

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON
ADJUSTMENTS IN 2005 AND 2006 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a presentation from Mr. Merrick Burden, Groundfish Management Team (GMT), on proposed recommendations for inseason adjustments for the remainder of 2005 and the start of the 2006 season and has the following comments.

2005

Petrале

In response to the current level of Petrале catch, the GAP recommends maintaining the 250 fathom line north of 38° N. Latitude and eliminating the Petrале trip limit for the coastwide fishery beginning December 1st. Other restrictions have already been implemented to reduce or eliminate Petrале catch. According to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff, the bottom trawl fishery on the West Coast brings in between \$600,000 - \$800,000 in ex-vessel revenues during the month of December. The alternative to eliminating the Petrале trip limit is to shut down the entire bottom trawl fishery. Based on the ex-vessel revenues generated by this fishery in December, this alternative would cause extreme negative economic impacts. This is a prime example of using economic data to demonstrate the importance of a given fishery to participants and associated coastal communities. The GAP recommends the Council consider the drastic economic effects that shutting this fishery down completely would cause, and implement a zero trip limit for Petrале as the management measure for the remainder of 2005.

2006

Limited Entry Trawl

The GAP supports Option 3 as presented by the GMT with the exception of the first period being divided into two monthly limits. The GAP wishes to remind the Council that one month limits induce discards which ultimately punish the industry later in the year. The GAP would prefer seeing Period 1 set up as a two-month cumulative limit.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Sablefish DTL Fishery

The majority of the GAP supports Option 2 (300 lbs/day, 1,000 lbs/week, 5,000 lbs/ 2 months) as the preferred option. A minority of the GAP supports Option 1 (400lbs/day, 1,200 lbs/week, 4,800 lbs/2 months).

Fixed Gear Limited Entry and Open Access Shelf Rockfish

The GAP supports a shelf rockfish limit increase south of 34° 27' north latitude for limited entry fixed gear to 3,000 lbs and 750 lbs for open access fixed gear.

Fixed Gear Limited Entry and Open Access Black Rockfish

The GAP support a black rockfish increase to 6,000 lbs between 40°10' north latitude and the Oregon-California border.

Recreational Fishery

The GAP supports the proposal to increase the recreational fishing area south of 34°27` north latitude from zero fathoms to 60 fathoms for the months of March and April.

PFMC

11/02/05