

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
SUMMARY OF GROUND FISH PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) attended and sponsored a series of public meetings to solicit input from and share information with stakeholders primarily regarding proposed 2005-2006 management measures, including regional management, and the status of canary, yelloweye and black rockfish, and lingcod.

Date	Location	Attendees	Discussion Topics
Jan 30	WDFW - Olympia	~ 10 rec fishing interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFMC process • Groundfish and halibut fisheries mgmt • Status of yelloweye rockfish
Feb 26	Forks City Council Meeting	~ 20 rec fishing interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFMC process • Groundfish and halibut fisheries mgmt • Status of yelloweye rockfish
Mar 4	WDFW - Olympia	5 rec fishing interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFMC process • Groundfish fisheries mgmt, including regional mgmt • Status of stocks (canary, yelloweye, and black rockfish, and lingcod) • Proposed 2005-2006 mgmt measures
Mar 29	WDFW - Montesano	3 rec fishing interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFMC process • Groundfish fisheries mgmt, including regional mgmt • Status of stocks • Proposed 2005-2006 mgmt measures
Apr 16	WDFW - Olympia	~ 20 rec fishing interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFMC process • Groundfish and halibut fisheries mgmt
May 20	WDFW - Olympia	2 rec and 4 comm fishing interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFMC process • Groundfish fisheries mgmt, including regional mgmt • Status of stocks • Proposed 2005-2006 mgmt measures

Discussion Summary

One of the key issues of concern among recreational fishers was the status of yelloweye rockfish and its potential impact upon the halibut fishery and other recreational groundfish opportunities. Recreational fishing interests expressed the need for regional management, especially for species with very low optimum yields (OYs) (e.g., canary and yelloweye rockfish), to avoid early closure. Discussion also centered around the differences among OYs, harvest guidelines, and harvest targets and the management response for each of those terms. There was also some discussion on the use of “hotspot” management, including the potential use of halibut “hotspots” (that are canary and yelloweye “coldspots”), which could remain open in the event of large recreational area closures and/or the use of canary “hotspots” which could be closed.

Discussion with commercial fishers focused primarily on the OYs for 2005-2006 and the depth-based management measures being proposed to achieve them. There was also some discussion regarding the implementation of the Oregon Selective Flatfish Trawl into federal regulations, the potential for the conversion of the Arrowtooth Trawl Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) into regulations, and the draft trip limit alternatives.

PFMC
05/25/04