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**GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2003 GROUND FISH FISHERY**

In the limited time available, the GMT has attempted to integrate the commercial and recreational options provided to us by the states into a single package of options (attached) with four tables addressing commercial and recreational fisheries in the areas north and south of 40°10'. In general, the GMT believes that the state proposals provide a reasonable framework for evaluating management measures for the 2003 fishery. In some instances, however, the GMT is recommending expansion or slight modification of the options originally provided to us. In the northern area commercial fishery, the GMT has identified more potential depth-based lines than identified by the states. While we recognize that this will increase workload in terms of specifying line coordinates analyzing alternatives, we believe that the increased flexibility provided by more lines is important for addressing the OY ranges under consideration for canary, yelloweye, and darkblotched rockfish. In addition to consideration of fixing lines for each fleet at specific locations for the entire year, it is the GMT's intention to consider analysis of seasonally varying depth restrictions in order to address conservation issues in ways that provide the greatest access of the fleet to stocks that are not overfished. In the area south of 40°10', the GMT has supplemented the CDFG proposal with commercial trawl options that reflect the approach recommended for 2002 inseason changes to protect bocaccio. Our analysis of the distribution of darkblotched rockfish has led us to propose dividing management of southern slope rockfish at 38° in 2003, rather than the 36° line implemented inseason this year. We would anticipate offering a larger slope rockfish limits south of 38°, with limits between 40°10' and 38° set at similar levels to those north of 40°10', in order to control bycatch of darkblotched rockfish.

For the recreational fisheries, the GMT believes that the Oregon and Washington recreational fisheries proposals represent reasonably conservative management options for analysis, although the team believes that a less than year-round fishery option should be added for Oregon and Washington. Accordingly, in our summary of the most conservative state options (Option 1 for Oregon and Option 3 for Washington) we have modified the proposals to allow for a less-than-year-round fishery. The GMT notes that the California recreational season length options are year-round and the status quo season structure applied to shelf rockfish. California recreational season lengths have not proven sustainable in 2001 or 2002 and in both years California recreational catches have led to early closure of groundfish fisheries. Given the reductions in OYs that have been proposed for access to nearshore species within the 20-fathom area, the GMT believes that the options available for analysis of the recreational groundfish fisheries south of 40°10' need to include season lengths that are more restrictive than prescribed in the California proposal. Accordingly, we have included in Option 1 reference to the possibility of shorter seasons.

**2001 Research Catches**

In response to a Council request earlier this week, the GMT has identified the following research catches for 2001 that were reported to the NMFS NW Region.

Bocaccio:	0.25 mt
Canary :	1.6 mt
Darkblotched:	1.9 mt
Widow:	0.3 mt
POP:	2.3 mt
Yelloweye:	0.09 mt
"Other" rockfish	17 mt

**Table 1. Commercial Fishery Options NORTH of 40° 10' N. lat.**

	<p><i>All Three States Commercial Groundfish (Limited Entry and Open Access)</i>  <i>**Pacific whiting mid-water allowed under all options, with possible depth restrictions**</i></p>					
Option 1	Close fixed gear and/or bottom trawl fisheries inside a line approximating 150 fm to provide protection for canary and yelloweye rockfish.					
Option 2	Close fixed gear fishery inside a line approximating 100 fm to provide protection for yelloweye rockfish.					
Option 3	Close trawl fishery inside a line approximating 250 fm to provide protection for darkblotched rockfish.					
Option 4	Close trawl flatfish fishery outside a line approximating either 50, 75, 100, 125 fm to provide protection for darkblotched rockfish, canary rockfish, and/or yelloweye rockfish.					
Option 5	Allow midwater trawl fishery for yellowtail and widow rockfish subject to time/area restrictions.					
Option 6	[Except Washington] Nearshore landings capped at 2002 level for black and blue rockfish combined, other nearshore rockfish combined, cabezon (15" min. length), greenling spp.					
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	<p><i>Washington only Commercial Non-Groundfish Fisheries (Options Interchangeable, Waypoints for Fm Contours Options to be Defined)</i></p>					
	<i>Halibut in Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis</i>	<i>Directed Halibut Fishery South of Point Chehalis</i>	<i>Pink Shrimp Fishery</i>	<i>Salmon Troll Fishery</i>		
Option 1	Status quo	Close directed halibut fishery between 25 fm and 150 fm	Require excluders	No halibut retention in salmon troll fishery; no yelloweye and canary rockfish retention		
Option 2	No halibut retention with sablefish North of Pt. Chehalis	Allow directed halibut fishery subject to time/area/observer restrictions/requirements	Mandatory retention of marketable groundfish	Close in Marine Catch Areas 3 and 4 outside of a line approximating 25 fm		
Option 3				Gear modifications (e.g., prohibit placement of any hook within 4 fm (24') of the weight used on each mainline)		

Oregon only Commercial Fisheries (Options Interchangeable, Waypoints for Fathom Contours Options to be Defined); OR Developing Fisheries allowed with no groundfish retention; EFP fishery for flatfish using selective flatfish trawl allowed					
	Hook-and-Line for Black, Blue and/or Other Nearshore Rockfish	Nearshore Flatfish Trawl	Directed Halibut Fishery	Pink Shrimp Fishery	Salmon Troll
Option 1	Open 0-20 fm	Open 0-50 fm	Close directed halibut fishery inside 150 fm	Require excluders	No halibut retention in salmon troll fishery; no yelloweye and canary rockfish retention; Increase distance between cannonball and first spread
Option 2	Open 0-27 fm	Open 0- 75 fm	Close directed halibut fishery inside 100 fm	Mandatory retention of marketable groundfish	
<b>Commercial Fishery Options SOUTH of 40° 10' N. lat</b>					
	Limited Entry Trawl			Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access	CA Exempted Trawl Fisheries (subject to CA-defined depth restriction options)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New management line at 38° N. lat., no line at 36° with higher slope rockfish limits to the south</li> <li>DTS, slope rockfish, splitnose allowed outside of 150 fm</li> <li>flatfish restricted to between 3 nm and 50-70 fm</li> <li>no groundfish retention 50-150 or 70-150 fm</li> </ul>			Same as recreational fisheries, except for bag limits	No groundfish retention
				Sablefish, slope rockfish, splitnose, and thornyheads N of 36° allowed outside of 150 fm	Minimal bycatch level groundfish retention, but no retention of overfished species

**Table 2. Washington State Recreational Options to be Analyzed in Addition to Status Quo**

	Bottomfish	Halibut	Salmon
Option 1	A recreational groundfish bag limit of 10 groundfish, including rockfish (and excluding lingcod), sublimit of 1 canary rockfish and no retention of yelloweye rockfish, open year-round. An additional bag limit of 2 lingcod, 24-inch minimum size limit, open Mar 16-Oct 15.	Allow recreational halibut fishing inside one-square-mile halibut "hotspot" areas--latitude/longitude points to be defined; subarea seasons described in Catch Sharing Plan.	Close recreational salmon fishery outside of a line approximating 25 fathoms in Marine Catch Areas 3 and 4--latitude/longitude waypoints to be defined.
Option 2	A recreational groundfish bag limit of 10 groundfish, including rockfish (and excluding lingcod), and no retention of canary or yelloweye rockfish, open year-round. An additional bag limit of 2 lingcod, 24-inch minimum size limit, open Mar 16-Oct 15.	Close recreational halibut fishery outside of a line approximating 25 fathoms--latitude/longitude waypoints to be defined; subarea seasons described in Catch Sharing Plan.	No retention of canary rockfish with a salmon onboard.
Option 3	Option 1 or 2 with closure outside of a line approximating 25 fathoms--latitude/longitude waypoints to be defined--and a season less than year round.		Option 2 with additional restriction of no halibut retention with a salmon onboard.

**Oregon State Recreational Options to be Analyzed in Addition to Status Quo**

	Bottomfish	Halibut	Salmon
Option 1	10 groundfish bag limit (including lingcod) with sub-limits of 1 canary and 2 lingcod (24" min. length). Yelloweye rockfish retention prohibited. Min. length limit of 16" for cabezon. Open 0 to 20 fathoms, during a season less than year round. Oregon landings of nearshore fish capped at 2000 levels (see Op. 2).	All-depth fishery closed on Stonewall Banks; description area to be identified. Nearshore open to < or = 20 fathom curve. See catch sharing plan for sub-area seasons.	Mooring may be prohibited; other options may be considered.
Option 2	10 rockfish bag limit with sub-limits of 1 canary and 1 yelloweye rockfish. Two lingcod at 24" min. length. Fishery open year round, but restricted to 0-27 fm June-Oct. Min. length limit of 16" for cabezon. OR nearshore landing restrictions (commercial & recreational) capped at 2000 levels for the following species categories: Black and blue rockfish combined, Other nearshore rockfish combined, Cabezon (16" min. length), Greenling spp.	Yelloweye rockfish retention prohibited if Pacific halibut is on-board vessel during all-depth fishery. Nearshore fishery open in < or = to 27-fathom curve during June through September. See catch sharing plan.	
Option 3	10 rockfish bag limit with sub-limits of 1 canary and 1 yelloweye rockfish. Two lingcod at 24" min. length. Min. length limit of 16" for cabezon. Fishery open year round at all-depths. Inseason closure outside 27 fms if necessary.	Yelloweye rockfish retention prohibited if Pacific halibut is on-board vessel during all-depth fishery. See catch sharing plan.	

**California State Recreational Options to be Analyzed in Addition to Status Quo (North of 40°10' N. lat. same as OR)**

**\*\*Elements within each option interchangeable**

<p>Option 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No rockfish, lingcod (or ocean whitefish) may be taken in waters 10-150 fm</li> <li>• Partition minor nearshore rockfish into components: shallow group (black&amp;yellow, china, gopher, grass, kelp) 80-160 mt; med group (CA scorpionfish) 50-100 mt; deeper group 402-532 mt. Total would not exceed the current 662 mt.</li> <li>• Maintain a 16% commercial: 84% recreational apportionment of overall OY for minor nearshore group</li> <li>• Apply 2002 shelf season structure for nearshore rockfish (or shorter season)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40° 10' to Pt. Conception (34°27'): Jan-Feb, May-Oct, Nov-Dec</li> <li>• Pt. Conception to Mexico: Mar-Oct</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 5 rockfish, no more than one of which may be shelf rockfish, no retention of overfished rockfish species; CA scorpionfish 5-10 fish bag limit separate from rockfish bag limit</li> <li>• 2 lingcod with 24" min. size limit</li> <li>• status quo size limits for rockfish, with no recreational size limits for shallow water group (black&amp;yellow, china, gopher, grass, kelp)</li> </ul>
<p>Option 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No rockfish, lingcod, or ocean whitefish may be taken in waters 20-150 fm</li> <li>• Status quo minor nearshore rockfish management, but reduce to historic catch levels: shallow group 80-160 mt, scorpionfish 50-100 mt</li> <li>• 50% commercial: 50% recreational apportionment of overall OY for minor nearshore group</li> <li>• Year-round fishery</li> <li>• 7 rockfish, no more than two of which may be shelf rockfish, no retention of overfished rockfish species; CA scorpionfish 5-10 fish bag limit separate from rockfish bag limit</li> <li>• 2 lingcod with 22" min. size limit</li> <li>• status quo size limits for all currently limited rockfish, with additional limits for: black&amp;yellow = 10", china = 12", gopher = 10", grass = 12", kelp = 10"</li> </ul>
<p>Option 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional prohibition options beyond Options 1 &amp; 2, above, for rockfish, lingcod, and ocean whitefish take</li> <li>• Provide for the shallow group and CA scorpionfish in accordance with Option 1 estimates (80-160 mt, 50-100 mt) and then adjust (increase) the overall OY to account for expected catch of the deeper nearshore group in shallow water (&lt;20 fm; &lt;10 fm)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing allowed within 20 fm, increase OY by 20-150 mt</li> <li>• Fishing allowed within 10 fm, increase OY by 10-100 mt</li> </ul> </li> <li>• No additional allocation options for minor nearshore rockfish apportionment beyond Options 1 &amp; 2, above</li> <li>• No additional season length options beyond Options 1 &amp; 2, above</li> <li>• 10 rockfish, no more than two of which may be shelf rockfish, no retention of overfished rockfish species; CA scorpionfish 5-10 fish bag limit separate from rockfish bag limit</li> <li>• 3 lingcod with 22" min. size limit</li> <li>• No additional rockfish size limit options beyond Options 1 &amp; 2 above</li> </ul>

