

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (CDFG) REPORT ON FINAL 2007-
2008 MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Under the suite of ABCs/OYs adopted by the Council for all species, including those for species under rebuilding plans, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) recommends the following commercial management measures for adoption:

Nearshore Commercial Fisheries Management

The suite of OYs adopted by the Council under Agenda Item F.2 provides for near-status quo management of California's nearshore commercial fisheries north of 40°10' N latitude, and some adjustments to the management measures for the area south of 40°10' N latitude consistent with Action Alternative 3b as described in Table 2-12a of the DEIS. The trip limits contained in the tables below reflect the CDFG's recommendation for trip limits for 2007-08.

North of 40°10' N latitude to 42° N latitude

- Adopt Action Alternative 3b: Status quo federal trip limits and a year-round RCA boundary of 30 fm. This alternative keeps impacts to canary and yelloweye rockfish within targets.

South of 40°10' N latitude:

- Adopt Action Alternative 3b, which provides for a 10 month season at 30 fm, modified to provide for increases in trip limits as detailed below.
- Trip limit options are based on the Department's intent to use a precautionary harvest guideline in drafting management measures. The Federal harvest goal is 564 metric tons (mt), while the Department's management goal is 515 mt for minor nearshore rockfish south of 40°10' N latitude. This translates into a commercial allocation of 120 mt, which represents a 23 mt increase over the status quo HG of 97 mt. Of the proposed 120 mt HG, 78 mt are proposed for the shallow nearshore rockfish group and 42 mt for the deeper nearshore rockfish group.
- During the March – April annual closure, shelf rockfish need to be closed to prevent discard of nearshore species when targeting shelf rockfish.
- Trip limit increases: In light of an increase to the minor nearshore rockfish OY and an associated increase in commercial harvest guideline from 97 mt to 120 mt, increases in trip limits can be provided for, with little increased impact to overfished species.
- Catch levels will be closely tracked inseason to evaluate appropriate inseason adjustments to RCA boundaries and trip limits if needed.

Shallow Nearshore Rockfish Trip Limits:

Status quo and CDFG-preferred trip limits (in pounds per 2 months)		
Period	STATUS QUO	CDFG-Preferred
1	300	500
2	closed	closed
3	500	700
4	600	800
5	500	700
6	300	500

Deeper Nearshore Rockfish Trip Limits:

Status quo and CDFG-preferred trip limits (in pounds per 2 months)					
Between 40°10' and 34°27'			Between 34°27' and US/Mexico		
Period	STATUS QUO	CDFG-Preferred	Period	STATUS QUO	CDFG-Preferred
1	500	700	1	500	500
2	closed	closed	2	closed	closed
3	500	700	3	600	600
4	500	700	4	600	600
5	400	600	5	600	600
6	500	700	6	400	400

Limited Entry Trawl

Darkblotched Rockfish Conservation Area

The CDFG proposed two polygon areas between 40°10' N latitude and 38° N latitude for designation as Darkblotched Rockfish Conservation Areas (DRCAs) (Agenda Item F.2.b CDFG Report). Staff consulted with industry representatives and revised the coordinates relative to their input. The industry’s input focused on 1) revisions to the southern portion of the Pt. Arena DRCA to allow continued harvest of bank rockfish that occur there; 2) explanation of the importance of the proposed areas as winter petrale fishing grounds and concern that any adopted DRCAs be restricted to periods outside of the winter petrale season; and 3) willingness to support the two polygon closures provided that they would result in higher slope rockfish target limits during periods when the DRCAs are in place. CDFG believes that there are data that may assist in evaluating these areas for potential catch savings, however, CDFG is willing to work with the GMT relative to whether DRCAs and higher slope rockfish trip limits can be implemented together, and is willing to work further with industry representatives to finalize coordinates that are agreeable to all parties. Analysis to date will be included in the DEIS, and it is our understanding that DRCAs may be implemented during 2007 or 2008 through a Tiered EA with our assistance.

