

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS TO 2009 AND 2010 GROUND FISH FISHERIES – PART I

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation on inseason adjustments from Mr. Rob Jones and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and has the following recommendations:

- 1) Eliminate the daily-trip-limit in the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) sablefish fishery North of 36° N latitude for the remainder of the year. The daily-trip-limit leads to increased regulatory discards and limited trip viability.
- 2) Increase the weekly limit in the LEFG sablefish fishery north of 36° from 1500 lbs. / week to 2000 lbs. / week. The rationale is that under the current weekly limit the optimum yield (OY) will not be attained and fish will be left on the table. Under the proposed limit there is a greater likelihood that the full OY or something close to it might be achieved.
- 3) Increase the bimonthly limit in the LEFG sablefish fishery north of 36° from 6000 lbs. / 2 months to 8000 lbs. / 2 months. This change would provide greater opportunity to the fleet without the risk of exceeding the OY because there is only one period left in the year and many of the participants in the fishery are likely to begin fishing for crab, thereby reducing overall sablefish effort.
- 4) Do away with the daily-trip-limit for LEFG sablefish south of 36° and increase the weekly limit to a cumulative limit of 3000 lbs. / week. This change will reduce regulatory discards and provide more economic opportunity for a fishery that is currently unlikely to reach the OY. The GMT's preliminary proposal suggested changing the weekly limit to one landing of 3000 lbs. / week which might disadvantage small boats that are unable to carry that much fish.
- 5) Increase the open access trip limits for sablefish south of 36° to 2500 lbs. / week with no daily or bimonthly limit for the remainder of the year. The current limits are 400 lbs. / day 1500 lbs. / week and 8000 lbs. / 2 months.
- 6) Subject to the availability of canary rockfish in the scorecard, increase the limited entry and open access rockfish trip limits south of 40°10' north to 800 lbs. / 2 months for the remainder of the year. The current limit is 600 lbs. / 2 months.
- 7) Adopt option 1 of the proposed specifications for sablefish and petrale sole for the remainder of the year. The GAP also believes that closing the petrale cutouts will free up Pacific ocean perch and darkblotched in the scorecard which could provide additional opportunity for lingcod, arrowtooth, and slope rockfish. Those opportunities should be analyzed.