

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
FINAL ACTION ON GROUND FISH IN SEASON MANAGEMENT

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the assumptions, methods, and results of the California Department of Fish and Game analysis for shifting the depth line for recreational and fixed gear from 20 fm to 30 fm for two areas south of 36° N latitude. Overall, the GMT believes the methodology used for the analysis yields reasonable estimates of total mortality for canary and bocaccio rockfish. Given changes in current and anticipated effort, the lack of historical catch per unit of effort (CPUE) estimates from the data analyzed is of concern, and further evaluation of CPUE is appropriate for the necessary National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis.

Consideration of an associated sport bag sub-limit of one bocaccio, and increase in the commercial shelf trip limits must include analysis of how this would impact targeting of these species. In particular, an increase in the shelf trip limit may lead to increased targeting of shelf rockfish leading to a higher take of bocaccio and canary than currently analyzed. Current California efforts to restrict individual permits to one nearshore rockfish trip limit would not also limit an individual's ability to take multiple shelf rockfish trip limits. The GMT is hesitant to endorse an increase in shelf trip limits as part of as part of the final action.

PFMC
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