

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
CONSIDERATION OF LIMITED REFINEMENTS TO THE 2005/2006 FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) has identified four proposed refinements to the 2005/2006 management specifications for Council consideration:

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Thornyheads South of 40°10' N latitude.

In 2005-2006, the trip limits for thornyheads in this area are scheduled to be the same as the limited entry trawl thornyhead limits for this area. However, limited entry trawl trip limits were adjusted upward beginning in 2004 to reflect the trawl buyback, and therefore, the limited entry fixed gear limits should not have been adjusted upward to be the same as trawl. The GMT recommends the limited entry fixed gear limits be adjusted back to the 2004 limits, which are similar to the limited entry fixed gear limits in the north.

Currently, trip limits for 2005-2006 are 19,000 lb/2 months for longspine thornyhead and 4,200 lb/ 2 months for shortspine thornyhead. The GMT recommends these trip limits be reduced to 10,000 lb/2 months for longspine thornyhead and 2,000 lb/2 months for shortspine thornyhead.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Tier Limits

Derivation of the 2005-2006 tier limits for the limited-entry fixed-gear sablefish fishery recommended by the GMT in June were based on inclusion of outdated estimates of the research catch expected in both years. The GMT had updated estimated 2005-2006 research catches this spring, but those amounts were inadvertently not included in the tier calculations. As described in the Agendum Overview and Attachment 1, the sablefish tier limits for 2006 need to be updated as a result of the revised projected research catch to the following:

- Tier 1 - 62,700 lb
- Tier 2 - 28,500 lb
- Tier 3 - 16,300 lb

Washington and Oregon Recreational Lingcod Harvest Guideline

The GMT received a presentation from the States of Washington and Oregon on a potential revision to the harvest targets for northern recreational lingcod in the 2005-2006 annual specifications. Anticipated take for these fisheries under proposed (status quo) regulation was calculated in June using the increasing linear trend of lingcod catches since 2001. This trend appears to be the result of increasing availability of lingcod to the recreational fishery due to successful rebuilding of the stock. Angler effort, angler success, and average fish weight all display an increasing trend. This trend was recalculated replacing the previously estimated 2004 catch with actual inseason catch estimates. The result was a slight increase to the 2005 and 2006

estimated catch. The GMT supports this updated calculation which makes use of the most recent available data.

### Limited Entry Trawl Slope Rockfish

In response to the higher darkblotched rockfish mortalities, the GMT recommends the limited entry trawl management measures for the beginning of 2005 be revised. Specifically, beginning Period 1, move the seaward trawl boundary from 150 fm to 200 fm north of 38° N latitude with allowing the petrale areas, and reduce the slope rockfish trip limit to 4,000 lbs/2 months, which is the level that 2004 started with. These rockfish conservation area (RCA) boundaries and/or trip limits can then be adjusted inseason as more information becomes available.

### GMT Recommendations

1. Adopt the revised trip limits for limited entry fixed gear for shortspine and longspine thornyheads south of 40°10'N latitude for 2005 and 2006.
2. Adopt the revised 2006 sablefish tier limits for the limited entry fixed gear fishery.
3. Adopt the revised Washington/Oregon recreational lingcod harvest guideline based on the updated catch projections.
4. Adopt the revised limited entry trawl RCA boundary and slope rockfish trip limit north of 38°N latitude beginning in Period 1.

PFMC  
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