

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
FINAL CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

In response to Council guidance, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) examined several inseason management issues for the remainder of 2005 and for 2006. Management issues for 2005 focused on an analysis of fisheries that are projected to take petrale sole during December 2005. Management issues for 2006 are petrale sole and canary rockfish harvest in the limited entry trawl fishery, harvest level of darkblotched rockfish, and bycatch scorecard. Discussion of these management issues and recommendations for Council consideration are outlined below.

FISHERIES PROJECTED TO TAKE PETRALE SOLE IN DECEMBER 2005

The GMT reviewed Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN) data to evaluate which fisheries are projected to have a take of petrale sole in December 2005.

The GMT believes that the following fisheries are projected to take petrale sole during December of 2005:

1. Limited entry bottom trawl seaward of the RCA

The GMT believes that the following fisheries are projected to take trace (less than 0.1 mt) amounts of petrale sole in December 2005:

1. Limited entry fixed gear and open access coastwide
2. California halibut, ridgeback prawn, sea cucumber (open access trawl)
3. Limited entry trawl south of 36° N. latitude shoreward of 50 fm

All other fisheries are projected to have a zero impact on petrale sole.

The GMT cautions that the expectation of a total fishery closure in December may result in a race for fish, which has the potential to increase the catch of petrale sole catch in November in excess of that would otherwise occur.

LIMITED ENTRY TRAWL FISHERIES IN 2006

Petrale Sole Limit in January and February

It is the GMT's goal to begin 2006 with sufficiently conservative management measures to avoid drastic harvest reductions and/or closures in the later part of the year. There is a possibility that the 2007 – 2008 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures may not be effective on January 1, 2007. Should this occur, conservative management measures for January and February of 2006 would facilitate any necessary harvest reductions that may be necessary in 2007 until the biennial specifications become effective. Dividing the current two-month cumulative period into two one-month periods would provide for implementation of less restrictive measures in February should that be warranted by the data. The GMT notes that the two one-month limits would be substantially higher than the one two-month limit.

The GMT analyzed additional options which would keep period 1 as one two-month limit in 2006 in case 2007 regulations are not in place beginning January 1, 2007. These two options can be characterized as 1) having the same amount of risk as the GMT's original preferred option (option 5 below) and 2) as having slightly more risk than the GMT's original preferred option

(option 4 below). In this case, risk is mostly characterized by the amount of petrale expected to be taken. The following tables show the predicted take in period 1 under these two new options.

TABLES 1 AND 2: PERIOD 1 IMPACTS UNDER LE TRAWL OPTIONS 4 AND 5

Period 1 Impacts for Option 5

species	North	South	Total
Arrowtooth	542.3	1.4	543.7
Dover	601.4	67.3	668.7
English	100.5	43.9	144.4
Longspine	24.4	49.7	74.0
Other flat	121.1	75.0	196.1
Petrale	348.8	26.4	375.2
Sablefish	341.8	69.8	411.6
Slope Rock	38.7	31.3	70.0
Shortspine	71.6	25.5	97.1
Canary	0.3	0.1	0.4
POP	16.2	0.0	16.2
Darkbltch	21.1	1.9	23.0
Widow	0.3	0.0	0.3
Yelloweye	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bocaccio	0.0	1.2	1.2
Cowcod	0.0	0.1	0.1

Period 1 Impacts for Option 4

Species	North	South	Total
Arrowtooth	542.3	1.4	543.7
Dover	847.8	103.2	951.0
English	100.5	43.9	144.4
Longspine	24.4	52.3	76.7
Other flat	121.1	75.0	196.1
Petrale	406.1	26.4	432.5
Sablefish	341.8	69.8	411.6
Slope Rock	38.7	31.3	70.0
Shortspine	71.6	28.4	100.0
Canary	0.4	0.1	0.5
Pop	19.3	0.0	19.3
Darkblotch	25.1	2.2	27.3
Widow	0.4	0.0	0.4
Yelloweye	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bocaccio	0.0	1.3	1.3
Cowcod	0.0	0.1	0.1

The GMT continues to support the original option 3 (as detailed in the Supplemental GMT Report H.4.b.) which splits period 1 into two one-month limits. The GMT believes this option provides management flexibility which would allow the Council to effectively prosecute 2006 OYs, while hedging against the risk of attaining catch levels in early 2007, which could negatively impact the 2007 fishery later in the year. If the Council wishes to keep the limited entry bottom trawl fishery projection within 8.0 mt, then the GMT recommends a modified option 3 which adjusts the shoreward boundary of the RCA north of 40° 10' latitude to 75 fathoms in period 3.

Option 4 Cumulative limits and RCA boundaries

Subarea	Period	RCA Config		Cumulative Limits							
		INLINE	OUTLINE	Sable	Lspine	Sspine	Dover	O'flat	Petrale	Arrowth	Slope Rock
N 40 10	1	75	200*	16,000	15,000	4,000	50,000	110,000	45,000	100,000	4,000
	2	75	200	16,000	15,000	4,000	50,000	110,000	30,000	100,000	4,000
	3	75	200	20,000	23,000	6,000	35,000	110,000	30,000	100,000	4,000
	4	100	200	20,000	23,000	6,000	35,000	110,000	30,000	100,000	4,000
	5	75	200	20,000	23,000	6,000	35,000	110,000	30,000	100,000	4,000
	6	75	200*	16,000	15,000	4,000	35,000	110,000	80,000	100,000	4,000
N 40 10: If SFFT gear used during period	1	75	200*	5,000	3,000	3,000	28,000	110,000	25,000	60,000	4,000
	2	75	200	10,000	3,000	3,000	28,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
	3	75	200	10,000	3,000	3,000	28,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
	4	100	200	10,000	3,000	3,000	28,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
	5	75	200	10,000	3,000	3,000	28,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
	6	75	200*	5,000	3,000	3,000	28,000	110,000	25,000	60,000	4,000
38 - 40 10	1	75	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	50,000	110,000	45,000	10,000	8,000
	2	100	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	50,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	8,000
	3	100	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	35,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	8,000
	4	100	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	35,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	8,000
	5	100	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	35,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	8,000
	6	75	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	35,000	110,000	80,000	10,000	8,000
S 38	1	75	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	50,000	110,000	45,000	10,000	40,000
	2	100	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	50,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	3	100	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	35,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	4	100	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	35,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	5	100	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	35,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	6	75	150	18,000	20,000	5,000	35,000	110,000	80,000	10,000	40,000

Option 5 Cumulative limits and RCA boundaries

Subarea	Period	RCA Config		Cumulative Limits							
		INLINE	OUTLINE	Sable	Lspine	Sspine	Dover	O'flat	Petrale	Arrowth	Slope Rock
N 40 10	1	75	200*	16,000	15,000	4,000	30,000	110,000	30,000	100,000	4,000
	2	75	200	16,000	15,000	4,000	28,000	110,000	30,000	100,000	4,000
	3	75	200	20,000	23,000	5,000	28,000	110,000	30,000	100,000	4,000
	4	100	200	20,000	23,000	5,000	30,000	110,000	30,000	100,000	4,000
	5	75	200	20,000	23,000	5,000	30,000	110,000	30,000	100,000	4,000
	6	75	200*	16,000	15,000	4,000	80,000	110,000	100,000	100,000	4,000
N 40 10: If SFFT gear used during period	1	75	200*	5,000	3,000	3,000	30,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
	2	75	200	10,000	3,000	3,000	28,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
	3	75	200	10,000	3,000	3,000	28,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
	4	100	200	10,000	3,000	3,000	30,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
	5	75	200	10,000	3,000	3,000	30,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
	6	75	200*	5,000	3,000	3,000	30,000	110,000	30,000	60,000	4,000
38 - 40 10	1	75	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	30,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	8,000
	2	100	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	28,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	8,000
	3	100	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	28,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	8,000
	4	100	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	30,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	8,000
	5	100	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	30,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	8,000
	6	75	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	80,000	110,000	100,000	10,000	8,000
S 38	1	75	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	30,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	2	100	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	30,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	3	100	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	30,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	4	100	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	30,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	5	100	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	30,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	6	75	150	18,000	19,000	4,500	80,000	110,000	100,000	10,000	40,000

DARKBLOTCHED ROCKFISH IN 2006

The GMT recognizes that a proposed OY of 200 mt for 2006 represents a status-quo approach to current management measures for darkblotched rockfish (based on the most recent bycatch scorecard estimate of 185 mt for 2005, with a small buffer to account for uncertainty). The 2005 assessment for darkblotched rockfish suggests that the spawning output has more than doubled since 1999 (from 8% to 17% of the unfished level). The most recent rebuilding analysis suggests that the median time to rebuild the stock under status quo management (based on the harvest rate associated with the 2005 bycatch scorecard catch estimate) is by 2010.2. The projected median time to rebuild associated with the 2005 OY harvest rate (269 mt in 2005; 294 mt in 2006 with the increase in 2006 based on current stock assessment projections) is by 2010.5. The addition of the fraction of a year is important, as the difference between rebuilding with no harvest (2009.5) and rebuilding by these median times is one year or less.

Target in FMP	Median Time to Rebuild	Fraction of time between Tmin and Tmax (re-est)	time 2006 (mt)	OY Comment
2030	2009.5	0.00	0	Tmin
	2009.9	0.02	130	The 2001 OY value
	2010.2	0.03	219	Status quo (bycatch scorecard) harvest rate
	2010.5	0.04	294	Current (2005 OY) harvest rate
	2033	1.00	696	Pmax of 50%

BYCATCH SCORECARD

The attached scorecard represents best estimate of mortality prior to the November inseason action and will be updated to reflect actions taken under this agenda item.

GMT RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER H.13:

1. Provide guidance to address overfishing on petrale sole for December 2005

2. Adopt changes to management measures for limited entry trawl (including RCA boundaries and cumulative trip limits) for 2006
3. Consider establishing a reserve in the scorecard for canary rockfish in the limited entry bottom trawl fishery, and specify the amount.

GMT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FINAL ADOPTION BASED ON ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER H.4:

For 2005:

4. Implement adjustments in the Oregon recreational ocean and estuary boat fisheries (40 fm seaward boundary of the recreational RCA, prohibit retention of black rockfish) to conform with state adjustments implemented in October, effective through December 31, 2005.
5. Adopt corrected recreational regulations for California (as detailed in H.4.b Supplemental GMT Report)

For 2006:

6. Increase limits for lingcod in the coastwide for the limited entry trawl fishery to 1,200 lbs per two months (for all gear types).
7. Adjust limited entry fixed gear and open access non-trawl gear DTL fishery for sablefish north of 36° N. latitude contained in Option 1 (H.4.b Supplemental GMT Report) to 300 lb per day, 1,000 lb per week, and 5,000 lb per month.
8. Adjust shelf rockfish, shortbelly, and widow rockfish limits south of 34°27' N lat. as follows: 3,000 lb per two months for limited entry fixed gear, and 750 lb per two months for open access non-trawl gear
9. Increase limited entry fixed gear and open access fixed gear black rockfish limits between 40°10' N lat. and 42° to 6,000 lb per two months
10. Remove the 30 fm depth closure in the Washington recreational fishery, beginning January 1, 2006.
11. Adopt recreational regulations for Oregon and California (as detailed in H.4.b Supplemental GMT Report)

GMT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provide guidance to address overfishing on petrale sole for 2005.
2. Adopt changes to trawl RCA boundaries
3. Adopt changes to trawl cumulative limits for sablefish, thornyheads, Dover sole, petrale sole, other flatfish, arrowtooth, slope rockfish, and splitnose
4. Consider establishing a reserve in the scorecard for canary rockfish in the limited entry bottom trawl fishery, and specify the amount.

PFMC
11/04/05