

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF STATUS OF FISHERIES AND INSEASON  
ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the recreational and commercial catch estimates and updated the bycatch scorecard (estimated impacts that have been updated are highlighted in bold) and have identified two significant issues for inseason consideration.

Darkblotched Rockfish

In June, the GMT estimated the total mortality of darkblotched rockfish in the limited entry trawl fishery would be 75.6 mt for the year, plus 1.0 mt for fixed gear and open access impacts for a total commercial catch of 76.6 mt for the year. As of the end of August, the landed commercial catch of darkblotched rockfish is 172 mt. Using a discard proportion (33%), based on the amount of landings and estimated discard in 2003, 172 mt of landings would correspond to a total commercial catch of 258 mt. Combined with the estimated mortalities in the other fisheries and research, this produces a total mortality estimate of 276.5 mt. For darkblotched, the Council set the optimum yield (OY) equal to the acceptable biological catch (ABC); therefore, the total mortality estimate, through August for directed commercial plus through December for all other fisheries, is 36.5 mt over the ABC.

To minimize the commercial darkblotched catch for the remainder of the year, the seaward trawl Rockfish Conservation Area boundary would have to move from 150 fm to 250 fm N of 38° N latitude, beginning October 1, and the petrale areas would not be available in Period 6. The GMT also reviewed a proposal to reallocate the whiting left unharvested by the mothership sector to the other sectors; however, the potential impacts to darkblotched rockfish resulting from this reallocation cannot be accommodated.

Canary Rockfish

The GMT estimated the total mortality of canary rockfish in the limited entry trawl fishery would be 9.2 mt for the year, plus 1.9 mt for fixed gear and open access, for a total commercial catch estimate of 11.1 mt. Through the end of August, the GMT estimates the total commercial canary catch is 18 mt, based on the amount of landings and the discard proportion estimated for 2003. Adding this amount to the other fisheries in the scorecard produces a total mortality estimate (through August for commercial plus through December for all other fisheries) of 52.5 mt, which is 5.2 mt over OY.

As part of the updates to the scorecard, the GMT revised the estimated mortalities for the whiting mothership and shoreside sectors (which are closed) and tribal sector (which is near complete), with their final catch amounts. The 2004 bycatch rate in the catcher-processor sector for canary rockfish would produce a new canary estimate of 6.7 mt for all whiting sectors combined; however, the catcher-processor fishery is still ongoing. As such, the GMT did not revise the

canary estimate for the whiting fishery in the scorecard, yet.

The GMT is applying the preliminary estimated discard proportion from 2003 to estimate the total commercial catch of darkblotched and canary rockfish because the landed catches of both of these species currently exceeds what the bycatch model is predicting for total commercial catch. In the case of canary rockfish, the total mortality in the commercial fisheries is estimated to be 84.9 mt in 2002 and 24.6 mt (compared to a bycatch model projection of 11.9 mt) in 2003. For the long-term, the GMT believes that input from the Scientific and Statistical Committee on how to address differences between model projections and landed catches inseason would be helpful.

The GMT would appreciate Council guidance on how to address both the darkblotched and canary rockfish estimated mortalities exceeding their respective OYs (which, in the case of darkblotched, equals the ABC) in 2004 and the potential implications for the 2005-2006 fisheries.

PFMC  
09/14/04

DRAFT C.2.b Attachment 1. Estimated Impacts as a Result of Proposed Inseason Adjustments

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Fishery	Bocaccio a/	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl	Lingcod	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
<b>Limited Entry Groundfish</b>								
Trawl- Non-whiting	47.4	18.0	0.4	258.0	104.7	95.0	2.5	0.2
Fixed Gear	13.4		0.1		20.0	0.3	0.5	2.5
<b>Open Access: Groundfish directed</b>	10.6		0.1		70.0	0.1		0.6
<b>Whiting</b>								
At-sea whiting motherships		7.3		3.0	0.8	0.1	11.4	0.0
At-sea whiting cat-proc			7.6	0.4	10.1	84.6	0.4	
Shoreside whiting			0.7	0.7	0.7	28.6	0.0	
Tribal whiting			0.0	0.0	0.2	1.6	0.0	
<b>Open Access</b>								
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)								
<b>Tribal</b>								
Midwater Trawl		1.3		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
<b>Recreational Groundfish</b>								
WA d/		1.7			71.7			3.4
OR		6.8			109.7		1.4	3.2
CA e/	62.8	9.3	1.8		268.9		8.2	3.7
<b>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.</b>								
	2.0	3.1		4.0	3.0	3.0	0.5	1.0
<b>Non-EFP Total</b>	137.5	51.0	2.4	273.3	677.8	109.5	179.4	18.1
<b>EFPs f/</b>								
CA: NS FF trawl	10.0	0.5	0.5		20.0			0.5
OR: DTS g/		0.0		0.2		0.6		0.0
WA: AT trawl		1.0		3.0	4.5	8.5	5.5	0.5
WA: dogfish LL		0.0		0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
WA: pollock		0.0					0.0	0.0
<b>EFP Subtotal</b>	10.0	1.5	0.5	3.2	25.0	9.1	5.5	1.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	147.5	52.5	2.9	276.5	702.8	118.6	184.9	19.1
<b>2004 OY</b>	250	47.3	4.8	240	735	444	284	22
<b>Difference</b>	102.5	-5.2	1.9	-36.5	32.2	325.4	99.1	2.9
<b>Percent of OY</b>	59.0%	110.9%	60.4%	115.2%	95.6%	26.7%	65.1%	87.0%
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/ Estimates for yelloweye have not been updated.

e/ Estimates for bocaccio, cowcod, widow, and yelloweye have not been updated.

f/ 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.

g/ 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.