pounds to 500 pounds should apply to pink shrimp vessels. Limited entry vessels are currently restricted to 300 lb/month May-Oct (the time period that covers the shrimp fishery).

b. Lingcod: the GMT recommends there should be no retention of lingcod in April, and 400 lb/mo beginning May 1. This is the same as for other open access gear from May-Oct. (Open access lingcod is closed in April coastwide so it would be closed for the shrimp fishery too)

With respect to the lingcod size limit, GMT forgot to discuss but should have. I'd say: n of 40°10'N, 24" for sure, but not sure if there is a pink shrimp fishery s of 40°10'N. If there is a pink shrimp fishery s of 40°10'N, the size limit could be increased to 26" (consistent with other open access gear) or could be kept at 24" (same as north and consistent with limited entry trawl size limit). Defer to CDFG as to which makes the most sense???

c. Sablefish: the GMT recommends pink shrimp vessels should not exceed 2,000 lb/month. no size limit? ( GMT didn't discuss) The limited entry trawl fishery can keep 500 lbs per trip smaller than 22 inches total length. The open access regulations (Table 5) say there is not size limit for sable taken with NONTRAWL gear in the open access fishery. There is no mention of a sable size limit in current regulations for other exempted open access trawl gear.

d. Thornyhead and lingcod are closed (may not be retained) in the pink shrimp fishery during the same months when these species are closed to the rest of the open access fishery. This means that

lingcod may not be retained in a pink shrimp fishery coastwide in April (lingcod is closed Jan-April, Nov.-Dec) and thornyheads may not be retained in all open access fisheries north of Pt. Conception all year.

note..revisiting the which trip limit applies issue: the limited entry trip limit is  $<$  or  $=$  to the GMT's recommended open access shrimp limits for sable, lingcod, and canary except for April in which the canary limited entry trip limit is 100 lb/mo...so what do we do for a vessel with a limited entry permit who fishes both groundfish and shrimp in April? Is his new limit now 100 lb canary in both the groundfish and shrimp fisheries? remember, these are not additive--they are per vessel per month. he does not get 100 lb while limited entry plus 300 lb while shrimping. or does he get 300 lb, of which no more than 100 lb may be taken with limited entry gear? (I guess I would vote for that right now) or does he get just 300 lb no matter which fishery he participates in? (nah, then you'd get boats landing shrimp so they could get the higher canary limit, no?) This is FAR too complicated!!! How do we keep it simple?????