

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS INCLUDING PACIFIC WHITING  
BYCATCH LIMITS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed inseason adjustments for ongoing groundfish fisheries, as well as bycatch caps for the whiting fishery, and has the following comments and recommendations.

Recreational

The GAP proposed an adjustment to extend the California recreational groundfish season in the North-Central S. of Point Arena management area. The GAP agrees with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommendation to evaluate fishery performance at the September Council meeting and then consider an extension of the recreational fishery in this area at that time.

Commercial

*Open Access DTL Fishery between 36° and 40°10' N Latitude*

The GAP proposed an increase in the bimonthly limit for the open access daily-trip-limit (DTL) fishery in the area between 36° and 40°10' N latitude to be implemented May 1. The GAP agrees with the GMT recommendation to increase the bi-monthly limit in this area from 2,200 lbs/2 months to 2,500 lbs/2 months starting May 1.

*Open Access Black Rockfish Limits North of 40°10' N Latitude*

The GAP proposed an increase in the black rockfish landing limit north of 40°10' N latitude from 6,000 lbs/2 months to 7,000 lbs/2 months. The GAP agrees with the GMT recommendation to consider such an increase at the April meeting with the understanding that such an inseason adjustment at the April Council meeting can be implemented on May 1.

*Bycatch Limits in the Limited Entry Whiting Trawl Fishery*

The GAP agrees with the GMT recommendations regarding bycatch limits in the 2009 limited entry trawl fishery for whiting. The GAP believes a pro-rata distribution of these bycatch caps to sectors of the whiting fishery is a reasonable apportionment method and therefore recommends no change from what was contemplated in the 2009-2010 specifications and management measures decision.

*Limited Entry Non-whiting Trawl- Chilipepper Rockfish Limits South of 40°10' N Latitude*

The GAP proposed an increase in the chilipepper rockfish limit shoreward of the RCA and south of 40°10' N latitude. The GAP agrees with the GMT recommendation to delay consideration of increased chilipepper limits until fishery performance in this area can be better evaluated.

*Limited Entry Non-whiting Trawl- Slope Rockfish Limits*

The GAP concurs with the GMT recommendation to increase cumulative limits of species restricted by darkblotch bycatch.

The GAP recommends the GMT analyze arrowtooth limits for inclusion to the consideration.

PFMC

3/10/09