

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
STATUS OF GROUND FISH FISHERIES AND INITIAL POLICY CONSIDERATION OF  
INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) held lengthy discussions on a variety of issues involving inseason adjustments. The GAP met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to review management changes, and received a presentation from the California Department of Fish and Game on possible options for groundfish management south of Cape Mendocino, based on a new optimum yield (OY) value for bocaccio. GAP deliberations took place over the course of two days and involved all GAP members and members of the public, many of whom represented sport and commercial fisheries. A description of the GAP proposals for inseason adjustments is attached; these adjustments are based on recommendations provided by the GMT and the State of California. However, the GAP will comment first on the California proposals.

California recommended requesting an emergency rule that would change the OY for bocaccio for 2003 to 100 mt. If the emergency rule were issued, it would be followed by a number of management changes affecting the sport and commercial fisheries south of Cape Mendocino. These changes would vary in their impacts on bocaccio and canary rockfish. The GAP and members of the public debated the pros and cons of making an OY change inseason. A vote was then taken on the issue of requesting an emergency rule to change the OY. By a majority of 13 to 3, the GAP recommended *against* requesting an emergency rule.

The GAP then discussed an inseason adjustment involving extending the shallow boundary of the Rockfish Conservation Area to 30 fathoms in the area south of the California Conception management line (north 34°27' N latitude), while keeping in place any existing seasons, bag limits, and retention rules for sport and nontrawl commercial fisheries. The GAP unanimously approved making this change. The GAP believes, based on information presented during the discussion, that this change will have no impact on bocaccio or canary rockfish.

**GAP Proposals for In-Season Adjustments - to begin July 1, 2003 unless otherwise noted**

**North of 40°10'**

Limited entry trawl

1. Move shallow RCA boundary to 75 fathoms for periods 4 and 6
2. Large footrope limits adjusted to:  
Longspine - 13,000 lbs / 2 mos  
Shortspine - 2,500 lbs / 2 mos
3. Small footrope limits adjusted to:  
Longspine - 5,000 lbs / 2 mos  
Shortspine - 1,000 lbs / 2 mos

Limited entry and open access fixed gear

Increase trip limit for minor nearshore rockfish to 4,000 lbs / 2 mos, of which no more than 1,200 lbs may be species other than blue or black rockfish inside 27 fathoms

**South of 40°10'**

Limited entry trawl

1. For period 4, adjust trip limits to:  
Sablefish - 12,000 lbs / 2 mos  
Dover sole - 37,000 lbs / 2 mos  
Longspine - 16,000 lbs / 2 mos  
Shortspine - 2,900 lbs / 2 mos
2. For periods 5 and 6, adjust trip limits to:  
Sablefish - 10,000 lbs / 2 mos  
Dover sole - 34,000 lbs / 2 mos  
Longspine - 13,000 lbs / 2 mos  
Shortspine - 2,500 lbs / 2 mos

Limited entry and open access fixed gear

1. For shallow nearshore: period 4 - 400 lbs / 2 mos; period 5 - 300 lbs / 2 mos
2. For deeper nearshore: period 4 - 500 lbs / 2mos; period 5 - 300 lbs / 2 mos

**Coastwide, North of 36°**

For limited entry and open access daily trip limit sablefish, increase the limit to 300 lbs / day or 1 landing of 950 lbs / week, with a cumulative limit of 3,800 lbs / 2 mos

**Between 40°10' and 34°27'**

For exempted trawl, correct the closed area to between 60 fathoms and 200 fathoms

**South of 34°27'**

For exempted trawl, correct the closed area to between 100 fathoms and 200 fathoms

Allow fishing to a depth of 30 fathoms; all existing seasons, bag limits, and retention rules to remain in effect

PFMC  
06/17/03