

**GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
 MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SPINY DOGFISH AND PACIFIC COD FOR 2006**

This summer, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) raised concerns regarding the management of two West Coast groundfish managed under the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan—spiny dogfish and Pacific cod. The GMT believes current harvest controls are inadequate to effectively manage these species and recommends the Council adopt management measures for 2006 fisheries. Again, as noted in the September GMT report, it is our understanding that these management measures would have an implementation date of March 1, 2006; therefore, all of the proposed trip limits begin in Period 2 across all alternatives. The alternatives that were approved for public review are:

**Spiny Dogfish**

Table 1. Limited Entry Trawl; Limited Entry Fixed Gear; Open Access

	Alt 1 (status quo)	Alt 2	Alt 3
Period 1	Status quo – unlimited (rule effective March 1, 2006)		
Period 2	Unlimited	150,000 lbs/2 mo	150,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 3	Unlimited	150,000 lbs/2 mo	150,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 4	Unlimited	100,000 lbs/2 mo	80,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 5	Unlimited	100,000 lbs/2 mo	80,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 6	Unlimited	100,000 lbs/2 mo	80,000 lbs/2 mo

**Pacific Cod**

Table 2. Limited Entry Trawl

	Alt 1 (status quo)	Alt 2	Alt 3
Period 1	Status quo – unlimited (rule effective March 1, 2006)		
Period 2	Unlimited	30,000 lbs/2 mo	30,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 3	Unlimited	70,000 lbs/2 mo	70,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 4	Unlimited	70,000 lbs/2 mo	70,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 5	Unlimited	70,000 lbs/2 mo	45,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 6	Unlimited	30,000 lbs/2 mo	30,000 lbs/2 mo

Table 3. Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access

	Alt 1 (status quo)	Alt 2	Alt 3
Period 1	Status quo – unlimited (rule effective March 1, 2006)		
Period 2	Unlimited	1,000 lbs/2 mo	1,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 3	Unlimited	1,000 lbs/2 mo	1,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 4	Unlimited	1,000 lbs/2 mo	1,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 5	Unlimited	1,000 lbs/2 mo	1,000 lbs/2 mo
Period 6	Unlimited	1,000 lbs/2 mo	1,000 lbs/2 mo

In preparation for the September GMT report, the GMT did trip frequency analyses for both spiny dogfish and Pacific cod using fish ticket data from the 2000-2004 fisheries. The GMT's approach in developing the range of alternatives was to review the amount of fish needed to accommodate current harvest levels on a two-month cumulative basis. We did not structure

alternatives to provide for higher harvest levels for future developing fisheries, as these proposals are for the 2006 fishing year only.

In each case, Alternative 2 represents trip limits, which could accommodate practically all of the commercial fishing activity that occurred during this time period. It is anticipated that, if participation in these fisheries remain at the current level, these trip limits would result in approaching, but not exceeding, the Pacific cod optimum yield (OY). Therefore, the GMT recommends the Council adopt Alternative 2, in each case, for spiny dogfish and Pacific cod.

The GMT tribal representative indicated that the coastal treaty tribes have requested from the National Marine Fisheries Service a specific set aside of the Pacific cod OY on the order of 300-400 mt to accommodate the tribal fisheries. The GMT notes that the tribal harvest of Pacific cod was 254 mt in 2003 and 350 mt in 2004, which is a substantial portion of the harvest off the northern Washington coast. Currently, this tribal harvest is accounted for in the overall OY, which is shared by tribal and non-tribal fisheries. If approved, the tribal set aside would need to be subtracted from the overall OY, and would reduce the amount available for non-tribal fisheries. As the total catches have been approaching the Pacific cod OY, the proposed trip limits for the non-tribal fisheries may need to be adjusted inseason to stay within the non-tribal portion of the OY.

In 2005, concerns over unanticipated participants in the open access fisheries, and the estimated amounts of targeted species harvest and potential bycatch of overfished rockfish, were addressed through bycatch limits for canary and yelloweye rockfish that were established for the open access sector through emergency rule. If the Council decides to implement trip limits for spiny dogfish and Pacific cod for 2006, then the GMT would recommend that the bycatch limits for canary and yelloweye rockfish for the open access sector not be extended into 2006.

#### **GMT Recommendation**

1. Adopt Alternative 2, in each case, for trip limits for spiny dogfish and Pacific cod for 2006.

PFMC  
11/02/05