

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FINAL CONSIDERATION OF 2004 INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Updated Bycatch Scorecard

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) updated the bycatch scorecard to reflect total mortality estimates for canary and darkblotched rockfish as a result of Council inseason action (see Attachment 1). The action taken by the Council is expected to reduce the estimated impacts to other overfished stocks, however, the GMT did not have all of the information available to adjust those estimates at this time. The GMT plans to update the bycatch scorecard for all species at the November Council meeting.

Inseason Tracking Mechanism

The GMT held a discussion concerning modifications to the inseason tracking mechanism in order to make it more responsive to providing real-time signals on where we are with respect to our management targets. The GMT tasked Mr. Brian Culver of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Mr. Merrick Burden of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to work with Mr. William Daspit at the Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN) office to modify the current Quota Species Monitoring Report (QSM). Currently the QSM tracks landings of key species based upon hard fishticket data supplemented by soft data (landing data provided in advance of the associated fishticket data being entered into the system). New fields will be added to the QSM that provide monthly targets as contained in the bycatch model and where current total catch is with respect to those targets. With respect to nearshore species, the GMT feels that much of the tracking responsibility should remain with the states, since information on commercial and recreational management strategies and current trends are only available at the state level.

With respect to recreational monitoring, the GMT is in the process of developing a recreational QSM which incorporates estimates from state sampling programs with catch projections to provide estimates on a monthly basis. Mr. Merrick Burden developed a format to receive this information from the states, organized according to the management priority of the species involved. Currently the states of Oregon and Washington are able to provide data feeds to the Recreational QSM (RQSM), and as the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) comes online, information from California will be incorporated as well. Ultimately, the function of the RQSM could be replaced by the information in the Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN), but until RecFIN information becomes sufficiently real-time, the GMT will continue to employ the RQSM.

The GMT will communicate on a monthly basis to review commercial and recreational catches produced by the above processes to determine whether management action is warranted. The GMT is especially concerned about deviations from harvest targets that might occur between the June and November Council meetings. If there are any "red flags" that are identified between Council meetings via email discussion, then the GMT will have a conference call work session to share data and communicate issues to Council staff. Council staff can then inform Council members of these issues to determine if there are recommendations for state and/or federal action.

The Council could also implement a mechanism for NMFS to take management action during this

interval if information reviewed by the GMT indicates that catches are tracking too far from anticipated targets.

PFMC
09/17/04

Attachment 1. Estimated Impacts After Inseason Adjustments at the September Council Meeting

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Fishery	Bocaccio a/	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl	Lingcod	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
Limited Entry Groundfish								
Trawl- Non-whiting	47.4	18.3	0.4	268.1	104.7	95.0	2.5	0.2
Fixed Gear	13.4		0.1		20.0	0.3	0.5	2.5
Open Access: Groundfish directed	10.6		0.1		70.0	0.1		0.6
Whiting								
At-sea whiting motherships		6.2		3.0	0.8	0.1	11.4	0.0
At-sea whiting cat-proc			5.8	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	
Open Access								
CA Halibut	0.1	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	0.1	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		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
Recreational Groundfish								
WA		1.7			71.7			3.4
OR /e		4.3			109.7		1.4	3.2
CA	62.8	8.5	1.8		268.9		8.2	3.7
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	3.1		4.0	3.0	3.0	0.5	1.0
Non-EFP Total	137.5	46.5	2.4	281.6	677.8	109.5	179.4	18.1
EFPs d/								
CA: NS FF trawl	10.0	0.1	0.5		20.0			0.5
OR: DTS		0.0		0.2		0.6		0.0
WA: AT trawl		1.0		0.7	0.8	4.0	0.0	0.0
WA: dogfish LL		0.0		0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
WA: pollock		0.0					0.0	0.0
EFP Subtotal	10.0	1.1	0.5	0.9	21.3	4.6	0.0	0.5
TOTAL	147.5	47.6	2.9	282.5	699.1	114.1	179.4	18.6
2004 OY	250	47.3	4.8	240	735	444	284	22
Difference	102.5	-0.3	1.9	-42.5	35.9	329.9	104.6	3.4
Percent of OY	59.0%	100.7%	60.4%	117.7%	95.1%	25.7%	63.2%	84.7%
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/ 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.

e/ Canary rockfish impacts through September 5 in all Oregon recreational fisheries (3.5 mt), plus impacts from remaining halibut fishery dates in Sept. and Oct. plus 2-fish bag (0.4 mt), plus impacts from fishery shoreward of 40 fm through December (0.1 mt), plus fishery seaward of 40 fm in October with yellowtail rockfish retention (0.4 mt).