

INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2006 OREGON RECREATIONAL GROUNDFISH FISHERY

At its November 2005 meeting, the Council approved inseason adjustments to the 2006 Oregon recreational groundfish fishery, reverting the regulations to those set in the pre-season process. In December 2005, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) refined management measures for the 2006 Oregon recreational groundfish fishery, based on the angler effort patterns observed in 2005. There was a significant increase in angler effort targeting groundfish in 2005, due primarily to the poor salmon season in the waters off Oregon. In order to remain within the 2006 Oregon harvest guideline for black rockfish and provide a twelve-month fishing season, the OFWC adopted a marine fish bag limit of 6 fish in aggregate. All other management measures (i.e. length restrictions for lingcod, cabezon, and kelp greenling, >40 fms closure during June-September) remain status quo.

Currently, a discard mortality rate of 100% is applied to all rockfish (except canary rockfish) released in the Oregon recreational groundfish fishery. In an effort to provide the best data available, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has developed a series of discard mortality rate calculations to be applied to the estimated amount of fish reported released in this fishery. Using several years of data collected by Oregon's recreational at-sea observer program, the fishery was profiled over depth, to determine the proportion of fish discarded at each depth increment. This data was combined with the mortality rates (by depth stratum) calculated by the Groundfish Management Team using both mortality studies by Albin and Karpov, and Tom Barnes (CDFG), and logbook data collected in the Oregon commercial nearshore fishery. The ODFW will be providing a detailed report of the development of these discard mortality calculation to the GMT and the Council at the March Council meeting with the goal of implementing these discard mortality calculations in the 2006 Oregon recreational groundfish fishery.

PFMC
02/16/06