

**GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) CHECK-IN ON
 INSEASON MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

The GMT received an update on the National Marine Fisheries Service observer data for trawl and limited entry fixed gear fisheries targeting sablefish, and catch projection models for canary rockfish in California recreational fisheries. In addition, the GMT updated the bycatch scorecard from the March Council meeting to reflect the changes in trawl, limited entry fixed gear, open access, and the inseason action taken in March relative to widow rockfish in the whiting fishery and lingcod in the California recreational fishery. In reviewing the updated bycatch scorecard, it appears that the most constraining species for 2004 inseason considerations are canary rockfish and lingcod; therefore, the GMT focused its discussion and is tailoring the check-in guidance to be specific to those species.

With regard to the trawl fishery, modeling projections for 2004 apply the updated observer data combined with a reduction in effort as a result of the trawl buyback program. The GMT has identified alternatives for inseason action for the trawl fishery using the updated model which would provide higher trip limits for DTS and flatfish coastwide, as well as for minor slope rockfish south of 40°10'. Additional trawl opportunities for minor slope rockfish and chilipepper are also currently being analyzed.

Using the updated trawl model, the following alternatives are being considered:

	Alternative	Canary	Lingcod
1	Near “status quo” with higher DTS coastwide and minor slope limits in south; differential limits thru Dec	7.4	83.7
2	Higher DTS limits and slightly higher flatfish limits coastwide and minor slope in south; differential limits thru Dec	7.9	89
3	Higher DTS and higher flatfish limits coastwide and minor slope in south; differential limits in periods 3 & 4	10.8	105
4	Higher DTS and higher flatfish limits coastwide and minor slope in south; differential limits in period 4	11.3	116

The GMT reviewed 2002 and 2003 canary rockfish catch data from the California recreational fisheries, and two different models for projecting 2004 catches based on those data. The catches in 2003 were very high, especially in Wave 4 (July-Aug); it is thought that a portion of the catch in Wave 4 was the result of the fishery having been closed for the previous 8 months, creating a “derby” style fishery. One model creates an adjusted 2003 dataset by using the effort from Wave 5 (Sept-Oct) in 2003 to adjust catches for all waves in 2003 to those expected under a fishery with a similar structure to the 2002 season. This results in a reduced catch in Wave 4 to account for the “derby” response and added projected catches for the closed periods. The second model uses the adjusted 2003 catches and averages those with the 2002 catch data. The

application of an averaged 2002 and adjusted 2003 dataset would be to account for annual catch variability in the California recreational fishery, whereas application of the adjusted 2003 catch data alone would serve to be the most precautionary approach should the high effort levels estimated for 2003 be repeated in 2004.

The GMT recommends using the model with the adjusted 2003 catches only to project 2004 catches. This results in a catch estimate for the 2004 California recreational fishery of 17.49 mt. The catches modeled in September 2003 for the 2004 season projected a catch of 8.1 mt.

The GMT has identified alternatives for inseason management to reduce the canary impacts in the California recreational fishery, including the following:

	Alternative	Canary
1	Close > 20 fms in Central CA (including Waves 5 & 6)	17.49
2	Option 1 + Close > 30 fms North of 40°10' May - Dec	14.76
3	Options 1 + 2 + Close Central CA Recreational Groundfish Fisheries in Aug	10.87

Additional alternatives are available to the GMT to reduce the canary impacts further, but will require additional closures for the California recreational groundfish fisheries.

Council Guidance to GMT

Currently, with status quo trawl fisheries and the 8.1 mt estimate for California recreational, the bycatch scorecard indicates 4.1 mt of canary rockfish (Note: 4.6 mt of canary was specified as “buffer” in the 2004 specifications) and 48.1 mt of lingcod are available (Note: 49.8 mt of lingcod was specified as “buffer” in the 2004 specifications and an additional 59 mt recreational “buffer” was specified as part of the March inseason action. This would require an additional savings of 60.7 mt.) The GMT is requesting Council guidance on how best to use those fish to provide fishing opportunity while ensuring that adequate precaution has been taken to protect overfished species. Specific questions for consideration could include:

1. How much lingcod should be reserved as a “buffer” in the scorecard?
2. Should there be a canary rockfish “buffer” in the scorecard and, if so, how much?
3. After the “buffers” have been identified (if any), how to spend the remaining canary rockfish and lingcod?

Table 1. Estimated mortality (mt) of overfished West Coast groundfish species by fishery in 2004 under the *No Action* alternative.

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Fishery	Bocaccio a/	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl	Lingcod	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
Limited Entry Groundfish								
Trawl- Non-whiting	28.0	7.4	0.4	71.0	83.7	83.0	2.0	0.2
Fixed Gear	13.4	0.9	0.1	0.8	20.0	0.3	0.5	2.5
Whiting								
At-sea whiting motherships		0.9		1.4	0.3	1.7	59.7	0.0
At-sea whiting cat-proc		1.3		7.6	0.4	10.1	84.6	0.4
Shoreside whiting		0.4		0.5	0.7	0.4	29.9	0.0
Tribal whiting		4.7		0.0	0.5	1.5	37.1	0.0
Open Access								
Groundfish directed	10.6	1.0	0.1	0.2	70.0	0.1		0.6
CA Halibut	0.1			0.0	2.0	0.0		
CA Gillnet b/	0.5			0.0		0.0	0.0	
CA Sheephead b/				0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0
CPS- wetfish b/	0.3							
CPS- squid c/								
Dungeness crab b/	0.0		0.0	0.0		0.0		
HMS b/		0.0	0.0	0.0				
Pacific Halibut b/	0.0		0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.5
Pink shrimp	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1
Ridgeback prawn	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Salmon troll	0.2	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
Sea Cucumber	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spot Prawn (trap)								
Tribal								
Midwater Trawl		2.3		0.0	0.1	0.0	40.0	0.0
Bottom Trawl		0.5		0.0	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Troll		0.5		0.0	1.0	0.0		0.0
Fixed gear		0.3		0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
Recreational Groundfish								
WA		2.5			65.0			3.5
OR		7.0			101.3		2.0	3.3
CA	62.8	8.1	1.8		287.6		1.4	1.4
Research: Based on 2 most recent NMFS trawl shelf and slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and LOAs with expanded estimates for south of Pt. Conception.								
	2.0	1.0		1.6	3.0	3.0	1.5	1.1
Non-EFP Total	118.1	40.9	2.4	83.1	660.4	100.1	258.8	16.2
EFPs e/								
CA: NS FF trawl	10.0	0.5	0.5		20.0			0.5
OR: DTS f/		0.1		6.0		18.0		0.1
WA: AT trawl		1.5		3.0	4.5	8.5	5.5	0.5
WA: dogfish LL		0.1		0.5	2.0	0.5	0.5	1.0
WA: pollock g/		0.1					1.5	0.1
EFP Subtotal	10.0	2.3	0.5	9.5	26.5	27.0	7.5	2.2
TOTAL	128.1	43.2	2.9	92.6	686.9	127.1	266.3	18.4
2004 OY	250	47.3	4.8	240	735	444	284	22
Percent of OY	51.2%	91.3%	60.4%	38.6%	93.5%	28.6%	93.8%	83.5%
Key	= either not applicable; trace amount (<0.01 mt); or not reported in available data sources.							

a/ South of 40°10' N. lat.

b/ Mortality estimates are not hard numbers; based on the GMT's best professional judgement.

c/ Bycatch amounts by species unavailable, but bocaccio occurred in 0.1% of all port samples and other rockfish in another 0.1% of all port samples (and squid fisheries usually land their whole catch). In 2001, out of 84,000 mt total landings 1 mt was groundfish. This suggests that total bocaccio was caught in trace amounts.

d/ These estimates have not been revised pending GMT review of the estimation methodology.

e/ Values are proposed EFP bycatch caps, not estimates of total mortality. The EFP is terminated inseason if the cap is projected to be attained early.

f/ The darkblotched rockfish and Pacific ocean perch caps are not defined yet for this EFP but are expected to be lower than the placeholders in this scorecard.

g/ Whiting impacts are deducted from the shoreside sector only.

Table 2. Estimated mortality (mt) of overfished West Coast groundfish species by fishery in 2004 as presented by the GMT in March 2004.

Fishery	Bocaccio a/	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl b/	Lingcod c/	POP	Whiting d/	Widow	Yelloweye
Limited Entry Groundfish									
Trawl- Non-whiting e/	45.0	9.8	0.6	100.7	78.4	68.1		1.5	0.4
Fixed Gear	13.4	0.5	0.1	1.5	12.7	0.2		5.0	0.1
Whiting									
At-sea whiting motherships		0.9		1.4	0.3	1.7	51,720	211.0	0.0
At-sea whiting cat-proc		1.3		7.6	0.4	10.1	73,270		0.4
Shoreside whiting		0.4		0.5	0.7	0.4	90,510		0.0
Tribal whiting		4.7		0.0	0.5	1.5	32,500		0.0
Open Access									
Groundfish directed	10.6	0.3	0.1		62.5				0.6
CA Halibut	0.1			0.0	2.0	0.0			
CA Gillnet f/	0.5			0.0		0.0		0.0	
CA Sheephead f/				0.0		0.0		0.0	0.0
CPS- wetfish f/	0.3								
CPS- squid g/									
Dungeness crab f/	0.0		0.0	0.0		0.0			
HMS f/		0.0	0.0	0.0					
Pacific Halibut f/	0.0		0.0	0.0		0.0		0.0	0.5
Pink shrimp	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0		0.1	0.1
Ridgeback prawn	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0
Salmon troll	0.2	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0		0.0	0.2
Sea Cucumber	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0
Spot Prawn (trap)									
Tribal									
Midwater Trawl		2.3		0.0	0.1	0.0		40.0	0.0
Bottom Trawl		0.5		0.0	9.0	0.0		0.0	0.0
Troll		0.5		0.0	1.0	0.0			0.0
Fixed gear		0.3		0.0	15.0	0.0		0.0	2.3
Recreational Groundfish									
WA		2.5			73.0				3.5
OR		7.0			101.3			2.0	3.3
CA (N) h/		0.5			195.0			1.0	0.1
CA (S) h/	62.8	7.6	1.8		151.8			0.4	1.3
Research: Based on 2 most recent NMFS trawl shelf and slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and LOAs with expanded estimates for south of Pt. Conception.									
	2.0	1.0		1.6	3.0	3.0		1.5	1.1
Non-EFP Total	135.1	42.2	2.6	113.3	707.5	85.0		262.5	14.0
EFPs i/									
CA: NS FF trawl	10.0	0.5	0.5		20.0				0.5
OR: DTS j/		0.1		6.0		18.0			0.1
WA: AT trawl		1.5		3.0	4.5	8.5		5.5	0.5
WA: dogfish LL		0.1		0.5	2.0	0.5		0.5	1.0
WA: pollock k/		0.1					1,000	1.5	0.1
EFP Subtotal	10.0	2.3	0.5	9.5	26.5	27.0	1,000	7.5	2.2
TOTAL	145.1	44.5	3.1	122.8	734.0	112.0		270.0	16.2
2004 OY	250	47.3	4.8	240	735	444	250,000	284	22
Percent of OY	58.0%	94.1%	64.6%	51.2%	99.9%	25.2%		95.1%	73.5%
Key	= either not applicable; trace amount (<0.01 mt); or not reported in available data sources.								

a/ South of 40°10' N. lat.

b/ Darkblotched harvest limit ("2004 OY" in this table) is the ABC of 240 mt, which is lower than the projected OY of 272 mt under the *Medium OY* alternative.

c/ Lingcod total reflects total catch, not mortality.

d/ Whiting is rebuilt according to the assessment adopted at the March 2004 Council meeting.

e/ Using observer data, all estimates from the Hastie trawl bycatch model.

f/ Mortality estimates are not hard numbers; based on the GMT's best professional judgement.

g/ Bycatch amounts by species unavailable, but bocaccio occurred in 0.1% of all port samples and other rockfish in another 0.1% of all port samples (and squid fisheries usually land their whole catch). In 2001, out of 84,000 mt total landings 1 mt was groundfish. This suggests that total bocaccio was caught in trace amounts.

h/ These estimates have not been revised pending GMT review of the estimation methodology.

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