

2009-2010 MANAGEMENT ISSUES RECOMMENDED BY THE GMT IN NOVEMBER 2007

2009-2010 MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS

The GMT reviewed issues relative to the 2009-2010 management specifications analysis (Agenda Item D.9.a Attachment 1). In prioritizing these items, the GMT first considered actions necessary for specifying management measures for 2009-2010. Recommended items are expected to provide reduced overfished species impacts, increased precision in the impact projections, and provide increased fishing opportunities at lower costs. Additionally, we identified several items on the list that were not appropriate for the specifications process.

The following items are recommended for the 2009-2010 management specifications analysis:

1. Consider managing recreational groundfish catch in numbers instead of weight. There is a national movement of managing recreational fish by number, which would provide management stability.
2. Finer scale spatial management. This item would increase complexity in management and require increased enforcement presence. However, the action is expected to reduce overfished species impacts and provide greater access to target species.
  - a. Consider trip limits and management measures specified at a finer geographic scale.
  - b. Yelloweye and canary rockfish spatial analysis. This would require analysis of West Coast Groundfish Observer Data by the NWFSC.
    - i. Consider new groundfish rockfish conservation areas (RCAs), or “hot spots” to reduce bycatch of overfished species, in lieu of larger RCAs.
    - ii. Consider groundfish fishing areas, a.k.a. “cold spots” (areas with low bycatch of overfished species) for target species. This item is a lower priority within the suite of spatial management options.
3. Re-define selective flatfish trawl gear specifications through the legal gear committee process.
4. Provide guidance on species, specifically skates, to be sorted under the scientific sorting designation in Amendment 18. Lack of species specific information is a large source of uncertainty in the longnose skate stock assessment and presumably any future skate assessments.
5. Limited Entry (LE) Trawl
  - a. Declaration for trawl vessels to fish exclusively seaward or shoreward of the RCA during a two month cumulative limit period. This would reduce uncertainties in the bycatch model.
  - b. Consider a requirement to allow only one trawl gear on board (per trip/period). NOTE: if declaration to fish inside or outside the RCA exclusively during a cumulative limit period moves forward, this may be an unnecessary restriction.
  - c. Consider development of a bycatch model for the targeted whiting slope fishery outside the primary whiting season.

6. LE Fixed Gear
  - a. Consider allowing LE fixed gear fishermen with a longline endorsement to access all of their landings limits using pot/trap gear. This would reduce bycatch.
  - b. Consider separate trip limits and management measures in the LE fixed gear sablefish and lingcod fishery for longline and pot/trap gears. This option is recommended only if the gear switching option in 6a is allowed.
7. RCA latitude and longitude adjustment.
8. Mandatory logbooks for commercial/for hire recreational charter boats. Consideration mandated in the Magnuson-Stevens Re-Authorization; logbooks would provide valuable data for management of recreational fisheries.
9. Federal electronic fish tickets and logbooks.
10. Non-retention regulations for bronzedspotted rockfish.
11. Whiting
  - a. Sector specific bycatch limits.
  - b. Scheduled releases of bycatch limits.
  - c. Closing the non-treaty whiting fishery on a projection of attaining a bycatch cap.
  - d. Re-defining at-sea processing to allow some minimal processing at sea by small vessels.
  - e. Regulations requiring full retention for catcher vessels delivering to motherships.
  - f. Analyze un-monitored midwater trawl efforts in the trawl RCA, by both catcher vessels delivering shoreside and to motherships during the primary season, by vessels sorting catch without 100% observer coverage.

The GMT recommends excluding the following items:

Non-Whiting Issues:

- New essential fish habitat closed areas (i.e., Olympic National Marine Sanctuary) Defer to the Essential Fish Habitat Oversight Committee or to the Marine Protected Area Committee.
- Consider dropping vessel ownership from the definition of ownership and control of a sablefish tier: Ownership of less than 50% of a vessel would not count towards ownership and control of a sablefish tier. Unrelated to harvest specifications.
- Consider changing the length variance in LE permit length endorsements. Defer to the trawl rationalization analysis.
- More timely implementation of inseason adjustments.
- Consider shorter notice for closing the non-treaty whiting fishery upon attainment of bycatch caps.
- Consider analysis of more management actions to redefine them as routine.
- Shortbelly specifications. Already adopted by the Council under ABC/OY.

Whiting Issues:

- Change season start dates. Lack of industry consensus.
- Tribal whiting allocations. Unrelated to harvest specifications. This item was originally intended to analyze and define the tribal whiting sliding scale allocation framework so the methodology can be specified in regulations.