

THE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
STATUS OF 2005 GROUND FISH FISHERIES AND FINAL CONSIDERATION OF
INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Based on information provided to the Council under the initial consideration of inseason adjustments (Agenda Item B.6.b, Supplemental GMT Report 1, April 2005), the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) is recommending that the Council adopt proposed limited entry trawl trip limit inseason adjustments, adopt proposed limited entry trawl clarifications to gear requirements, and adopt proposed California recreational inseason adjustments.

Minor Slope Rockfish and Splitnose - 40°10' N. lat. to 38° N. lat.

The GMT would like to clarify that, for the area between 40°10' N. lat. and 38° N. lat., the GMT is recommending liberalizing the seaward trawl RCA boundary from 200 fms to 150 fms, and increasing the minor slope rockfish and splitnose limits from 4,000 lbs/2 mo. to 8,000 lbs/2 mo. for the following reasons:

1. The darkblotched encounter rate for the area south of 40°10' N. lat. is much lower than the encounter rate for the area north of 40°10' N. lat. and this action is expected to result in a minimal increased amount of darkblotched catch;
2. The area between 40°10' N. lat. and 38° N. lat. was overly constrained through action taken in September 2004, as a temporary precautionary measure, until NMFS Observer Program data were available.

In general, using the discard rates based on information from the NMFS Observer Program, as used in the bycatch model, produce an anticipated total catch estimate of darkblotched rockfish for all fisheries combined of 172.3 mt (as compared to a 2005 OY of 269 mt). Therefore, while the GMT is recommending moving the RCA boundary and increasing the slope rockfish trip limits between 40°10' N. lat. and 38° N. lat., the GMT is also recommending a precautionary approach to the magnitude of adjustment (i.e., only increasing limits to 8,000 lbs/2 mo., rather than increasing them to a higher limit) at this time. The GMT anticipates that, as more catch data become available, further inseason action could be considered at the Council's June and September meetings.

Petrale sole and Dover Trip Limits

No changes to proposed trip limits contained in the initial inseason statement. The projected impacts resulting from the limited entry inseason adjustments are shown below.

| | | North | South | Total |
|--------------------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Rebuilding Species | Lingcod | 118.4 | 33.6 | 152.0 |
| | Canary | 5.0 | 0.6 | 5.6 |
| | POP | 67.3 | 0.0 | 67.3 |
| | Darkblotch | 121.8 | 35.8 | 157.5 |
| | Widow | 1.2 | 0.1 | 1.3 |
| | Bocaccio | 0.0 | 58.2 | 58.2 |
| | Yelloweye | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| | Cowcod | 0.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Target Species | Sablefish | 1,759.0 | 522.7 | 2,281.7 |
| | Longspine | 644.4 | 561.4 | 1,205.7 |
| | Shortspine | 476.5 | 208.1 | 684.6 |
| | Dover | 5,206.9 | 2,138.1 | 7,345.0 |
| | Arrowtooth | 3,182.3 | 44.6 | 3,226.9 |
| | Petrale | 2,112.2 | 537.2 | 2,649.5 |
| | Other Flat Slope | 1,609.1 | 773.5 | 2,382.6 |
| | Rock | 133.4 | 148.0 | 281.4 |

California Recreational

Proposed recreational inseason adjustments are provided in Agenda Item B.6.b, Supplemental GMT Report 1, April 2005. To clarify, the lingcod spawning closure in December applies to all anglers. In addition, all other regulations and diver and shore-based exemptions remain status quo.

An updated bycatch scorecard and updated limited entry trawl trip limit tables are also attached to this document.

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart G -- 2005-2006 Trip Limits for Limited Entry Trawl Gear North of 40°10' N. Lat.

Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read § 660.301 - § 660.390 before using this table

052005

| | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) ^{6/}: | | | | | | |
| North of 40°10' N. lat. | 75 fm - modified 200 fm ^{7/} | 100 fm - 200 fm | | | 75 fm - modified 200 fm ^{7/} | |
| Selective flatfish trawl gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all trawl gear (large footrope, selective flatfish trawl, and small footrope trawl gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA. Midwater trawl gear is permitted only for vessels participating in the primary whiting season. | | | | | | |
| See § 660.370 and § 660.381 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.390-660.394 for Conservation Area Descriptions and Coordinates (including RCAs, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, and Cordell Banks). | | | | | | |
| State trip limits may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California. | | | | | | |
| 1 Minor slope rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish | 4,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 2 Pacific ocean perch | 3,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 3 DTS complex | | | | | | |
| 4 Sablefish | | | | | | |
| 5 large & small footrope gear | 9,500 lb/ 2 months | | 17,000 lb/ 2 months | | 8,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 6 selective flatfish trawl gear | 1,500 lb/ 2 months | 10,000 lb/ 2 months | | | 1,500 lb/ 2 months | |
| 7 multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | 1,500 lb/ 2 months | 9,500 lb/ 2 months | 10,000 lb/ 2 months | | 1,500 lb/ 2 months | |
| 8 Longspine thornyhead | | | | | | |
| 9 large & small footrope gear | 15,000 lb/ 2 months | | 23,000 lb/ 2 months | | 15,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 10 selective flatfish trawl gear | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 11 multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 12 Shortspine thornyhead | | | | | | |
| 13 large & small footrope gear | 3,500 lb/ 2 months | | 4,900 lb/ 2 months | | 3,500 lb/ 2 months | |
| 14 selective flatfish trawl gear | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | 3,000 lb/ 2 months | | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 15 multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | | 3,000 lb/ 2 months | | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 16 Dover sole | | | | | | |
| 17 large & small footrope gear | 69,000 lb/ 2 months | | 30,000 lb/ 2 months | | 22,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 18 selective flatfish trawl gear | 20,000 lb/ 2 months | 35,000 lb/ 2 months | 35,000 lb/ 2 months | | 8,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 19 multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | 20,000 lb/ 2 months | 35,000 lb/ 2 months | 30,000 lb/ 2 months | | 8,000 lb/ 2 months | |

TABLE 3 (North)

Table 3 (North). Continued

| | | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|--|---|
| 20 | Flatfish (except Dover sole) | | | | |
| 21 | Other flatfish ^{3/} , English sole & Petrale sole | | | | |
| 22 | large & small footrope gear for Other flatfish ^{3/} & English sole | 110,000 lb/ 2 months | | | |
| 23 | large & small footrope gear for Petrale sole | Not limited | 110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 42,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. | 110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 40,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. | 80,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 60,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. |
| 24 | selective flatfish trawl gear | 100,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 25,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. | 100,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 35,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. | 90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 35,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. | 75,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 15,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. |
| 25 | multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | 100,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 25,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. | 100,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 35,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. | 90,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 35,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. | 75,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 15,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole. |
| 26 | Arrowtooth flounder | | | | |
| 27 | large & small footrope gear | Not limited | | 150,000 lb/ 2 months | 80,000 lb/ 2 months |
| 28 | selective flatfish trawl gear | | | 70,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 29 | multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | | | 70,000 lb/ 2 months | |
| 30 | Whiting | Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip -- During the primary season: mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: 10,000 lb/trip | | | |
| 31 | Minor shelf rockfish^{1/}, Shortbelly, Widow & Yelloweye rockfish | | | | |
| 32 | midwater trawl for Widow rockfish | Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED -- During primary whiting season: In trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting, combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip, cumulative widow limit of 1,500 lb/ month. Mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for primary whiting season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED | | | |
| 33 | large & small footrope gear | | | 300 lb/ 2 months | |

TABLE 3 (North) cont'

Table 3 (North). Continued

| | | | | |
|----|--|---|--------------------|------------------|
| 36 | Canary rockfish | | | |
| 37 | large & small footrope gear | CLOSED | | |
| 38 | selective flatfish trawl gear | 100 lb/ month | 300 lb/ month | 100 lb/ month |
| 39 | multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | CLOSED | | |
| 40 | Yellowtail | | | |
| 41 | midwater trawl | Before the primary whiting season: CLOSED -- During primary whiting season: In trips of at least 10,000 lb of whiting: combined widow and yellowtail limit of 500 lb/ trip, cumulative yellowtail limit of 2,000 lb/ month. Mid-water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for primary whiting season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: CLOSED | | |
| 42 | large & small footrope gear | 300 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 43 | selective flatfish trawl gear | 2,000 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 44 | multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | 300 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 45 | Minor nearshore rockfish & Black rockfish | | | |
| 46 | large & small footrope gear | CLOSED | | |
| 47 | selective flatfish trawl gear | 300 lb/ month | | |
| 48 | multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | CLOSED | | |
| 49 | Lingcod ^{4/} | | | |
| 50 | large & small footrope gear | 500 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 51 | selective flatfish trawl gear | 800 lb/ 2 months | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | 800 lb/ 2 months |
| 52 | multiple bottom trawl gear ^{8/} | 500 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 53 | Other Fish ^{5/} & Pacific cod | Not limited | | |

TABLE 3 (North) cont'

1/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish.

2/ Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.302 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, sand sole, and starry flounder.

4/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

5/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.302 and include sharks, skates, rattfish, morids, grenadiers, and kelp greenling. Cabezon is included in the trip limits for "other fish."

6/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat/long coordinates set out at § 660.390.

7/ The "modified 200 fm" line is modified to exclude certain petrale sole areas from the RCA.

8/ If a vessel has both selective flatfish gear and large or small footrope gear on board during a cumulative limit period (either simultaneously or successively), the most restrictive cumulative limit for any gear on board during the cumulative limit period applies for the entire cumulative limit period.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart G -- 2005-2006 Trip Limits for Limited Entry Trawl Gear South of 40°10' N. Lat.
Other Limits and Requirements Apply -- Read § 660.301 - § 660.390 before using this table 052005

| | JAN-FEB | MAR-APR | MAY-JUN | JUL-AUG | SEP-OCT | NOV-DEC |
|--|--|---|-----------------|---------|---------|--|
| Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) ^{6/}: | | | | | | |
| 40°10' - 38° N. lat. | 75 fm - modified 200 fm ^{7/} | 100 fm - 200 fm | 100 fm - 150 fm | | | 75 fm - modified 150 fm ^{7/} |
| 38° - 34°27' N. lat. | 75 fm - 150 fm | 100 fm - 150 fm | | | | 75 fm - 150 fm |
| South of 34°27' N. lat. | 75 fm - 150 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm around islands | 100 fm - 150 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm around islands | | | | 75 fm - 150 fm along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm around islands |

Small footrope gear is required shoreward of the RCA; all trawl gear (large footrope, midwater trawl, and small footrope gear) is permitted seaward of the RCA.

See § 660.370 and § 660.381 for Additional Gear, Trip Limit, and Conservation Area Requirements and Restrictions. See §§ 660.390-660.394 for Conservation Area Descriptions and Coordinates (including RCAs, YRCA, CCAs, Farallon Islands, and Cordell Banks).

State trip limits may be more restrictive than federal trip limits, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|--|--|--|----------------------|
| 1 | Minor slope rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish | | | | | |
| 2 | 40°10' - 38° N. lat. | 4,000 lb/ 2 months | 8,000 lb/ 2 months | | | |
| 3 | South of 38° N. lat. | 40,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 4 | Splitnose | | | | | |
| 5 | 40°10' - 38° N. lat. | 4,000 lb/ 2 months | 8,000 lb/ 2 months | | | |
| 6 | South of 38° N. lat. | 40,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 7 | DTS complex | | | | | |
| 8 | Sablefish | 14,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 9 | Longspine thornyhead | 19,000 lb / 2 months | | | | |
| 10 | Shortspine thornyhead | 4,200 lb/ 2 months | | | | |
| 11 | Dover sole | 50,000 lb/ 2 months | 40,000 lb/ 2 months | | | 35,000 lb/ 2 months |
| 12 | Flatfish (except Dover sole) | | | | | |
| 13 | Other flatfish ^{3/} & English sole | 110,000 lb/ 2 months | Other flatfish, English sole & Petrale sole: 110,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 42,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole | | | 110,000 lb/ 2 months |
| 14 | Petrable sole | No limit | | | | 100,000 lb/ 2 months |
| 15 | Arrowtooth flounder | No limit | 10,000 lb/ 2 months | | | 20,000 lb/ 2 months |
| 16 | Whiting | Before the primary whiting season: 20,000 lb/trip -- During the primary whiting season: mid water trawl permitted in the RCA. See §660.373 for season and trip limit details. -- After the primary whiting season: 10,000 lb/trip | | | | |

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South). Continued

| | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 17 | Minor shelf rockfish^{1/}, Chilipepper, Shortbelly, Widow, & Yelloweye rockfish | | | |
| 18 | large footrope or midwater trawl for Minor shelf rockfish & Shortbelly | 300 lb/ month | | |
| 19 | large footrope or midwater trawl for Chilipepper | 2,000 lb/ 2 months | 12,000 lb/ 2 months | 8,000 lb/ 2 months |
| 20 | large footrope or midwater trawl for Widow & Yelloweye | CLOSED | | |
| 21 | small footrope trawl | 300 lb/ month | | |
| 22 | Bocaccio | | | |
| 23 | large footrope or midwater trawl | 300 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 24 | small footrope trawl | CLOSED | | |
| 25 | Canary rockfish | | | |
| 26 | large footrope or midwater trawl | CLOSED | | |
| 27 | small footrope trawl | 100 lb/ month | 300 lb/ month | 100 lb/ month |
| 28 | Cowcod | CLOSED | | |
| 29 | Minor nearshore rockfish & Black rockfish | | | |
| 30 | large footrope or midwater trawl | CLOSED | | |
| 31 | small footrope trawl | 300 lb/ month | | |
| 32 | Lingcod^{4/} | | | |
| 33 | large footrope or midwater trawl | 500 lb/ 2 months | | |
| 34 | small footrope trawl | 800 lb/ 2 months | 1,000 lb/ 2 months | 800 lb/ 2 months |
| 35 | Other Fish^{5/} & Cabezon | Not limited | | |

TABLE 3 (South) cont

1/ Yellowtail is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish.

2/ POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.302 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, sand sole, and starry flounder.

4/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length.

5/ Other fish are defined at § 660.302 and include sharks, skates, rattfish, morids, grenadiers, and kelp greenling.

Pacific cod is included in the trip limits for "other fish."

6/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is a gear and/or sector specific closed area generally described by depth contours but specifically defined by lat/long coordinates set out at § 660.390.

7/ The "modified 200 fm" line is modified to exclude certain petrale sole areas from the RCA.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.