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Draft Proposed California Recreational Nearshore Management Measures for 2004

Recreational fisheries data south of 40° 10' N. lat. have been analyzed to provide four management options that do not exceed expected sector catch limits for target species and overfished groundfish. The same methodology that was presented at the June PFMC meeting (re: Exhibit B.8.b, Supplemental GMT Report 2, June 2003) was employed to estimate total catch by depth, area, and wave. As noted in the June GMT report, CPUE (or effort shift) is not included in the analyses, and the current methodology would be improved if information were available to account for effort shift. Consequently, it is likely that the available estimated impacts represent minimum values.

Under all listed scenarios, scorpionfish would be expected to be overharvested, and therefore additional measures would be necessary to constrain the scorpionfish take within the available catch limits. Since scorpionfish do not possess a swim bladder, it is possible to release captured fish with high survival, estimated at 83% based on a tagging study of nearshore rockfish by CDFG. Thus, 4-month or 6-month periods of zero scorpionfish retention are proposed in order to constrain total mortality to within available catch limits. Although the mortality analysis for the 4-month scorpionfish non-retention options exceeds the earlier estimate of what the fishery would take by a small amount (<2mt), recent reductions in bag limit (from 10 to 5 in 2003) and the initiation of a 10 inch size limit in 2000 would be expected to provide some additional catch savings that are not reflected in the management option analysis for 2004. Consequently, the GMT believes that the 4-month non-retention options should be retained for consideration.

One of the proposed options also exceeds the current scorecard catch for widow rockfish by 0.1mt, and if that option were adopted, it would be necessary to make a corresponding adjustment to the scorecard to accommodate the increase. For other overfished species, the estimated catch is less than the expected CA recreational catch limit, and it is unclear how this difference should be reflected in the scorecard.

Bag limits and size limit measures would be used in concert with the proposed depth and season limits as described in the Draft EIS. One other proposed measure is to prohibit fishing in waters around the Farallon Islands from 0-10fms, in addition to other depth and season restrictions that would otherwise be in effect. This final depth restriction is expected to reduce the take of shallow nearshore rockfish.

Considering that the proposed options move back and forth inseason between the 20 fm contour and the 30 fm waypoints to define the open fishing area, enforceability of the proposals is an issue for the Enforcement Consultants.

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 Alternatives for 2004 California Recreational Nearshore Fishing
 Seasons and Depth restrictions

Option A-1

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
Mendocino to Conception	30 fm	Closed	30 fm	20 fm	20 fm	30 fm
Conception to Mexico	60 fm	Closed	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm

Species	Difference Between OY and Estimated Catch	Expected Rec OY	Estimated Catch		
			Total	North	South
Shallow NS	11.1	66	54.9	47.3	7.7
Deeper NS	43.9	349.1	305.2	254.7	50.4
Scorpionfish	(31.0)	63.9	94.9	0.0	94.9
Bocaccio	20.7	97.5	76.8	2.4	74.4
Canary - 9.1 MT OY	2.8	9.1	6.3	5.9	0.4
Canary - 10.5 MT OY	4.2	10.5	6.3	5.9	0.4
Cowcod	0.7	2.4	1.7	0.5	1.2
Lingcod	19.8	152.6	132.8	117.3	15.5
Widow	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0
Yelloweye	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.6

Option A-2

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
Mendocino to Conception	30 fm	Closed	30 fm	20	20	30 fm
Conception to Mexico	Closed	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm

Species	Difference Between OY and Estimated Catch	Expected Rec OY	Estimated Catch		
			Total	North	South
Shallow NS	10.7	66	55.3	47.3	8.0
Deeper NS	46.7	349.1	302.4	254.7	47.7
Scorpionfish	(30.7)	63.9	94.6	0.0	94.6
Bocaccio	35.4	97.5	62.1	2.4	59.7
Canary - 9.1 MT OY	2.7	9.1	6.4	5.9	0.5
Canary - 10.5 MT OY	4.1	10.5	6.4	5.9	0.5
Cowcod	0.6	2.4	1.8	0.5	1.3
Lingcod	21.8	152.6	130.8	117.3	13.5
Widow	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Yelloweye	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.6

Option B-1

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
Mendocino to Conception	Closed	30 fm	30 fm	20 fm	20 fm	30 fm
Conception to Mexico	Closed	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm

Species	Difference Between OY and Estimated Catch	Expected Rec OY	Estimated Catch		
			Total	North	South
Shallow NS	8.0	66	58.0	50.0	8.0
Deeper NS	39.3	349.1	309.8	262.1	47.7
Scorpionfish	(30.7)	63.9	94.6	0.0	94.6
Bocaccio	35.8	97.5	61.7	2.0	59.7
Canary - 9.1 MT OY	1.7	9.1	7.4	6.9	0.5
Canary - 10.5 MT OY	3.1	10.5	7.4	6.9	0.5
Cowcod	0.7	2.4	1.7	0.4	1.3
Lingcod	9.6	152.6	143.0	129.5	13.5
Widow	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Yelloweye	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.6

Option B-2

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
Mendocino to Conception	Closed	30 fm	20 fm	20 fm	30 fm	30 fm
Conception to Mexico	Closed	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm	60 fm

Species	Difference Between OY and Estimated Catch	Expected Rec OY	Estimated Catch		
			Total	North	South
Shallow NS	5.6	66.0	60.4	52.4	8.0
Deeper NS	33.7	349.1	315.4	267.7	47.7
Scorpionfish	(30.7)	63.9	94.6	0.0	94.6
Bocaccio	35.5	97.5	62.0	2.4	59.7
Canary – 9.1 MT OY	1.4	9.1	7.7	7.2	0.5
Canary - 10.5 MT OY	2.8	10.5	7.7	7.2	0.5
Cowcod	0.7	2.4	1.7	0.4	1.3
Lingcod	6.3	152.6	146.3	132.8	13.5
Widow	(0.1)	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1
Yelloweye	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.6

Scorpionfish No Retention Scenarios for Option A-1

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
4 Month No Retention	60 fm	Closed	60 fm	No Retention	No Retention	60 fm
6 Month No Retention	60 fm	Closed	No Retention	No Retention	No Retention	60 fm

	Difference Between OY and Estimated Catch	Expected Rec OY	Estimated Catch		
			Total	North	South
4 Month No Retention	(1.5)	63.9	65.4	65.4	0.0
6 Month No Retention	8.2	63.9	55.7	55.7	0.0

Scorpionfish No Retention Scenarios for Options A-2, B-1, and B-2

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
4 Month No Retention	Closed	60 fm	60 fm	No Retention	No Retention	60 fm
6 Month No Retention	Closed	60 fm	No Retention	No Retention	No Retention	60 fm

	Difference Between OY and Estimated Catch	Expected Rec OY	Estimated Catch		
			Total	North	South
4 Month No Retention	(1.2)	63.9	65.1	65.10	0.0
6 Month No Retention	8.5	63.9	55.4	55.4	0.0

