

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
FINAL ADOPTION OF 2009-2010 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS,
MANAGEMENT MEASURES, AND REBUILDING PLAN REVISIONS

Under Agenda Item F.4 the Council adopted tentative final OYs and provided the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) direction on catch sharing for yelloweye and canary rockfish to inform development of management measures. The GMT examined the harvest specifications adopted by the Council, estimated the set-asides needed to accommodate tribal fisheries, research catches, Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), and incidental catches in non-groundfish fisheries. Management measures were then constructed for each of the non-tribal directed groundfish commercial and recreational sectors based on the shares presented in Agenda Item F.4.b, Supplemental ODFW Report 3 for yelloweye rockfish and the initial 2005 scorecard estimates for canary rockfish.

HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

Widow and darkblotched rockfish

In the GMT report to the Council (Agenda Item F.4.c, Supplemental GMT Report, June 2008) the team recommended a reduction in the darkblotched OY coupled with an increase in the widow OY. A commensurate change in the darkblotched bycatch limit in 2009-2010 whiting fisheries from 40 mt to 25 mt was recommended to avoid disproportionate impacts to other sectors. The tentatively adopted widow rockfish OYs of 522 mt in 2009 and 509 mt in 2010 are based on the status quo SPR harvest rate ($F_{95\%}$) from the most recent rebuilding analysis (He et al., 2007). The Council's preliminary preferred alternative OY for darkblotched rockfish was reduced by 15 mt to 285 mt for 2009. This tentatively adopted OY assumes an SPR harvest rate of $F_{62.1\%}$, with an associated 2010 OY of 291 mt.

Minor Rockfish Complexes

The minor rockfish complexes are categorized by latitude (north/south of 40° 10' N latitude) and by the general distribution of species (nearshore, shelf, and slope species), resulting in six minor rockfish complexes. Federal regulations require that harvest of minor rockfish species not exceed the overfishing threshold (ABC) for all minor rockfish complexes combined (Tables 1a and 1b to part 660 subpart G in the Code of Federal Regulations). The ABC is a combined limit for the minor nearshore, minor shelf, and minor slope complexes in each area north and south of 40° 10' N latitude. For species managed within the complex, federal regulation does not currently require action if harvest of an individual species exceeds an ABC, OY, or harvest guideline assigned to that species alone.

The Council elected to manage blue rockfish as a component of the minor rockfish complex. California amended the initial measure to establish a statewide harvest guideline for blue rockfish of 220 mt, a precautionary adjustment of the ABC in the assessment of 241 mt in 2009 and 239 mt in 2010. This harvest guideline exceeds the 40-10 adjusted OY (207 mt) that would have resulted under a species-specific OY. As part of a complex, no federal action is required if catch of blue rockfish exceeds the harvest guideline or blue rockfish's ABC contribution to the combined minor rockfish ABC. If the adopted harvest guideline is exceeded or projected to be exceeded, California's state regulations (Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)) allow the state to take action to ensure this is not exceeded. These actions include NMFS actions taken at California's request through the Council process for the commercial and/or recreational fisheries. If federal action was taken, California would also take independent action for the

recreational fishery through the Commission or by Director's authority depending on the anticipated effective date (Section 52.09, Title 14).

Outside the Council process, California could also take independent action. For the commercial fishery, the Director can close a commercial fishery if a federal OY or HG is exceeded or projected to be exceeded (Section 52.09, Title 14). The Commission can close on emergency basis (Section 240, Fish and Game Code), or on a non-emergency basis under the Commission's general authority (Sections 202 and 205, Fish and Game Code). Alternatively, if the Commission's meeting schedule is not adequate to allow a rule change to occur quickly, the Director can take action to close the fishery on attainment or projected attainment of a Federal OY or HG pursuant to Section 27.20, Title 14, CCR.

Black Rockfish Sharing Between Oregon and California

At its April meeting, the Council adopted a tentative black rockfish sharing framework for 2009-2010, which would need to be adopted under this agenda item to implement in 2009-2010. As in place since 2004, this would carry forward the black rockfish catch sharing recommendation of 58% to Oregon and 42% to California within the southern OY, and specify those values as harvest guidelines in the federal regulations for the respective states. These percentages result in an Oregon harvest guideline of 580 mt and a California harvest guideline of 420 mt. The states of California and Oregon have factored in precautionary approaches in managing to these black rockfish targets.

YIELD SET-ASIDES

Tribal Fisheries

The Coastal Treaty Tribes are proposing non-whiting groundfish fisheries as outlined in their supplemental report (Agenda Item F.9.b, Supplemental Tribal Report). These management measures can also be found in Section 2.2.4.2 on p.79-80 of Chapter 2 in the DEIS (Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1).

The GMT notes that one change in the set-asides for overfished species from these fisheries compared to status quo is the increased estimate of canary rockfish in the Makah midwater trawl fishery targeting yellowtail rockfish. Due to higher encounters of canary bycatch in recent years, particularly 2007 and 2008, the Tribe has been unable to successfully prosecute the fishery while remaining within the canary estimate provided in the scorecard. The Makah Tribe is proposing a doubling of those estimated impacts (from 1.8 mt to 3.6 mt) to allow for resumption of the fishery given increased availability of canary rockfish yield in 2009-2010.

Tribal Whiting

For tribal whiting, the GMT discussed the proposal by the Quileute Tribe to enter the fishery in 2009 and their estimated Pacific whiting catch of up to 8,000 mt (equal to approximately 3% of the 2008 U.S. OY) as well as the Makah proposal to manage their fisheries to 17.5% of the U.S. OY. The Council requested that the GMT examine estimated overfished species impacts compared across whiting sectors based on treaty tribal allocations of 17.5% and 20.5%.

Given concerns that the inexperience of new entrants to the fishery may result in higher encounters of bycatch species, a precautionary approach to estimating bycatch was sought to minimize impacts to other sectors inseason. The GMT proposes to triple the estimated impacts

derived from the weighted average of Makah’s bycatch applied to the 8000 mt of whiting estimated to be taken by Quileute. The remaining amount would be calculated with the same (i.e. unadjusted) weighted average approach that has been applied to Makah’s fishery in recent years. The tables below (Tables 1a-1c) show this approach under three scenarios: 1a) with a 17.5% treaty tribal allocation should Quileute be unable to prosecute their new fishery in 2009, 1b) with a 17.5% tribal allocation and full prosecution of Quileute’s estimated take of whiting, and 1c) a 20.5% tribal allocation with both tribes taking their maximum estimate.

Table 1a. Estimated impacts in metric tons of overfished species in each sector based on the weighted average bycatches applied to the Makah fishery alone with a treaty tribal allocation of 17.5%.

Sector	Canary	Darkblotched	POP	Widow
Tribal	1.42	0.01	0.73	3.62
Mothership	2.02	5.95	1.07	116.15
CP	0.25	5.85	1.10	142.11
Shoreside	1.54	2.77	0.33	147.83
Total	5.23	14.58	3.23	409.70

Table 1b. Estimated impacts in metric tons of overfished species in each sector based on tripling the weighted average bycatches applied to a fully prosecuted Quileute fishery and a treaty tribal allocation of 17.5%.

Sector	Canary	Darkblotched	POP	Widow
Tribal	1.90	0.01	0.98	4.84
Mothership	2.02	5.95	1.07	116.15
CP	0.25	5.85	1.10	142.11
Shoreside	1.54	2.77	0.33	147.83
Total	5.71	14.58	3.48	410.93

Table 1c. Estimated impacts in metric tons of overfished species in each sector based on tripling the weighted average bycatches applied to a fully prosecuted Quileute fishery and unadjusted weighted average bycatches applied to a fully prosecuted Makah fishery with a treaty tribal allocation of 20.5%.

Sector	Canary	Darkblotched	POP	Widow
Tribal	2.14	0.01	1.11	5.46
Mothership	1.94	5.73	1.03	111.89
CP	0.24	5.63	1.06	136.89
Shoreside	1.48	2.67	0.32	142.40
Total	5.81	14.05	3.52	396.65

The GMT recognizes that the Makah have years of experience avoiding bycatch, and that direct application of the rates from their fishery are likely not appropriate for other fisheries. While this approach for estimating impacts to overfished species for the proposed Quileute fishery may not insure against a “disaster tow”, it allows for decreased risk to other fisheries should bycatch prove to be considerably higher due to unquantifiable differences in bycatch rates based on vessel, gear, or skipper effects for a new participant. However, the GMT also notes that these impacts likely represent an upper-bound estimate as the Quileute Tribe has indicated that they

intend to manage their fishery inseason to avoid bycatch and remain well below the estimates provided here.

Research

The GMT considered catches of overfished species in recent years and ongoing projects that are planned to continue into 2009 and 2010 to determine appropriate amounts to set aside in 2009 and 2010 for scientific research. Based on direction from the Council under Agenda Item F.7, the GMT also examined amounts of anticipated yelloweye impacts that can be attributed to state-sponsored research initiatives.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) survey component took 1.1 mt of yelloweye when using 8 skates of longline gear in 2003 in conjunction with a PIT tagging experiment. For 2008, and possibly in 2009 and 2010, they have reduced the number of skates to 5, which is estimated to result in a proportional decrease to approximately 0.7 mt. In addition, both WDFW and ODFW have proposed yelloweye line surveys that will be conducted in conjunction with the IPHC survey. These projects are capped at 0.9 mt for ODFW and 1.0 mt for WDFW. An additional 0.2 mt is expected from a combination of other research activities. The total estimate of yelloweye projected to be taken in research activities is 2.8 mt.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

The GMT examined potential yelloweye savings from reductions in EFP set-asides on a sector-specific basis. Based on the estimates provided by EFP applicants in Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental Attachment 7, the GMT corrected the original total of 0.366 mt plus 3 fish in the table to total 0.3 mt. This can be further broken down to approximately 0.08 mt for commercial EFPs and 0.25 mt for recreational EFPs.

Set-Aside Summary

The estimated non-whiting tribal impacts along with the updated estimates of research catch, the tentative EFP set-asides adopted under F.4, and the estimated impacts of non-groundfish fisheries result in the yield set-asides reflected in the following table (Table 2). These estimates are updated from the set-asides originally calculated in Chapter 2 of the DEIS (Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1).

Table 2. Updated summary of yield set-asides by species and sector for 2009-2010 management measure analyses.

Fishery	Bocaccio	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
Tribal whiting		2.1		0.0	1.1	5.5	0.0
Tribal							
Midwater Trawl		3.6		0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0
Bottom Trawl		0.8		0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Troll		0.5		0.0	0.0		0.0
Fixed gear		0.3		0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
Open Access: Incidental Groundfish	1.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3
EFPs	13.7	2.7	0.3	1.3		5.3	0.4
Research: Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.							
	2.0	8.0	0.2	2.0	2.0	1.1	2.8
TOTALS	17.0	18.9	0.5	3.4	6.8	52.3	5.8

Incidental Lingcod in the Salmon Troll Fishery North of 42° N Latitude

The Council also requested that the GMT analyze overfished species impacts for a lingcod allowance of “1 lingcod for every 15 Chinook salmon, plus one additional lingcod, not to exceed 10 lingcod per trip, up to a maximum limit of 400 lbs/month” in the salmon troll fishery north of 42° N latitude.

The GMT did not make any adjustment to the scorecard for this proposal. Bycatch rates in the salmon troll fishery are highly uncertain because the fishery is not observed by the WCGOP. The impacts could deviate from what is currently in the scorecard if a significant amount of lingcod targeting was precipitated by the retention allowance.

Table 4-84 in Chapter 4 of the DEIS (p. 155, Agenda Item F.4, Supplemental Attachment 2) calculates: (a) the total lingcod that would be caught on a trip under four bycatch scenarios for a range of Chinook catches; and, (b) the difference between the number of lingcod that would be encountered incidentally and the number that could be landed under the retention allowance. The “1 lingcod for every 15 Chinook salmon, plus one additional lingcod” is represented as “Option 1.” Positive numbers indicate lingcod that would be available to target and negative numbers indicate the number that would have to be discarded. A “zero” indicates no difference between the number of lingcod encountered and the number that could be landed. To illustrate, for a trip where 30 Chinook are caught a troller would catch:

- 3 lingcod and have to discard 1 if the bycatch rate was 1 lingcod per 7 Chinook; or
- 0 lingcod, leaving 3 to target, if the bycatch rate was zero.

The GMT does not have the data to estimate the bycatch rate and so cannot rule out targeting or quantify the magnitude of targeting that might occur. Table 4-84 is thus intended to give some means to qualitatively assess that potential magnitude by displaying the targeting opportunities made available by the retention allowance under a reasonable range of bycatch rates.

Table 4-85 (p. 155) displays frequency statistics for landings of Chinook into Washington for 2005-2007. Table 3 below displays the same statistics for landings of Chinook into Oregon.

Table 3. Oregon commercial troll Chinook landings frequency statistics, 2005-2007.

Chinook Landed	2005			2006			2007		
	# Landings	% of Landings	Cumulative	# Landings	% of Landings	Cumulative	# Landings	% of Landings	Cumulative
15	8,622	72.80%	72.8%	3,833	84.89%	84.9%	4,494	88.94%	88.9%
30	1,481	12.50%	85.3%	473	10.48%	95.4%	398	7.88%	96.8%
50	821	6.93%	92.2%	179	3.96%	99.3%	106	2.10%	98.9%
75	435	3.67%	95.9%	28	0.62%	100.0%	37	0.73%	99.6%
100	217	1.83%	97.7%	2	0.04%	100.0%	12	0.24%	99.9%
>100	268	2.26%	100.0%	0	0.00%	100.0%	6	0.12%	100.0%

Both tables show that the majority of landings into Oregon and Washington consist of less than 15 Chinook and over 90% consist of less than 50. The GMT understands that Chinook abundance has been relatively low over this time period. However, if similar patterns held in 2009-10 then the “zero incidental catch” scenario in Table 4-84 shows that no more than 4 lingcod would be available for targeting on 90% of salmon troll trips. Under a bycatch rate of 1 lingcod for every 12 Chinook, no more than 1 lingcod would be available to target and land.

Table 4-86 (p. 155) gives a range of exvessel revenues that could be earned for a retained lingcod. In 2005-2007, the average exvessel price for troll and hook and line caught lingcod was \$1.24 per lb.

DIRECTED GROUND FISH FISHERY IMPACTS

Based on Council direction under Agenda Item F.4, the GMT modeled fishery management measures for the various directed groundfish fishery sectors as reflected in the 2005 column of Agenda Item F.4.b, Supplemental ODFW Report 3 for yelloweye and based on the initial 2005 scorecard for canary rockfish. The shares by sector are shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Yield amounts of canary and yelloweye rockfish for directed commercial and state recreational groundfish fisheries based on 2005 sharing scenarios.

Groundfish Sector	Catch Shares by Sector	
	Canary 2005	Yelloweye 2005
LE Non-Whiting Trawl	19.7	0.3
LE Whiting Trawl	18.0	0.3
LE Fixed Gear	2.5	1.9
Directed OA	2.2	0.5
WA Rec	4.9	2.7
OR Rec	16.0	2.5
CA Rec	22.9	2.8
TOTAL	86.1	11.0

Reductions in Yelloweye Impacts in Offshore Fixed Gear Fisheries

Yelloweye impacts in offshore fixed gear fisheries occur seaward of the non-trawl RCA 100 fm line north of 40°10' N lat. Yelloweye discard rates, based on the aggregate 2002-06 observed discards of yelloweye relative to retained sablefish in limited entry and open access line gear fisheries, were applied to sector sablefish allocations of the 2009-10 sablefish OYs north of 36° N lat. to predict yelloweye impacts for each sector assuming the full allocation of sablefish would be taken. Yelloweye impacts are predicted to be 1.5 mt and 0.4 mt for offshore limited entry and open access fixed gear fisheries, respectively under a status quo 100 fm seaward RCA boundary (see LEFG Alt. 7 in Table 4-77 and OA DTL Alt. 7 in Table 4-80 in Agenda Item F.4.a, Supplemental Attachment 2).

Analyses informing the effect of alternative non-trawl RCA configurations varied seaward extensions of the non-trawl RCA north of 40°10' N latitude to 125 fm and 150 fm for the entire northern boundary and in four subareas bounded by 40°10' N lat.; the Columbia-Eureka line at 43° N lat. near Cape Blanco, Oregon; Cascade Head, Oregon at 45.064° N lat., Pt. Chehalis, Washington at 46.888° N lat.; and the U.S.-Canada border. Yelloweye fixed gear discard rates were highest north of Pt. Chehalis and between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head. Therefore, the GMT considered extending the seaward boundary in these two subareas to reduce yelloweye impacts in accordance with the proposed sharing of the preferred yelloweye OY of 17 mt with minimal disruption of fisheries targeting sablefish and Pacific halibut.

These analyses showed that yelloweye impacts would be reduced in limited entry fixed gear fisheries to 1.2 mt, down from 1.5 mt, if the line was moved from 100 fm to 125 fm in either the area north of Pt. Chehalis or the area between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head (LEFG Alt. 5 and 6, respectively in Table 4-77). Directed open access impacts associated with an RCA extension to 125 fm in either of these two areas was 0.3 mt, down from 0.4 mt (OA DTL Alt. 5 and 6, respectively in Table 4-80).

The impacts to target fishing opportunities resulting from these proposed RCA extensions were different depending on which subarea's RCA was extended to 125 fm. Observed amounts of sablefish retained in either subarea caught at various depths indicated a significant amount of sablefish are caught at depths greater than 125 fm, with 79% of all sablefish caught seaward of the RCA in depths greater than 125 fm in the area north of Pt. Chehalis and 76% of all sablefish caught in these deeper depths in the area between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head (Tables 4-28 and 4-29).

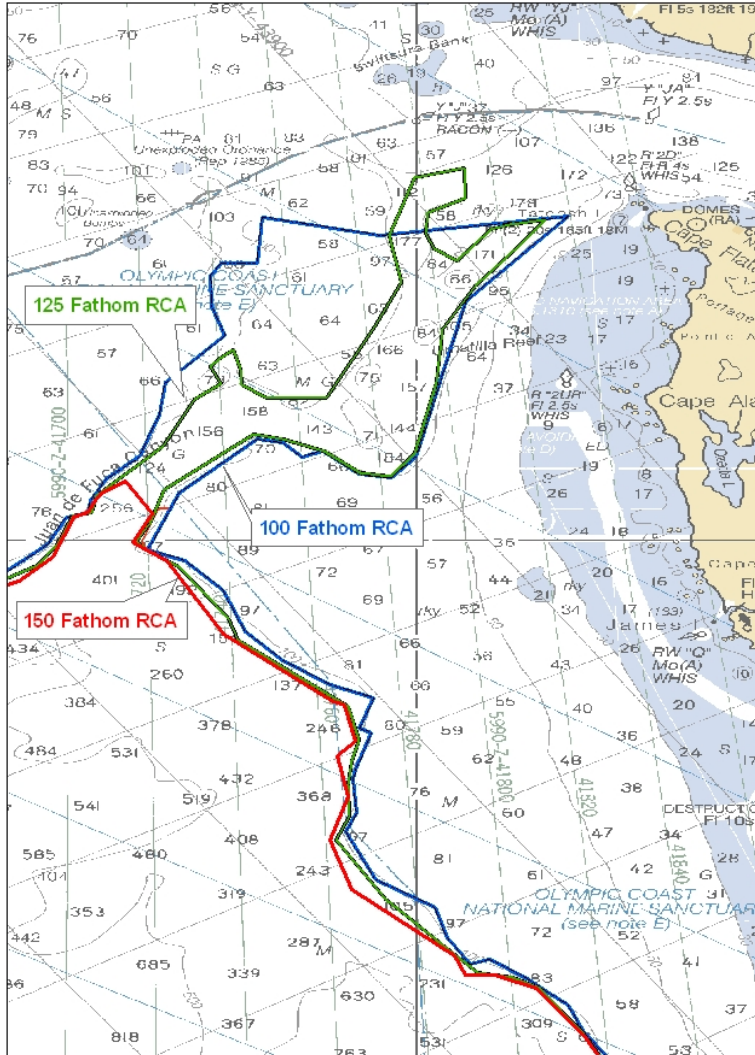
While the sablefish fishery may not appear to be impacted by these RCA extensions, there may be differential impacts to fisheries targeting Pacific halibut seaward of the RCA in these two areas. Logbook data provided by the IPHC showing halibut catches in depths of 100-124 fm, 125- 149 fm and ≥ 150 fm indicated about 70% of the halibut caught north of Pt. Chehalis in 2003-07 were caught deeper than 125 fm (Table 4-79). This compares to the area between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head, where about 41% of the halibut were caught deeper than 125 fm.

One difference between the halibut fisheries seaward of the RCA in these two areas is that all halibut caught north of Pt. Chehalis are incidental to the directed sablefish fishery, which may influence the depths of target fishing. Halibut are directly targeted in fisheries south of Pt. Chehalis and the depth of fishing is more likely influenced by the depth distribution of halibut when the fishery is open than the depth of sablefish. The apparent clustering of halibut targeting

closer to the 100 fm line in the area between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head from the IPHC data is validated by comments from commercial fishermen solicited in public meetings sponsored by ODFW as found in Agenda Item F.4.b, Supplemental ODFW Report.

This tradeoff may indicate less of a fishery impact with the same amount of yelloweye savings if the RCA is extended to 125 fm north of Pt. Chehalis rather than in the area between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head. However, further fishery impacts are associated with extending the RCA to 125 fm north of Pt. Chehalis. The directed fishery for spiny dogfish, which occurs in the spring in waters off northern Washington at about the 100 fm contour would likely be eliminated with this RCA extension. Further, fixed gear vessels home porting in Puget Sound may have longer transits to open fishing grounds if the RCA is extended to 125 fm since much of the Juan de Fuca canyon would be closed (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Rockfish Conservation Area boundaries approximating the 100, 125 and 150 fm contours.



The GMT therefore proposes to extend the RCA to 125 fm in the area between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head except on days when the directed halibut fishery is open, when the line would remain at 100 fm, if such a change is needed to reduce yelloweye impacts. The GMT believes there would be very minimal additional yelloweye impacts under this scenario, since the directed halibut fishery in this area typically lasts for 3-6 days. The GMT estimates that 0.4 mt of yelloweye impacts would be saved by this proposal with 0.3 mt of savings in the limited entry fishery and 0.1 mt in open access fisheries.

The GMT also recommends that Council consider adding an exemption for the dogfish fishery to the suite of 2009-2010 management measures to accommodate that fishery under a 125 or 150 fm line north of Pt. Chehalis. The exemption would require participants to make a VMS

declaration and fish outside the 100 fm line. Sablefish could not be retained and vessels would need to return to port before re-declaring and setting out on a sablefish trip.

Washington is also proposing to modify the 100-fathom line used to describe the RCA off the northern Washington coast. The modification is a minor adjustment to the coordinates currently in place and was recommended by commercial industry representatives as a possible measure to provide additional protection to yelloweye rockfish (Figure 2, Table 5). While the impacts to yelloweye rockfish are not quantifiable it is assumed that the additional restriction will provide reduced yelloweye impacts.

Figure 2. Chart showing the proposed RCA line revision compared to the existing line.

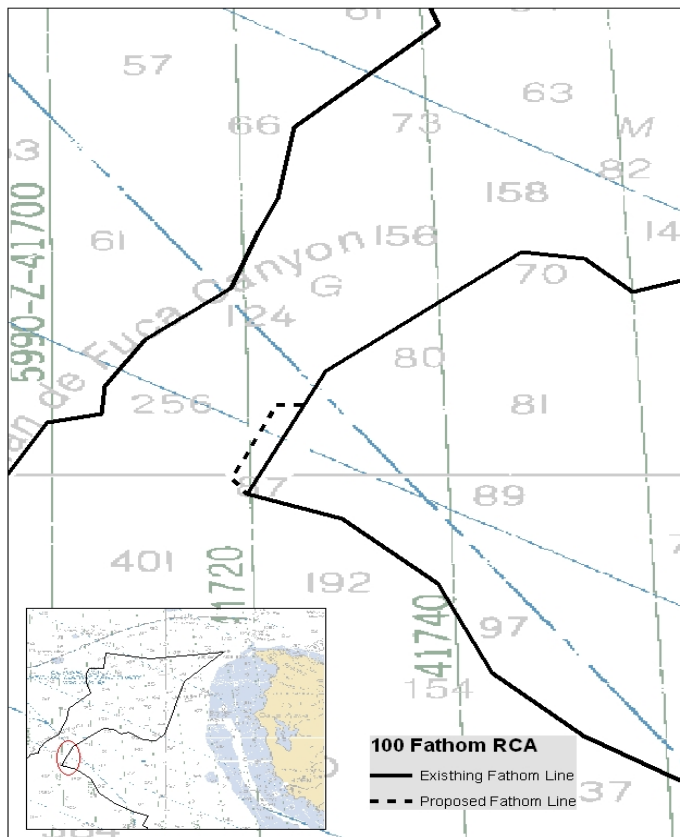


Table 5. Proposed new RCA coordinates off the North Washington coast.

Proposed 100 fathom RCA line coordinates
48° 02.35 125° 17.30
48° 02.35 125° 18.07
48° 00.00 125° 19.30
47° 59.50 125° 18.88

Gear Switching and Differential Management Measures for Fixed Gears in the Limited Entry Fishery

The GMT considered the possibility of differential management measures in the limited entry fixed gear fishery by vessels using pots or traps versus longline gears. The basis for this consideration is the significantly lower bycatch rates of demersal rockfish such as canary and yelloweye rockfish using pot gear. Observations of fixed gears north of 40°10' N lat. in depths greater than 100 fm during 2002-06 showed that longline gears had a 0.066% discard ratio of yelloweye to retained sablefish, while pot gears had a 0.000% discard ratio (Table 4-31)¹. Other species, such as Pacific halibut and lingcod had higher bycatch rates, but in all cases these rates were much lower than those observed using longline gear.

The GMT originally proposed the concept of gear switching due to lower rockfish bycatch rates relative to line gears. This proposal contemplated allowing longline-endorsed limited entry permit holders to switch gears from longlines to pots to take advantage of liberalized management measures (i.e., greater RCA access or higher cumulative landing limits). However, gear switching could only go one way since switching from pots to longlines would exacerbate rockfish bycatch concerns.

This idea generated some support and some condemnation from fishermen. Some supported the measure since there could be expanded areas open to fishing that have been closed since 2003. Others condemned the proposal for fear that more pot gear on a given piece of ground would cause conflicts with other fishermen. However, if more access to the RCA was allowed, this could help mitigate gear conflicts on the grounds. Some fishermen with pot-endorsed fixed gear permits also expressed concern that their permits would lose value under this proposal if longline-endorsed permit holders could switch gears to pots. These costs may or may not outweigh the potential benefits of greater RCA access and/or higher cumulative landing limits.

¹ These observations did show a negligible observed yelloweye bycatch using pot gears of 7 lbs. of yelloweye for 1,548,261 lbs of retained sablefish, which compares to 1,741 lbs of yelloweye for 2,643,162 lbs of retained sablefish using longline gear (Table 4-28).

The GMT consulted with Enforcement Consultants to understand potential enforcement concerns with liberalizing the non-trawl RCA. Their initial input was this might be enforceable under the following conditions:

- fishermen should declare which gear they intend to fish before each trip,
- only one type of gear can be on board on any trip,
- no mixed strategy can be done on a trip (i.e., a fisherman cannot work a different gear previously set on a trip that is different than the declared gear for that trip),
- RCA boundaries should be specific management lines defined by coordinates in regulations, and
- if the two different gear types are deployed in a two-month cumulative limit period, then the lower cumulative limit should be specified for the entire period.

Another potential liberalization is higher cumulative landing limits for fishermen deploying pot gear. Lingcod are a valuable target species, are readily caught in pots, and currently under-utilized due to rockfish bycatch concerns. Higher limits could be considered for lingcod using pots given the low rockfish bycatch.

The GMT is recommending further exploration of these issues in the 2009-10 specifications and management measures EIS this year with the hope that gear switching and differential management measures by gear type can be used routinely as an inseason adjustment.

Open Access Nearshore

Under Council direction, the GMT examined the range of options available to keep the open access nearshore fishery within the 0.5 mt under the 2005 sharing (Table 4). The GMT examined a variety of management measures to reduce yelloweye impacts from status quo (1.3 mt) to 0.5 mt, which are summarized in Table 6.

Depth restrictions

Depth restrictions were examined in two areas: north of 34°27' N lat. and north of 40°10' N lat. only. The projected yelloweye impacts under a depth restriction north of 34°27' N lat., are 0.54 mt; whereas the impacts under the same depth restriction north of 40°10' N lat. only are 0.59 mt. Implementing depth restrictions can provide yelloweye savings from status quo of between 0.71 and 0.76 mt. The GMT believes that depth restrictions south of 40°10' N lat. would not be necessary since they result in minimal yelloweye savings.

Trip limit reductions

If the Council chose to maintain status quo depth restrictions (30 fm north and south of 40°10' N lat.) a 60% reduction in landed catch would be necessary north of 34° 27' N lat. Resulting yelloweye impacts under this option are 0.52 mt. It is the GMT's understanding that the industry would prefer a depth restriction as the primary mechanism to reduce yelloweye impacts to preserving fishing opportunities.

Depth restrictions and trip limit reductions

Under a goal to reduce yelloweye take in the nearshore fishery to 0.5 mt, a depth restriction only north of 40°10' N lat would exceed the amount available to this fishery. An additional 20% reduction of catch north of 40°10' N lat would be necessary to reduce yelloweye impacts to 0.49 mt.

Assessing 2008 Black Rockfish OY

The allowable take of black rockfish in 2009-2010 is increasing based on the 2007 stock assessment. To access the total available black rockfish OY, an estimated 0.8 mt of yelloweye rockfish will be caught assuming the fishery is restricted shoreward of 20 fm between 40°10' N lat and Cape Blanco.

Differential RCAs north of 40°10' N lat. (Oregon Request)

The GMT received a request to examine a 20 fm RCA between 40°10' N lat. and Cape Blanco (43° N lat.) and a 30 fm RCA north of 43° N lat. Since WCGOP observer data indicate 96.2% of the yelloweye impacts occur in the area between 40°10' N lat. and 43° N lat. (Table 7), the GMT believe that a more liberal RCA might be accommodated north of 43° N lat. without resulting in increased yelloweye impacts. However, it is noted that there is sparse data to project impacts north of 43° N lat.

Canary Impacts

Following Council direction, the GMT also examined the impacts to canary rockfish in the directed Open Access fishery under the 2005 catch sharing scenario (2.2 mt) up to a maximum of 5.8 mt. Under status quo management, canary impacts are 3.0 mt; additional canary impacts could be accommodated by taking unused harvest from other sectors. The GMT notes that there is residual canary yield due to virtually all line fisheries being constrained by estimated yelloweye impacts.

Table 6. Impacts associated with Open Access nearshore fisheries north and south of 40 10.

	No Action (30 fm RCA boundary)	20 fm depth restriction (north of 34°27' N lat.)	20 fm depth restriction (north of 40°10' N lat.)	20 fm depth restriction, 40°10' - 43° N lat.)	20 fm depth restriction & 20% reduction in landed catch	Reductions to landed catch only (60%)	20 fm depth restriction (north of 40°10' N lat.) with maximum black rockfish opportunity coastwide
<i>SOUTH</i>							
Shallow nearshore species	55	55	55	55	55	22	55
Black Rockfish	4	4	4	4	4	2	24
Blue Rockfish	7	7	7	7	7	3	7
Other deeper nearshore species	30	30	30	30	30	12	30
Cabezon	22	22	22	22	22	9	22
Kelp Greenling	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lingcod	19	19	19	19	19	8	19
California Sheephead	31	31	31	31	31	12	31
<i>NORTH</i>							
Black Rockfish	162	162	162	162	130	65	275
Blue Rockfish	13	13	13	13	10	5	13
Other minor nearshore rockfish	17	17	17	17	14	7	17
Cabezon	21	21	21	21	17	8	21
Kelp Greenling	17	17	17	17	14	7	17
Lingcod	60	60	60	60	48	24	60
Canary	3.04	2.22	2.66	2.66	2.38	1.22	3.25
Bocaccio	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Widow	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.05
Yelloweye	1.30	0.54	0.59	0.59	0.49	0.52	0.78

Table 7. Overview of observed sets of bycatch of yelloweye rockfish in commercial nearshore fisheries during the period January 2003 to April 2007 by area.

Area	Number of "sets"				Yelloweye Catch			
	all observed	% of coastwide	with yelloweye		lb	% of coastwide	rate per retained target	area % by 3 highest vessels
			number	% of area				
Columbia River, OR - Cascade Head, OR (44.9°)	197	12.1%	5	3%	18	1.7%	0.1%	86%
Cascade Head, OR (44.9°) - Cape Blanco, OR (43°)	17	1.0%						
Cape Blanco, OR (43°) - OR/CA Border (42°)	558	34.2%	34	6%	423	40.3%	0.6%	50%
OR/CA Border (42°) - N/S Management Line (40.16°)	347	21.2%	48	14%	587	55.9%	0.7%	80%
N/S Management Line (40.16°) - Pt. Arena (38.95°)	62	3.8%	1	2%	10	0.9%	0.3%	100%
Pt. Arena (38.95°) - Pt. San Pedro (37.6°)	61	3.7%	4	7%	12	1.1%	0.2%	100%
Pt. San Pedro (37.6°) - Pt. Lopez (36°)	53	3.2%					0.0%	100%
Pt. Lopez (36°) - Pt. Conception (34°38')	338	20.7%					0.0%	
North of Pt. Conception (34°38')	1,633		351	21%	1,049		0.49%	52%

Conception Area Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL)

The GMT discussed increases to the Conception Area limited entry and open access sablefish daily trip limits to accommodate the higher OYs under the Council preferred alternative (2009 - 1,379 mt; 2010 - 1,258 mt). For the limited entry fixed gear fishery, the GMT recommends the following limit: 400 lb per day, one landing per week up to 1,500 lb. For the open access fishery, the GMT recommends the following limit: 400 lb per day, one landing per week up to 1,500 lb, and 8,000 lb per 2 months. Although participation varies in the open access fishery, the GMT feels that the bi-monthly limit will limit effort shifts anticipated under this higher OY. If landings are tracking high, the Council can reduce trip limits through the inseason process.

Fixed Gear Logbooks

The GMT recommended in April that the Council include mandatory logbooks for the limited entry fixed gear fleet in 2009-2010 management measures (Agenda Item H.5.b, Supplemental GMT Report, April 2008), and reiterates that recommendation here. With adequate logbook data, the GMT could incorporate seasonal patterns in catch and effort into the limited entry fixed gear bycatch model, something the model cannot do now.

Limited Entry Non-Whiting Trawl

Based on the Council's preferred OYs adopted under agenda item F.4, the GMT analyzed trip limits and RCAs for the trawl fishery. These trip limits and RCAs were designed to maximize fishing opportunity given the available OYs for constraining overfished species and target species. In the north, yelloweye rockfish is the primary constraining species to trawl activities shoreward of the trawl RCA and darkblotched rockfish is the constraining stock to opportunities seaward of the trawl RCA. In the south, cowcod is the primary constraining species. In addition, several target species OYs are attained under proposed opportunities, leading to a de-facto constraint on other target species. Petrale sole in particular is one target species that is fully attained under proposed trip limits and RCA boundaries and this leads to a constraint on DTS species and shelf flatfish.

Industry members in the north have reported that market gluts occur during the period 1 fishery. As crabbers transition out of the crab fishery in February and try to capitalize on period 1 opportunities before the end of the period, a pulse of petrale sole and Dover sole can occur. The pulse associated with crab vessels transitioning to trawl activity is often exacerbated by poor weather that limits fishing opportunity to a few select days in period 1. Several industry members have reported that this pulse adversely impacts the market and can result in lower exvessel prices. In order to spread out the amount of petrale sole caught during the first period of the year, the attached proposal extends the time period when petrale areas are in effect. Specifically, petrale sole areas in the north are in effect from January through March. Trip limits on petrale sole are set lower in the January – February time period than would otherwise be the case, but it is expected that more will occur in March, thus spreading out the amount of petrale sole landed in the first several months of the year.

The following tables illustrate the GMT's proposed option for Limited Entry Non-Whiting trawl fisheries in 2009 and 2010 and the associated rebuilding and target species impacts.

Subarea	Period	RCA Boundaries		Sable	Longsp	Shortsp	Dover	Otr Flat	Petrale	Arrowt'rh	Slope Rk
		Inline	Outline								
North of 40 10 Large Footrope	Jan-Feb	75	200*	18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	25,000	150,000	1,500
	Mar	75	200*	18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	25,000	150,000	1,500
	Apr	75	200	22,000	22,000	17,000	90,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	May-Jun	75	See	22,000	22,000	17,000	90,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	Jul-Aug	75	Footnote	22,000	22,000	17,000	90,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	Sept-Oct	75	200	22,000	22,000	17,000	90,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	Nov-Dec	75	200*	18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	40,000	150,000	1,500
North SFFT	Jan-Feb	75	200*	5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	16,000	90,000	1,500
	Mar	75	200*	7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	1,500
	Apr	75	200	7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	1,500
	May-Jun	75	See	7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	1,500
	Jul-Aug	75	Footnote	7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	1,500
	Sept-Oct	75	200	7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	1,500
	Nov-Dec	75	200*	5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	16,000	90,000	1,500
38 - 40 10	1	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	15,000
	2	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	3	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	4	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	10,000
	5	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	10,000
	6	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	15,000
S 38	1	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	55,000
	2	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	3	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	4	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	5	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	6	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	55,000

note: Splitnose equal to slope rockfish limits

Chilipepper limits set at 5,000 lbs per two months in the south

Seaward RCA boundaries set at 150 fathoms north and 200 fathoms south of Cape Falcon to 40 10 May - Aug

Shoreward RCA boundaries north of Cape Alava are closed

A " * " means petrale areas are in effect

		North	South	Total
Rebuilding Species	Canary	12.8	2.8	15.5
	POP	85.7	0.0	85.7
	Darkblotch	211.2	36.7	247.9
	Widow	1.8	6.3	8.1
	Bocaccio	-	12.3	12.3
	Yelloweye	0.6	0.0	0.6
	Cowcod	-	1.3	1.3
Target Species	Sablefish	2,442.7	614.4	3,057.2
	Longspine	445.9	338.7	784.6
	Shortspine	1,040.7	345.1	1,385.8
	Dover	10,026.4	3,012.3	13,038.7
	Arrowt'rh	1,846.9	64.0	1,910.9
	Petrale	2,102.5	347.1	2,449.6
	Other Flat	1,573.7	558.5	2,132.2
	Slope Rk	81.0	205.6	286.7

The second option for the limited entry non-whiting trawl fishery holds yelloweye impacts to 0.5 metric tons. The principal tool for achieving this catch level is a 60 fathom shoreward trawl RCA boundary in the north for much of the year. By establishing a 60 fathom shoreward boundary, cumulative limits can be higher than if the RCA was held at 75 fathoms. However, a 60 fathom RCA boundary makes access to many target species, such as petrale sole in the summer months, relatively less accessible. For those species that are accessible at 60 fathoms, more effort must be exerted to attain a given catch level than if a 75 fathom RCA boundary were established.

The following tables illustrate the proposed RCA boundaries and cumulative limits if the Council wishes to hold the non-whiting trawl fishery to 0.5 metric tons of yelloweye. The main difference in this option is in the north for vessels using selective flatfish trawl gear. Sablefish for vessels using selective flatfish gear is set at 5,000 lbs for the year, and Dover sole is set at 40,000 lbs for the year.

Subarea	Period	Inline	Outline	Sable	Longsp	Shortsp	Dover	Otr Flat	Petrals	Arrow'th	Slope Rk
North of 40 10 Large Footrope	1	60	200*	18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	40,000	150,000	1,500
	2	60	200	18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	3	60	see	22,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	4	75	footnote	22,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	5	75	200	22,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	1,500
	6	60	200*	18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	40,000	150,000	1,500
North SFFT	1	60	200*	5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	16,000	90,000	1,500
	2	60	200	5,000	5,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	1,500
	3	60	see	5,000	5,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	1,500
	4	75	footnote	5,000	5,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	1,500
	5	75	200	5,000	5,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	1,500
	6	60	200*	5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	16,000	90,000	1,500
38 - 40 10	1	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	15,000
	2	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	3	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	15,000
	4	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	10,000
	5	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	10,000
	6	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	15,000
S 38	1	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	40,000
	2	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	3	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	4	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	5	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	40,000
	6	100	150	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	40,000

note: Splitnose equal to slope rockfish limits

Chilipepper limits set at 5,000 lbs per two months in the south

Seaward RCA boundaries set at 150 fathoms north and 200 fathoms south of Cape Falcon to 40 10

Shoreward RCA boundaries north of Cape Alava are closed

		North	South	Total
Rebuilding Species	Canary	8.9	2.8	11.7
	POP	94.8	0.0	94.8
	Darkblotch	209.9	36.7	246.6
	Widow	1.9	6.3	8.2
	Bocaccio	0.0	12.3	12.3
	Yelloweye	0.5	0.0	0.5
	Cowcod	0.0	1.3	1.3
Target Species	Sablefish	2389.6	614.4	3004.0
	Longspine	446.4	338.7	785.1
	Shortspine	1053.6	345.1	1398.7
	Dover	10657.2	3012.3	13669.5
	Arrowt'rh	1674.6	64.0	1738.6
	Petrals	1924.2	347.1	2271.3
	Otr Flat	1518.8	558.5	2077.3
	Slope Rock	86.6	205.6	292.2

One Bottom Trawl Gear on Board North of 40 10' N Latitude

The GMT has discussed the concept of only allowing a single bottom trawl gear on board as outlined in Chapter 4, Section 4.5.2.1 of the DEIS. In recent discussions, the GMT identified several issues that would need to be addressed before putting this type of regulation in place. Thus the GMT recommends dropping this issue from the analysis for this biennium.

Limited Entry Whiting Trawl

Sector-Specific Bycatch Limits

The analysis of sector-specific bycatch caps in the limited entry whiting trawl fishery begins on p. 134 of Agenda Item F.4, Supplemental Attachment 2. If the Council chooses to establish sector specific bycatch limits there are three related decisions needed.

First, the Council must choose to assign caps to the sector. Two options for doing so include: (1) pro-rata distributions based on each sector's whiting allocation; or, (2) distributions based on the bycatch model. Table 8 compares the two methods assuming the 2005 catch sharing scenario for canary, a 25 mt cap for darkblotched, and a widow cap that would leave all other sectors unaffected.

Table 8. Potential Sector Specific Bycatch Limits—Bycatch Model vs. Pro Rata Distribution

BYCATCH MODEL APPROACH APPLIED TO PREFERRED OY			
	Canary	Darkblotched	Widow
CP	1.2	10.0	157.5
MOTHERSHIP	9.6	10.2	128.7
SHORESIDE	7.3	4.8	163.8
PRO RATA DISTRIBUTION APPROACH APPLIED TO PREFERRED OY			
	Canary	Darkblotched	Widow
CP	6.1	8.5	153.0
MOTHERSHIP	4.3	6.0	108.0
SHORESIDE	7.6	10.5	189.0

Neither method seems optimal. For example, under the bycatch model approach, the CP sector would have already exceeded its canary cap this season. On the other hand, the pro rata approach would give the highest darkblotched limit to the shoreside sector even though that sector fishes shallower than the at-sea sectors. It would likely take a mixing of the two methods to set bycatch limits that reasonably accommodate the harvest of each sector’s whiting allocation.

Second, the Council would need to decide how to handle unused bycatch limits with the two options being to: (1) rollover to other non-tribal whiting sectors on a pro-rata basis (based on initial whiting allocations); or, (2) be placed back into the scorecard for use by all sectors.

Third, the Council would need to decide whether rollovers of bycatch could occur prior to a sector harvesting its full allocation of whiting. If so, some process for transferring bycatch—like the current whiting reapportionment rule—would be needed. The GMT discussed scenarios where a sector might wish to release its unused bycatch prior to taking its whiting allocation, either because it was unlikely to need the bycatch or because it did not plan on taking its full allocation. To prevent this from happening might unduly restrict the flexibility of the fleet.

Sector specific limits reduce the probability of one sector affecting another and provide some assurance that bycatch will be available during the season the sector prefers to fish. On the other hand, sector specific limits for some species, if small enough, could conceivably limit flexibility and constrain sectors more than with status quo management because of the smaller risk pool.

Catcher Vessel Monitoring

The GMT identified two circumstances where current whiting trawl fisheries are unmonitored or insufficiently monitored in the RCA. Catcher vessels delivering to motherships do not currently have a monitoring requirement to ensure maximized retention of catch and those vessels that elect to sort their catch while participating in the shoreside whiting fishery are not required to have 100% monitoring. Both issues are a

concern to the GMT and the Council requested analysis of these two issues in April when 2009-10 management measure alternatives were adopted for analysis.

Catcher vessels delivering to motherships are currently unmonitored although they are subject to maximized retention. If catch is not fully retained by catcher vessels in the RCA, then lack of monitoring of these activities means that discards and total bycatch may be under-estimated. While there are two observers stationed on motherships these vessels deliver to, there is no mechanism to assure that catch is fully retained on catcher vessels in this sector, nor are any catcher vessels in this sector monitored with human observers. The GMT recommends a mandate to have electronic monitoring systems on catcher vessels delivering to motherships to ensure that catch is fully retained.

The GMT notes that the current regulations do not contain language that specifically prohibits catcher vessels in the mothership sector from dumping catch at sea, therefore a prohibition should be added to clarify the intent of the existing regulations. Regulations at § 660.306 (i)(2) currently prohibit vessels from interfering with or biasing the sampling employed by an observer by mechanically or physically sorting or discarding catch before sampling, this language was intended to include the dumping of catch at sea by catcher vessels.

A general prohibition would be added, that prohibits sorting or discarding of any portion of a codends of fish taken by a catcher vessel in the mothership sector prior to the catch being received on a mothership, and prior to the observer being provided access to the unsorted catch.

There are also some catcher vessels in the shoreside whiting fishery that sort their catch at sea and are therefore not subject to the maximized retention and 100% monitoring requirements under Amendment 10. While these vessels are subject to the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program rotation, there is approximately a 25% sample rate in observing current limited entry trawl activities. Therefore, there is high uncertainty in the amount and species composition of discards in the fishery. Since the implementation of bycatch limits in 2004, the whiting fishery has been potentially constrained by low bycatch limits for species such as canary, darkblotched, and widow rockfish. Higher uncertainty in estimating the discards in the whiting fishery risks exceeding OYs for these species. Therefore, the GMT recommends 100% observer coverage for vessels sorting their catch and discarding some or all of their bycatch while targeting whiting in the RCA. Human observers, rather than an electronic monitoring system, are recommended since understanding the species composition of discards is critical in managing this fishery.

Exception to Processing Rule

At their April meeting, the Council requested exploration of an exemption to the at-sea processing rule for whiting vessels less than 75 ft in length. This would allow for small vessels to fish under the shorebased whiting allocation while processing fish (i.e. tailing and freezing) into a value-added product.

Based on discussions with NMFS, the GMT suggests the following language at the end of 660.373 (a) to allow for this exemption:

Notwithstanding the other provisions of 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G, a vessel with a length overall of 75 feet or less that harvests whiting and cuts the tail off, in addition to heading and gutting, but with no additional preparation to the whiting, is not considered to be a catcher/processor nor is it considered to be processing fish. Such a vessel is considered a participant in the shore-based whiting sector, and is subject to regulations and allocations for that sector.

Recreational

The Council provided guidance on 2009-2010 recreational management measures under Agenda Item F.4. Tables 9a-9c illustrate the preferred seasonal structure proposed by the three states. Table 10 summarizes the tentative recreational harvest guidelines for yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish.

Table 9a. Preferred season structure for the Washington recreational fishery.

Marine Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3 & 4 (N. Coast)	Open all depths				Open <20 fm May 21-Sep 30 a/				Open all depths			
2 (S. Coast)	Open all depths		Open <30 fm Mar 15 - June 15 b/			Open all depths except lingcod prohibited south of 46 58 on Fri. and Sat. c/		Open all depths				
1 (Col. R.)	Open all depths				Open all depths d/				Open all depths			
a/ Groundfish retention allowed >20 fm on days when Pacific halibut is open. b/ Retention of sablefish and Pacific cod allowed seaward of 30 fm from May 1- June 15. c/ Retention of lingcod prohibited south of 46 58 on Fri. and Sat. from July 1 - Aug 31. d/ Retention of groundfish, except sablefish and Pacific cod, prohibited with Pacific halibut on board.												

Table 9b. Preferred season structure for the Oregon recreational fishery.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Open all depths					Open <40 fm			Open all depths			

Table 9c. Preferred season structure for the California recreational fishery.

Management Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North	CLOSED				Open <20 fm, May 15 - Sept 15				CLOSED			
North-Central N. of Pt. Arena	CLOSED				Open <20 fm, May 15 - Aug 15			CLOSED				
North-Central S. of Pt. Arena	CLOSED					Open <30 fm, June 13 - Oct 31				CLOSED		
Monterey South-Central	CLOSED				Open <40 fm, May 1 - Nov 15							CLOSED
Morro Bay South-Central	CLOSED				Open <40 fm, May 1 - Nov 15							CLOSED
South	CLOSED		Open <60 fm									

Table 10. Summary of impacts from recreational groundfish fishery alternatives.

Alternative	Canary	Yelloweye
No Action WA Rec. Alt.	1.0	2.5
WA Rec. Alt. 1	0.6	1.7
WA Rec. Alt. 2	0.7	1.8
WA Rec. Alt. 3	0.7	1.9
Pref. WA Rec. Alt.	1.2	2.5
OR Rec Alt. 1	1.7	1.6
OR Rec Alt. 2	2.0	1.8
OR Rec Alt. 3	2.2	2.0
OR Rec Alt. 4 (No Action)	2.3	2.2
OR Rec Alt. 5	2.6	2.5
Pref. OR Rec Alt. 6	2.5	2.5
No Action CA Rec. Alt.	7.8	4.1
Rev. CA Rec. Alt. 1	4.9	0.5
Rev. CA Rec. Alt. 2	6.8	1.1
Rev. CA Rec. Alt. 3	6.9	1.6
Rev. CA Rec. Alt. 4	7.0	1.7
Rev. CA Rec. Alt. 5	7.2	2.0
Pref. CA Rec. Alt.	6.9	2.6

Bronzespotted rockfish

The Council adopted a zero bag-limit for bronzespotted rockfish (*S. gilli*). In 2007, the NMFS SWFSC presented a report to the Council on conservation concerns for this species (Agenda item E.2.b, Attachment 3, March 2007). The report notes a rapid decline in commercial landings during the 1980s. Subsequent analysis showed that hook and line gear, along with the rapid growth of the Southern California gillnet fishery in the early 80s accounted for most of the mortality during the period of apparent decline. The limited amount of data from the recreational fishery suggests that most of the recreational catch comes from rare trips that catch large numbers of bronzespotted rockfish. A bag-limit of zero fish may ensure that targeting does not occur, and would encourage vessels to move when they encounter this species.

Commercial landings of bronzespotted rockfish since 2000 are estimated at less than one metric ton per year. Recreational landings are also minor and sporadic. In 2001 Cowcod Conservation Areas were put in place off of the Southern California Bight and thereafter the catch estimates from the recreational fishery have shown zero impact for all years other than 2004 when the estimated impacts were less than 100 pounds. The Cowcod Conservation areas and 60 fm RCA have placed the majority of the habitat of this species in areas in which recreational fishing is prohibited. It is unlikely that a zero-bag limit will create anything other than a negligible reduction in impacts.

SUMMARY

The GMT constructed the following table to lay out potential trade-offs of various harvest sharing scenarios to stay under the yelloweye OY adopted under F.4 (Table 11).

Table 11. Alternative yelloweye rockfish harvest-sharing scenarios

	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3
LE Non-Whiting Trawl	0.3	0.6	0.5
LE Whiting Trawl	0.3	0	0.1
LE Fixed Gear	1.9	1.4	1.7
Directed OA	0.5	1.1	0.8
WA Rec	2.7	2.7	2.7
OR Rec	2.5	2.4	2.5
CA Rec	2.8	2.7	2.8
Directed Total	11	10.9	11.1
Non-EFP Set-Asides	5.8	5.8	5.8
EFP	0.2	0.3	0.1
Total OY	17	17	17

Alternative 1 represents catch sharing under 2005. Under this option, the following fisheries will be severely restricted: non-whiting trawl, open access nearshore, open access sablefish, and open access dogfish. The limited entry fixed gear fishery will not be restricted. The limited entry whiting trawl is provided yelloweye under this option, which observer data now indicates is not needed to prosecute the fishery under status quo.

Alternative 2 represents an option that shows the trade off's of restructuring the original 2005 catch sharing. Under this option, all yelloweye impacts in the limited entry trawl fishery (whiting and non-whiting) would be provided to the non-whiting trawl. A 20 fm depth restriction between 40°10' N lat and Cape Blanco would be required of the open access nearshore fishery, but additional opportunities would be provided to access the higher OY for black rockfish. The limited entry fixed gear fishery would have a change to the seaward RCA, from 100 fm to 125 fm, either north of Pt. Chehalis in Washington or between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head in Oregon. This alternative also shows the trade off of requiring EFP set-asides to be taken from the fishery for which they are proposed.

Alternative 3 represents another option for restructuring the 2005 catch sharing. Under this option, the non-whiting trawl fishery is restricted to provide additional yelloweye to the limited entry whiting fishery in the case that their OY increases to 400,000 mt or greater. A depth restriction between 40°10' N lat and Cape Blanco would be required of the open access fishery in addition to a 20% decrease in catch. The limited entry fixed gear fishery will not be restricted. This alternative also shows the trade off of reducing yelloweye impacts in the EFPs.

GMT Recommendations:

1. Adopt a black rockfish sharing framework for 2009-2010.
2. Adopt EFP set-asides.
3. Consider adopting an RCA boundary of 125 fm between Cape Blanco and Cascade Head except on days when the directed halibut fishery is open.
4. Consider adding an RCA exemption for the dogfish fishery under a 125 or 150 fm line north of Pt. Chehalis.

5. Modify the 100 fm line for the RCA off the northern Washington.
6. Consider allowing longline-endorsed limited entry permit holders to switch gears from longlines to pots.
7. Increase trip limits for the Conception Area limited entry and open access sablefish DTL.
8. Mandate logbooks for the limited entry and open access fixed gear fleets.
9. Select a suite of limited entry non-whiting trawl management measures for 2009-2010.
10. Consider sector-specific bycatch limits for the limited entry whiting fleet.
11. Adopt an electronic monitoring requirement for catcher vessels in the mothership sector.
12. Adopt a prohibition on discards by catcher vessels in the mothership sector.
13. Adopt a 100% observer requirement for shore-based whiting vessels that sort at sea.
14. Adopt a processor exemption for small vessels that tail and freeze whiting at sea.

PFMC
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