

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTS ON  
CANARY ROCKFISH ALLOCATION AND INSEASON ADJUSTMENT IN THE PINK SHRIMP  
AND OTHER FISHERIES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the proposal for an inseason allocation of canary rockfish between pink shrimp trawl and line gears to avoid the potential situation where the bycatch of canary rockfish in the shrimp fishery reaches a level that could cause curtailment of the open access line fishery. The GMT feels that such an action this year is unlikely to achieve the intent of the allocation and would cause considerable complication of trip limit management which currently includes no rigid allocation among open access gear types.

Present canary limits in the shrimp fishery have been established to accommodate, to the degree possible, incidental catches of canary rockfish occurring during targeted shrimp fishing. Such catch would occur in the shrimp fishery whether or not an achieved allocation resulted in prohibiting canary *landings* by the shrimp fleet. The prohibition would not eliminate the catch nor avoid the need to continue to account for it in harvest calculations. That is, since the assumption is that canary currently taken in the shrimp fishery is an unavoidable bycatch, catch needs to be deducted from the optimum yield, irrespective of any allocation which may prohibit its landing.

Therefore, reducing canary bycatch in the shrimp fishery to remain within any given allocation can only be achieved by control of the shrimp fishery itself, such as reduction of the target shrimp fishery, area closures, or requirement of finfish excluders. Since the Council does not manage the shrimp fishery, any such action would need to be taken by the states. The GMT feels this is unlikely to occur during the 2000 season. The Council may wish to consider encouraging a tri-state process to address this issue.

PFMC  
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