

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FMP AMENDMENT 21 - INTERSECTOR ALLOCATION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation on FMP Amendment 21-Intersector Allocation from Mr. John DeVore and offers the following recommendations.

Trawl and Non-Trawl Allocations

Lingcod

A majority of the GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for lingcod of 45% allocated to trawl sectors and 55% allocated to non-trawl sectors. A minority of the GAP, comprised of the trawl and shoreside processor representatives, recommends a higher trawl allocation of 67% citing a concern that a higher non-trawl allocation than 33% is likely to strand lingcod given management measures needed to constrain yelloweye rockfish mortality.

Pacific cod

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for Pacific cod of 95% allocated to trawl sectors and 5% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Sablefish North of 36° N Latitude

The GAP agrees with the GAC recommendation to maintain the status quo allocation of the northern sablefish stock.

Sablefish South of 36° N Latitude

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for the southern sablefish stock of 42% allocated to trawl sectors and 58% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Pacific Ocean Perch

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for Pacific ocean perch of 95% allocated to trawl sectors and 5% allocated to non-trawl sectors. The GAP further recommends this allocation be reconsidered when the stock is rebuilt.

Widow Rockfish

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for widow rockfish of 91% allocated to trawl sectors and 9% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Chilipepper Rockfish

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for chilipepper rockfish of 80% allocated to trawl sectors and 20% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Splitnose Rockfish

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for splitnose rockfish of 95% allocated to trawl sectors and 5% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Yellowtail Rockfish

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for yellowtail rockfish of 88% allocated to trawl sectors and 12% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Shortspine Thornyhead North of 34°27' N Latitude

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N latitude of 95% allocated to trawl sectors and 5% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Shortspine Thornyhead South of 34°27' N Latitude

The GAP was advised that the sector catch percentages of shortspine thornyhead south of 34°27' N latitude were incorrect in the preliminary DEIS. Catches of shortspine thornyhead south of 36° N latitude were incorrectly assigned to south of 34°27' N latitude. Revised sector catches from 1995-2005 were provided to the GAP. Based on these revised catches, the GAP recommends allocating 50 mt of shortspine thornyhead south of 34°27' N latitude to the trawl sector and the remaining available yield to non-trawl sectors.

Longspine Thornyhead North of 34°27' N Latitude

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for longspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N latitude of 95% allocated to trawl sectors and 5% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Longspine Thornyhead South of 34°27' N Latitude

The GAP recommends removing longspine thornyhead south of 34°27' N latitude from the list of Amendment 21 species and not consider a formal, long-term allocation of this stock. This is not a stock targeted by any sector and will not be managed using IFQs under trawl rationalization. Therefore, there is no need for a formal trawl allocation for this stock.

Darkblotched Rockfish

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for darkblotched rockfish of 95% allocated to trawl sectors and 5% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Minor Slope Rockfish North of 40°10' N Latitude

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for minor slope rockfish north of 40°10' N latitude of 81% allocated to trawl sectors and 19% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Minor Slope Rockfish South of 40°10' N Latitude

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for minor slope rockfish south of 40°10' N latitude of 63% allocated to trawl sectors and 37% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Dover Sole

The GAP recommends allocating 200 mt of Dover sole to non-trawl sectors with the remainder allocated to trawl sectors. The GAP believes a 200 mt allocation to non-trawl sectors will meet the needs of these sectors by accommodating the highest incidental bycatch observed in any one

year by these sectors. The GAP believes the GAC-recommended allocation alternative is too high an allocation to non-trawl sectors for this trawl-dominant species and would leave too much of the available harvest of the stock unharvested. In the advent of new, innovative non-trawl gears or strategies that are proven effective at catching Dover sole, a new allocation can be considered in a future FMP amendment.

English Sole

The GAP recommends allocating 100 mt of English sole to non-trawl sectors with the remainder allocated to trawl sectors. The GAP believes a 100 mt allocation to non-trawl sectors will meet the needs of these sectors by accommodating the highest incidental bycatch observed in any one year by these sectors. The GAP believes the GAC-recommended allocation alternative is too high an allocation to non-trawl sectors for this trawl-dominant species and would leave too much of the available harvest of the stock unharvested. In the advent of new, innovative non-trawl gears or strategies that are proven effective at catching English sole, a new allocation can be considered in a future FMP amendment.

Petrale Sole

The GAP recommends allocating 65 mt of petrale sole to non-trawl sectors with the remainder allocated to trawl sectors. The GAP believes a 65 mt allocation to non-trawl sectors will meet the needs of these sectors by accommodating the highest incidental bycatch observed in any one year by these sectors. The GAP believes the GAC-recommended allocation alternative is too high an allocation to non-trawl sectors for this trawl-dominant species and would leave too much of the available harvest of the stock unharvested. In the advent of new, innovative non-trawl gears or strategies that are proven effective at catching petrale sole, a new allocation can be considered in a future FMP amendment.

Arrowtooth Flounder

The GAP recommends allocating 200 mt of arrowtooth flounder to non-trawl sectors with the remainder allocated to trawl sectors. The GAP believes a 200 mt allocation to non-trawl sectors will meet the needs of these sectors by accommodating the highest incidental bycatch observed in any one year by these sectors. The GAP believes the GAC-recommended allocation alternative is too high an allocation to non-trawl sectors for this trawl-dominant species and would leave too much of the OY of the stock unavailable for harvest. If future information is available suggesting a 200 mt allocation will not accommodate the incidental bycatch of arrowtooth flounder by non-trawl sectors, a new allocation can be considered in a future FMP amendment.

Starry Flounder

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for the starry flounder of 87% allocated to trawl sectors and 13% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Other Flatfish

The GAP agrees with the GAC-recommended allocation alternative for the Other Flatfish complex of 95% allocated to trawl sectors and 5% allocated to non-trawl sectors.

Within-Trawl Allocations

Allocations of Trawl-Dominant Overfished Species

Darkblotched Rockfish

The GAP recommends that 25 mt of darkblotched rockfish be allocated to the whiting trawl sectors and apportioned to each of the whiting trawl sectors based on the pro rata distribution of whiting (i.e., 42% to the shoreside whiting sector, 34% to catcher-processors, and 24% to motherships). The remainder of the overall trawl allocation would be allocated to the shoreside non-whiting sector.

Pacific Ocean Perch

The GAP recommends that 30 mt of Pacific ocean perch be allocated to the whiting trawl sectors and apportioned to each of the whiting trawl sectors based on the pro rata distribution of whiting (i.e., 42% to the shoreside whiting sector, 34% to catcher-processors, and 24% to motherships). The remainder of the overall trawl allocation would be allocated to the shoreside non-whiting sector.

Widow Rockfish

The GAP recommends that 400 mt of widow rockfish be allocated to the whiting trawl sectors and apportioned to each of the whiting trawl sectors based on the pro rata distribution of whiting (i.e., 42% to the shoreside whiting sector, 34% to catcher-processors, and 24% to motherships). The remainder of the overall trawl allocation would be allocated to the shoreside non-whiting sector.

At-Sea Whiting Sector Yield Set-Asides

The GAP agrees with the strawman proposal for at-sea whiting sector set-asides in Table 4-23 in the preliminary DEIS (Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 1), except the 500 mt set-aside for yellowtail rockfish. The GAP recommends 300 mt of yellowtail rockfish be set aside to accommodate the future bycatch of yellowtail in the at-sea whiting fishery.

Shoreside Trawl Sector Allocations

The GAP recommends using the 1995-2005 shoreside sector catch percentages found in Table 2-11 of the preliminary DEIS for allocating all the Amendment 21 species except darkblotched, POP, widow, and yellowtail to the shoreside whiting and shoreside non-whiting sectors. The GAP recommends allocating 350 mt yellowtail to the shoreside whiting sector in the initial shoreside sector allocation step that needs to precede the combining of the two sectors under trawl rationalization. The GAP notes their previous recommendations above for shoreside sector allocations of darkblotched, POP, and widow.

Pacific Halibut Trawl Total Catch Limits

The GAP recommends the preliminary preferred alternative 4 for Pacific halibut trawl total catch limits under trawl rationalization. However, the trawl representatives to the GAP are concerned

that the halibut bycatch reduction program under alternative 4 may be too aggressive given the uncertain effect such a stringent bycatch limit will have on the northern bottom trawl fleet. It is likely that Pacific halibut under an IBQ management system with these low limits may be one of the biggest constraints to the trawl fleet north of 40°10' N latitude. The trawl representatives on the GAP would prefer a longer period than two years to understand fleet performance under a Pacific halibut total catch limit and IBQ system before the total catch limit is further reduced.

Frameworking the Allocation Process in the FMP

The GAP recommends any formal allocations decided under Amendment 21 be specified in the FMP and any reconsideration of these allocations should be addressed in a future FMP amendment. The GAP believes frameworking the allocation process in the FMP to make it easier to reconsider a formal allocation in the biennial management process (i.e., in a regulatory amendment) risks the stability afforded by a long-term allocation specified in the FMP.

The GAP also recommends maintaining the FMP provision to suspend any formal allocation for a stock if it is declared overfished. An allocation scheme for a newly-declared overfished stock should then be analyzed and decided in a rebuilding plan for that stock that would seek the best strategy for minimizing the mortality on that stock.