

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON
2005-06 MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The GMT does not have any questions or need for clarification on the Council guidance provided under agenda item C.6. The GMT will have a final statement prepared for C.10, which will be all-inclusive with regard to Council action. The GMT analyzed the limited entry trawl options and discussed the following issues, and makes these recommendations:

LIMITED ENTRY TRAWL

Management Options

The GMT adjusted the trawl model for 2005 and 2006 predictions based on adjustments made for inseason management in June 2004, and a slight adjustment that predicts higher period 1 participation in 2005 compared to 2004. Inseason adjustments were based on model performance compared to QSM data through April. The additional period 1 participation adjustment is based on the notion that fewer trawl vessels would participate in the Dungeness crab fisheries in 2005 and 2006 as compared to this year. This year's crab fishery was exceptional, and more trawl vessels may have been participating in the crab fishery in period 1 compared to past years. These adjustments to 2005 and 2006 resulted in a higher degree of predicted catch which required some downward adjustments to trip limits to stay within the OYs on some target species.

The results of the model adjustments for Tables 1 and 2 are contained in Attachment 1. Model results include lower petrale limits in Table 2 as compared to Table 1, and what was modeled previously. The GMT continues to recommend the option in Table 1.

Estimated Impacts

The estimated impacts on overfished species and the amounts of target species that are expected to be harvested are also contained in Attachment 1. Specifically, canary rockfish impacts are estimated to be 5.2 mt for Option 1 and 4.9 mt for Option 2. The GMT's primary concern relative to canary rockfish is to provide its best estimate of impacts to ensure that the canary OY is not exceeded and that rebuilding projections are not jeopardized.

There are several factors which may contribute to uncertainty in the bycatch model. These include:

- The bycatch rates from the SFFT gear were produced under an EFP when participating fishers were adhering to bycatch caps and had 100% observer coverage. While the GMT and SSC believes these rates are appropriate to use, there may be changes in fishing behavior associated with removing these regulatory provisions which are difficult to predict.
- The GMT adjusted the bycatch rates in the winter periods when the EFP was not conducted based on assuming that the seasonal differential demonstrated in the FRAM rates would also apply to the SFFT gear.

- The bycatch model is estimating an amount of participation with SFFT gear for different periods and with different levels of success relative to achieving trip limits which is based on historic participation by individual permit holders. It is difficult to predict how many and which specific individuals will convert to SFFT gear.

An additional consideration is that FRAM observer data with bycatch rates from fishers using SFFT gear will not be available until November 2005 (for July 2004-June 2005) and November 2006 (for July 2005-June 2006). Given these uncertainties, the GMT does not believe that 6.0 mt would be a sufficient estimate. The GMT cannot come up with a quantitative amount, but believes an appropriate range for consideration would be 6.0 mt-9.2 mt, which is the current amount specified for 2004.

GENERAL RECREATIONAL

The GMT recommends that state recreational regulations be designated as routine management measures in the federal regulations to allow adoption of federal conforming regulations as inseason actions.

OREGON RECREATIONAL

Inseason Management Response

If the recreational harvest guideline for canary, yelloweye, or lingcod specified for the Washington/Oregon area is projected to be exceeded, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will consult with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and may take action inseason to close all or portions of the recreational fishery deeper than 20 or 30 fms, or adjust seasons, bag limits, or size limits, as needed. For purposes of consistency and clarification, the action taken by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife would be specified in federal regulations.

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL ISSUES

Management Options

The GMT has yet to have a thorough review of the California Department of Fish and Game recreational options and the resulting impacts. However, the GMT notes that Options 5 and 5a (copies attached) both include large closed periods (Jan-June in most areas) and recommends that California analyze options that include opening in June and closing in July. This would allow fishery managers to assess impacts to overfished species inseason and consider adjustments, if needed, before reopening the fishery in August.

The GMT has not discussed such issues as a lingcod minimum size limit, the shore-based and diver exemptions, and the option for differential bag limits between CPFV and other recreational fishing modes. The GMT has discussed the following issues and has these recommendations:

Retention of Other Flatfish with Sanddab Gear

There is a request to allow the retention of other flatfish by fishers targeting sanddabs with approved gear. The GMT notes that the small hook size provisions in place were expected to result in an almost exclusive fishery for sanddabs. Providing for the retention of all other

flatfish would increase the incentive to target those species and could result in unforeseen bycatch issues. The GMT notes that bycatch in the current fishery is very minimal, and therefore questions the need to provide for it. However, if the Council does wish to accommodate bycatch in this fishery, the GMT recommends allowing only a minor bycatch of other flatfish (1 or 2 fish) in conjunction with sanddab catches.

Waypoints for Cordell Bank

The closure around Cordell Bank is currently a five nm radius around a central point. The GMT recommends that the closed area be defined by coordinates which approximate the 100-fm depth contour around the area. These coordinates have been provided to NMFS.

Ridgeback Prawn Exemption

There is a request to have a ridgeback prawn trawl exemption to the trawl RCA when the shallow boundary is at 75-fms. The GMT recommends that this exemption not go forward at this time. We understand that a bycatch study on this fishery is currently underway and data may be available inseason in 2005 or 2006. After the data become available, the GMT will review the data to assess whether the bycatch in this fishery is at a level that can be accommodated. It is our understanding that implementation of this exemption in 2005 or 2006 may require an EA tiered from the 2005-06 EIS.

UPDATED BYCATCH SCORECARDS

The GMT will have updated bycatch scorecards under agenda item C.10. The GMT did update the canary rockfish portion of the scorecard using the recreational harvest guidelines in place of estimated impacts. The GMT has calculated the canary rockfish OY and the residual amount with different estimated impacts for the limited entry trawl fishery, as well as the commercial/recreational catch sharing. The GMT recommends a placeholder for the 2006 EFP set asides in the bycatch scorecard at the same EFP subtotal for 2005 (2.5 mt). The resulting canary OYs with the different trawl impacts and the commercial/recreational catch sharing is as follows:

	2005			2006		
LE Trawl	OY	Comm	Rec	OY	Comm	Rec
6.0 mt	46.0 mt	57.9%	42.1%	48.2	58.9%	41.1%
9.2 mt	47.2 mt	60.8%	39.2%	49.3	61.7%	38.3%

GMT Recommendations:

1. Approve the limited entry trawl option contained in Attachment 1, Table 1.
2. Approve an estimate of canary rockfish impacts for the bycatch scorecard for 2005 and 2006 in the 6.0-9.2 mt range to accommodate uncertainties in the GMT bycatch model.
3. Approve the GMT recommended language regarding the designation of state recreational regulations as routine management measures in the federal regulations.
4. Approve the language regarding Oregon’s recreational inseason management response.
5. Direct the GMT to analyze California recreational options which include openings in June (where currently closed in Options 5 and 5a) with closures in July (where currently open in

Options 5 and 5a).

6. If the retention of other flatfish in the sanddab fishery is approved, then include a sublimit to ensure that catch remains incidental to sanddabs (1-2 fish).
7. Approve the use of waypoints to define the closed area around Cordell Bank approximating the 100-fm depth contour.
8. Approve the GMT recommendation of a placeholder for the 2006 EFP set asides in the bycatch scorecard at the same EFP subtotal for 2005 (2.5 mt).

Attachment 1 Table 1. Different North / South Limits and 4 periods with 100 fathom inline

ESTIMATED MORTALITY				
		North	South	Total
Rebuilding Species	Lingcod	94.2	30.0	124.2
	Canary	4.6	0.6	5.2
	POP	88.2	0.0	88.2
	Darkblotch	63.0	13.0	76.0
	Widow	1.8	0.1	1.9
	Bocaccio	0.0	51.2	51.2
	Y'eye	0.3	0.1	0.4
	Cowcod	0.0	0.5	0.5
Target Species	Sablefish	2,620	762	3,382
	Longspine	558	296	854
	Shortspine	610	284	894
	Dover	5,241	2,120	7,361
	Arrowtooth	2,504	210	2,714
	Petrals	2,398	263	2,661
	Other Flat & Eng. Sole	4,551	1,473	6,023
	Slope Rock	203	400	603

TRIP LIMITS AND RCA BOUDARIES

SUBAREA	Period	RCA Boundaries		Other Flat & Eng.							
		INLINE	OUTLINE	Sablefish	Longspine	Shortspine	Dover	Petrals	Arrowt'rh	Slope Rock	
N 40 10	1	75	150	9,500	15,000	3,500	69,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	8,000
	2	100	150	9,500	15,000	3,500	69,000	110,000	42,000	150,000	8,000
	3	100	150	17,000	23,000	4,900	30,000	110,000	42,000	150,000	8,000
	4	100	150	17,000	23,000	4,900	30,000	110,000	42,000	150,000	8,000
	5	100	150	17,000	23,000	4,900	30,000	110,000	42,000	150,000	8,000
	6	75	150	8,000	15,000	3,500	69,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	8,000
North Select Gear Limit	1	75	150	1,500	1,000	1,000	20,000	100,000	25,000	70,000	8,000
	2	100	150	10,000	1,000	1,000	35,000	100,000	35,000	70,000	8,000
	3	100	150	10,000	1,000	3,000	50,000	100,000	35,000	70,000	8,000
	4	100	150	10,000	1,000	3,000	50,000	100,000	35,000	70,000	8,000
	5	100	150	10,000	1,000	3,000	50,000	100,000	35,000	70,000	8,000
	6	75	150	1,500	1,000	1,000	20,000	100,000	25,000	70,000	8,000
38 - 40 10	1	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	40,000
	2	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	42,000	10,000	40,000
	3	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	42,000	10,000	40,000
	4	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	42,000	10,000	40,000
	5	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	42,000	10,000	40,000
	6	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	40,000
S. 38	1	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	40,000
	2	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	42,000	10,000	40,000
	3	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	42,000	10,000	40,000
	4	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	42,000	10,000	40,000
	5	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	42,000	10,000	40,000
	6	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	50,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	40,000

Attachment 1 Table 2. Equal North / South Limits and 3 periods with 100 fathom inline

		ESTIMATED MORTALITY		
		North	South	Total
Rebuilding Species	Lingcod	100.0	28.9	128.9
	Canary	4.3	0.6	4.9
	POP	87.5	0.0	87.5
	Darkblotch	61.3	12.6	73.9
	Widow	1.7	0.1	1.8
	Bocaccio	0.0	47.2	47.2
	Y'eye	0.3	0.1	0.4
	Cowcod	0.0	0.4	0.4
Target Species	Sablefish	2,744	744	3,487
	Longspine	577	296	873
	Shortspine	603	284	888
	Dover	5,226	1,991	7,217
	Arrowtooth	2,496	209	2,705
	Petrals	2,336	254	2,590
	Other Flat & Eng. Sole	4,517	1,462	5,979
	Slope Rock	203	400	603

LIMITS AND RCA BOUDARIES

SUBAREA	Period	RCA Boundaries		Other Flat							
		INLINE	OUTLINE	Sablefish	Longspine	Shortspine	Dover	& Eng.	Petrals	Arrowt'rh	Slope Rock
N 40 10	1	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	8,000
	2	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	8,000
	3	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	8,000
	4	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	8,000
	5	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	8,000
	6	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	8,000
North Select Gear Limit	1	75	150	1,500	1,000	1,000	20,000	100,000	30,000	70,000	8,000
	2	100	150	10,000	1,000	1,000	50,000	100,000	30,000	70,000	8,000
	3	100	150	10,000	1,000	3,000	50,000	100,000	30,000	70,000	8,000
	4	75	150	10,000	1,000	3,000	50,000	100,000	30,000	70,000	8,000
	5	100	150	10,000	1,000	3,000	50,000	100,000	30,000	70,000	8,000
	6	75	150	1,500	1,000	1,000	20,000	100,000	30,000	70,000	8,000
38 - 40 10	1	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	40,000
	2	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	3	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	4	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	5	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	6	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	40,000
S. 38	1	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	40,000
	2	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	3	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	4	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	5	100	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	6	75	150	14,000	19,000	4,200	47,000	110,000	No Limit	No Limit	40,000

California Recreational Season and Depth Options
 Draft for GMT Meeting at June Council Meeting
 Option 5 & 5a, Version 6/17/04 1300

Includes no diver based or shore fishing exemption or shore take during 20-40 or 30-60 fm rockfish closures

California Recreational Season and Depth Options
 Draft for PFMC June GMT Meeting

Option 5	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North						<40	<40	<40	<40	<40		
N-Central						<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<30	
S-Central North						<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<30	
S-Central South					20-40	20-40	20-40	20-40	20-40			
South				30-60	30-60	30-60	<40	<40	<40	<40		
South Scorpionfish			30-60	30-60						<40	<40	

Option 5a	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North							<40	<40	<40	<40		
Central							<20	<20	<20	<20	<30	
South				30-60	30-60	30-60	<40	<40	<40	<40		
South Scorpionfish			30-60	30-60						<40	<40	

Region	BLK	MNR ₂	CAN	ING	BOC
North	87.2		0.5	34.4	0.0
N-Central	44.1	200.6	4.6	179.2	0.0
S-Central N	33.1	150.5	2.0	85.5	0.1
S-Central S	11.0	50.2	1.0	7.5	0.2
South	0.0	69.6	0.3	42.1	32.0
Total	175.5	470.8	8.5	348.6	32.3
HG/HT	184	471	9.3	422	77.0
Difference	-5%	0%	-9%	-17%	-58%

Region	BLK	MNR ₂	CAN	ING	BOC
North	87.2		0.5	34.4	0.0
Central	88.1	400.5	8.6	264.3	0.4
South	0.0	69.6	0.3	42.1	32.0
Total	175.4	470.1	9.4	340.8	32.4
HG/HT ¹	184	471	9.3	422	77.0
Difference	-5%	0%	1%	-19%	-58%

incorrect and still
 being calculated

per MKR

