

Tribal Proposal Regarding 2003 Groundfish Harvests



Black Rockfish - The 2003 tribal harvest guidelines will be set at 20,000 pounds for the management area between the US/Canada border and Cape Alava, and 10,000 pounds for the management area located between Destruction Island and Leadbetter Point. No tribal harvest restrictions are proposed for the management area between Cape Alava and Destruction Island.

Sablefish - The 2003 tribal set aside for sablefish will be set at 10 percent of the Monterey through Vancouver area OY. Allocations among tribes and among gear types, if any, will be determined by the tribes.

Pacific Whiting - For the 2003 Pacific whiting fishery, the tribal set aside will be as provided in the Makah tribes' sliding scale allocation framework.

Lingcod - Tribal fisheries will be restricted to 300 lbs. per day, not to exceed 900 lbs. per week, limits for all fisheries.

For all other tribal groundfish fisheries the following trip limits will apply:

Thornyhead rockfish - Tribal fisheries will be restricted to a 300 pound per trip limit. This trip limit will be for short and longspine thornyheads combined.

Canary rockfish - Tribal fisheries will be restricted to a 300 pound per trip limit.

Other Minor Nearshore, Shelf and Slope Rockfish - Tribal fisheries will be restricted to a 300 lbs. per trip limit for each species group, or the limited entry trip limits if they are less restrictive than the 300 lbs. per trip limit.

Yelloweye Rockfish - The tribes will consider area and depth restrictions in their 2003 fisheries to avoid yelloweye rockfish. They are also considering bait restrictions based on preliminary evidence of reduced yelloweye bycatch associated with some baits.

Mid-water Trawl Fishery- Treaty mid-water trawl fishermen will be restricted to a cumulative limit for yellowtail rockfish of 30,000 lbs. per vessel per two month period. Their landings of widow rockfish must not exceed 10% of the poundage of yellowtail rockfish landed in any given period. Fishermen will not be permitted to carry-over portions of the cumulative limit that are not used in any previous two month period. A tribe may adjust the cumulative limit for any two month period to minimize the incidental catch of canary and widow rockfish, provided the average cumulative limit does not exceed 30,000 lbs. (e.g. - 45,000 lbs. in one period, and 15,000 lbs. in a following period). Trip limits may also be adjusted downward by the trawl fishing tribes if there is greater participation than expected in the fishery.

Bottom Trawl Fishery - Treaty fishermen using bottom trawl gear will be subject to the trip limits applicable to the limited entry fishery for pacific cod, petrale sole, English sole, rex sole, arrowtooth flounder, and other flatfish. Because of the relatively small expected harvest, the trip limits for the tribal fishery will be those in place at the beginning of the season in the limited entry fishery and will not be adjusted downward, nor will time restrictions or closures be imposed, unless in-season catch statistics demonstrate that the tribes have taken ½ of the harvest in the tribal area. Fishermen will be restricted to PFMC approved trawl gear.

Observer Program - The Makah tribe will develop and implement an observer program to monitor and enforce the limits proposed above.