

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) considered requests from industry representatives, the most recent information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program and the status of ongoing fisheries. The following considerations and recommendations are offered.

### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UPDATES

The greatest amount of research catch of canary rockfish is from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center Annual Bottom Trawl Survey. The survey is currently 70 percent complete, and catch through September 2, 2009 of canary rockfish totals less than 0.1 mt. In 2008 the bottom trawl survey took 1.7 mt of canary rockfish. As a precautionary approach, and to leave an adequate buffer in the scorecard in the case of unexpected canary catch during the remainder of the survey, the GMT assumes that up to double this amount could be caught in the bottom trawl survey (total of 3.4 mt). This assumption leads to a total catch estimate of canary rockfish for all research of approximately 4.5 mt. This is a decrease from the 8.0 mt that was in the scorecard at the start of the year which assumed the highest canary catch that was seen in the bottom trawl survey in recent years (7.2 mt in 2006).

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) survey has been completed for this year. The total take of yelloweye rockfish in that survey was 0.5 mt. That brings the total projected research catch of yelloweye to 0.7 mt.

### RECREATIONAL UPDATES

The Oregon recreational fishery is estimated to come in below preseason estimates for canary rockfish. This results in a 9 mt savings. Likewise, the California recreational fishery is projected not to exceed 15 mt, down from 21.3 mt. The Washington recreational fishery is currently tracking as projected.

### **Routine Adjustments to Management Measures**

#### *Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish North of 36° N. lat.*

The GMT received a request to increase the weekly and monthly limits in the limited entry fixed gear sablefish daily-trip-limit (DTL) fishery north of 36° N. lat. The GMT also received a request to eliminate the daily trip limit for this northern fishery. Available information indicates that catches in the limited entry DTL portion of the sablefish fishery have been substantially less than the allocations in recent years (Table 8). The GMT notes that even though modest inseason increases to daily, weekly, and bimonthly limits were made effective May 1 and July 1, 2009 (Table 9), trends in catch data suggest that unless additional increases are made, the 2009 harvest will be much lower than the 2009 allocation (Figure 1).

Table 8. Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish DTL allocation, catch, and proportion of allocation for 2006 – 2008 north of 36° N. lat.

Year	Allocation (mt)	Catch (mt)	Proportion of Allocation
2006	356	106	0.30
2007	276	116	0.42
2008	276	159	0.54
2009	351		

Table 9. Daily, weekly, and cumulative trip limits for the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish DTL north of 36° N. lat.

Date	2008	2009
1 January	300 lbs / day, or 1 landing / week to 1000 lbs; 5000 lbs / 2 months	300 lbs / day, or 1 landing / week to 1000 lbs; 5000 lbs / 2 months
1 May		500 lbs / day, or 1 landing / week to 1500 lbs; 5500 lbs / 2 months
1 July	500 lbs / day, or 1 landing / week to 1000 lbs; 6500 lbs / 2 months	500 lbs / day, or 1 landing / week to 1500 lbs; 6000 lbs / 2 months
1 November	500 lbs / day, or 1 landing / week to 1500 lbs; 6500 lbs / 2 months	

Monthly catches shown in Figure 1 were taken from the quota species monitoring (QSM) system catch reports. This figure illustrates total catch north of 36° N lat. for 2008 and catches through August 31, 2009. Data from previous months and previous years were used to estimate September catches for all three states (Figure 1). This estimation procedure is conservative because bimonthly limits were more restrictive during these months of 2009 than during 2008 (Table 2) and because effort is restricted and does not widely fluctuate as fishing opportunities are adjusted for this limited entry sector. In addition, RCAs were larger during 2009 than during 2008, resulting in even more restrictive management during 2009. Nonetheless, catch was higher during winter and spring 2009 than during 2008; these higher rates were accounted for in the September 2009 estimate.

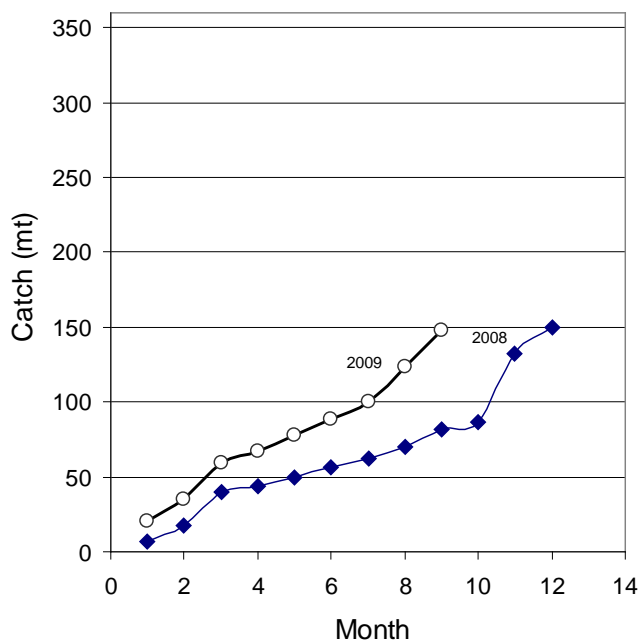


Figure 1. Monthly sablefish catch (mt) by the Limited Entry Fixed Gear sablefish DTL fleet for 2008 and 2009. Catches reported through the last day of each month are shown. Allocations were 276 mt and 351 mt for 2008 and 2009, respectively.

PacFIN data indicate that the total number of limited entry vessels participating in the DTL fishery in the past several years has ranged from 37 to 43 vessels north of the Conception area (36° N. lat.). Using this historic participation and catch information, the GMT evaluated a potential increase in the weekly and bimonthly limit for October 1 through December 31, 2009. Assuming all 43 vessels participate in the fishery and attain their bimonthly limit, the GMT estimated that the bimonthly limit could be raised from 6,000 lbs to 7,000 lbs and catches would remain within the limited entry DTL allocation. Elimination of the daily trip limit is not predicted to exceed the allocation. The daily limit was put in place when regulations were the same for LEFG and open access (OA) and the OA fishery relied on the daily limit to control effort. That same concern does not exist for a limited entry fishery. Changing the weekly limit to 2,000 pounds per week is not predicted to exceed the allocation because these specified parameters are for a short period of time (approximately 10 weeks).

**Based on the projections described above, the GMT recommends the Council consider increasing the bimonthly cumulative limit from 6,000 lbs to 7,000 lbs, increasing the weekly limit from 1,500 lbs to 2,000 lbs, and eliminating the daily limit through the end of the year.**

*Limited Entry Sablefish Fishery South of 36° N. lat.*

The GMT received a request to examine an increase in limits for sablefish in the DTL south of 36° N. lat. from 400 lb/day or 1,500 lb/week to 3,000 lb/week with no daily limit for the remainder of the year. In 2009, the optimum yield (OY) increased significantly in the Conception area due to a more optimistic stock assessment. The latest QSM indicates that 313

mt have been caught out of a 1371 mt OY. Without any inseason adjustment, the limited entry and/or open access fisheries are expected to fall short of their allocation.

Elimination of the daily trip limit is not predicted to exceed the allocation. The daily limit was put in place when regulations were the same for LEFG and OA and the OA fishery relied on the daily limit to control effort. That same concern does not exist for a limited entry fishery. The GMT estimates that these increases to sablefish trip limits will not increase impacts to overfished species because the model assumes that the entire Conception area OY is taken. Impacts to co-occurring target species are not expected to exceed OYs.

**The GMT recommends consideration of increasing trip limits from “400 lb / day, one landing per week up to 1,500 lb” to a “weekly limit of 3,000 lb”, with no daily limit.**

*Open Access Sablefish South of 36° N. lat*

The GMT received a request to examine an increase in limits for sablefish in the DTL fishery south of 36° N. lat. from 400 lb/day, 1,500 lb/week, and 8,000 lb per/ 2 months to 400 lb/day, 2,500 lb/week and no bi-monthly limit.

Although the open access fishery is more dynamic and significant changes to trip limits can induce shifts and increases in effort, discussions with industry indicate that this is not likely to materialize because many of the open access fishermen in this area would have left to participate in other fisheries. Consultation with NMFS staff indicate that the soonest a trip limit increase could be in place is mid-October 2009, resulting in approximately 10 weeks of available fishing.

**The GMT recommends the Council consider increasing the trip limits from “400 lb/day, 1,500 lb/week, and 8,000 lb per/ 2 months” to “400 lb/day, 2,500 lb/week” and no bi-monthly limit for the remainder of the year.**

*Limited Entry and Open Access Deeper Nearshore Rockfish South of 40° 10' N. lat.*

The GMT received a request to increase the deeper nearshore rockfish trip limits in the limited entry and open access fishery in California south of 40°10' N. lat for the remainder of the year to allow conversion of discarded catch into landed catch.

Current trip limits for deeper nearshore rockfish south of 40°10' N lat. are as follows:

		SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
<b>Minor nearshore rockfish &amp; Black rockfish</b>			
Deeper nearshore			
40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.		600 lb/ 2 months	700 lb/ 2 months
South of 34°27' N. lat.		600 lb/ 2 months	

Industry request to increase deeper nearshore rockfish trip limits for the entire area south of 40°10' N lat. to 800 lb/2 months for the remainder of the year are depicted here:

		SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
<b>Minor nearshore rockfish &amp; Black rockfish</b>			
Deeper nearshore			
South of 40°10' N. lat.		800 lb/ 2 months	

The deeper nearshore rockfish trip limit is comprised of black, blue and deeper nearshore rockfish species, so any increase in this trip limit can result in an increase in landings in any one or all of those species. Black rockfish is a healthy stock and has been under harvested over the last few years. If the trip limit is increased, black rockfish is projected to attain only 17 percent of its harvest guideline south of 40°10' N lat. Blue rockfish are less common south of 40°10' N. lat. and any potential increase in their landings as a result of increasing the deeper nearshore trip limits are not expected to exceed the statewide harvest guideline of 220 mt. The deeper nearshore rockfish and shallow nearshore rockfish are managed as part of the minor nearshore rockfish, with a combined HG of 138 mt. This increase in deeper nearshore rockfish trip limits is expected to result in attainment of 76 percent of the harvest guideline.

Previous discussions of increasing nearshore opportunities have raised concerns over the potential impact on overfished species – canary in particular south of 40°10' N lat. The nearshore model, unlike other models, is a landings-based model which estimates overfished species impacts based on the previous year’s landings, not on attainment of a harvest guideline. Projected impacts, prior to changes to the nearshore fishery, in the scorecard is 3.3 mt of canary. Increasing the trip limits as requested by industry is expected to increase canary impacts to 3.6 mt.

**The GMT recommends the Council consider increasing the deeper nearshore rockfish trip limits for the entire area south of 40°10' N lat. to 800 lb/2 months for the remainder of the year.**

*Limited Entry Non-Whiting Trawl Fishery*

Inseason opportunities in the limited entry trawl fishery are influenced by the Council’s decision on petrale opportunities in 2009. Leaving the petrale areas open affects the catch of several

groundfish stocks, specifically, it increases the impacts on darkblotched rockfish and Pacific Ocean perch, reducing the ability to increase opportunities on other target species. As a result, the GMT developed two options for Council consideration that respond to whether the Council elects to finalize the preliminary measures for 2009 petrale opportunities adopted in June. One inseason option assumes the Council restricts the period 6 petrale fishery, while the other inseason option assumes that the period 6 petrale areas remain open and cumulative limits are less restrictive in period 5 and 6. In addition to the petrale matter, the GMT received a request to examine increasing opportunities for sablefish, arrowtooth, and slope rockfish in the non-whiting portion of the limited entry trawl fishery. Since many target species become less available to vessels using selective flatfish gear in the north late in the year, the focus was on opportunities for vessels using large footrope gear in the north and for vessels using all types of bottom trawl gear in the south.

The most recent fish ticket data indicates that catch of sablefish in the trawl fishery is roughly 1,300 metric tons below the trawl sector allocation and is projected to be approximately 300 metric tons below the allocation without any inseason adjustments, which is well below the expected catch level for the fishery at the time when management measures were initially developed. Therefore, there appear to be substantial opportunities to increase sablefish cumulative limits in this fishery, provided doing so would keep the fishery within acceptable overfished species impacts.

The catch of arrowtooth flounder is expected to reach approximately half of the OY without inseason adjustments. The GMT received a request to examine an increase in arrowtooth, principally as a means of reducing regulatory discard in the fishery. Option 1 increases arrowtooth in the north from 150,000 lbs to 180,000 lbs per two months in period 5 and 6 in order to reduce discard. This trip limit increase is not expected to increase arrowtooth impacts.

Recent fish ticket information also indicates that catch of petrale sole in the trawl fishery is below what was projected in June 2009. Therefore, if the Council does not elect to reduce catches of petrale sole at the end of 2009 in response to the point of concern, then the Council could consider increasing cumulative limits for petrale sole through the remainder of 2009 while keeping projected impacts below the 2009 petrale sole OY.

Table 3. Status Quo Cumulative limits and RCA boundaries (assumes Council finalizes preliminary action on petrale in period 6).

Subarea	Period	RCA Config		Sablefish	Longspine	Shortspine	Dover	Other Flat	Petrale	Arrowtooth	Slope Rk
		Inline	Outline								
No 40 10 Large & small footrope	1			18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	150,000	2,000
	2			18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	2,000	150,000	2,000
	3	See Attached Table		22,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	2,000
	4		24,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	2,000	
	5		24,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	5,000	150,000	2,000	
	6		20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	2,000	150,000	2,000	
No 40 10 SFFT	1			5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	16,000	90,000	2,000
	2			7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000
	3	See Attached Table		7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000
	4		11,000	5,000	3,000	60,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000	
	5		11,000	5,000	3,000	60,000	90,000	5,000	90,000	2,000	
	6		11,000	3,000	3,000	60,000	90,000	2,000	90,000	2,000	
38 to 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	5,000	10,000	10,000
	6	100	200	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	2,000	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	5,000	10,000	55,000
	6	100	200	20,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	2,000	10,000	55,000

Table 4. Status quo RCA boundaries in the north.

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
North of 48 10	0 - 200*	0 - 200	0 - 150	0 - 150	0 - 200	0 - 200
48 10 to 45 46	75 - 200*	75 - 200	75 - 150	100 - 150	75 - 200	75 - 200
45 46 to 40 10			75 - 150	100 - 200	75 - 200	

Table 5. Projected impacts prior to the proposed inseason action.

	North	South	Total	OY/HG/Allocation
Canary	18.1	3.7	21.8	
POP	94.0	0.8	94.8	
Darkblotch	169.4	32.0	201.4	
Widow	10.0	9.2	19.3	
Bocaccio	2.9	11.9	14.8	
Yelloweye	0.6	-	0.6	
Cowcod	-	1.3	1.3	
Sablefish	2,438.5	521.8	2,960.2	3,280
Longspine	721.7	284.8	1,006.5	2,231
Shortspine	1,046.2	255.0	1,301.2	1,608
Dover	11,524.4	1,781.2	13,305.5	16,500
Arrowtooth	4,794.1	175.4	4,969.5	11,267
Petrale	1,578.5	285.6	1,864.0	2,433
Other Flat	1,572.9	579.3	2,152.2	4,884
Slope Rock	96.1	177.6	273.7	1160N/626S

The GMT developed cumulative limits for the trawl fishery that attempt to increase opportunities on target species while staying within acceptable impacts to overfished stocks. Option 1 assumes the period 6 petrale fishery is restricted, while Option 2 leaves the period 6 petrale fishery open. Option 1 increases sablefish cumulative limits to 27,000 lbs in period 5 and 6 for vessels in the north using large and small footrope trawl gear, and in the south for all bottom trawl gear. Option 1 also increases arrowtooth in the north (for vessels using large and small footrope) to 180,000 lbs per two months starting in period 5, increases slope rockfish in the north to 4,000 lbs per two months beginning period 5, increases slope rockfish between 38 degrees N lat and 40 degrees 10 minutes N lat to 15,000 lbs in period 5 and to 18,000 lbs in period 6. Option 2 increases petrale cumulative limits to 30,000 lbs and 50,000 lbs in periods 5 and 6 respectively (except for vessels using SFFT in the north), while increasing sablefish limits to 26,000 lbs in periods 5 and 6 (except for vessels using SFFT in the north).

Table 6. Proposed Cumulative Limits and RCA Boundaries – Option 1

Subarea	Period	RCA Config		Sablefish	Longspine	Shortspine	Dover	Other Flat	Petrale	Arrowtooth	Slope Rk
		Inline	Outline								
No 40 10 Large & small footrope	1			18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	150,000	2,000
	2			18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	2,000	150,000	2,000
	3	See Attached Table		22,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	2,000
	4			24,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	2,000
	5			27,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	5,000	180,000	4,000
	6			27,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	2,000	180,000	4,000
No 40 10 SFFT	1			5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	16,000	90,000	2,000
	2			7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000
	3	See Attached Table		7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000
	4			11,000	5,000	3,000	60,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000
	5			11,000	5,000	3,000	60,000	90,000	5,000	90,000	4,000
	6			11,000	3,000	3,000	60,000	90,000	2,000	90,000	4,000
38 to 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	27,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
	6	100	200	27,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	2,000	10,000	18,000
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	27,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	5,000	10,000	55,000
	6	100	200	27,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	2,000	10,000	55,000

Table 7. Proposed RCA Boundaries in the North – Option 1

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
North of 48 10	0 - 200*	0 - 200	0 - 150	0 - 150	0 - 200	0 - 200
48 10 to 45 46	75 - 200*	75 - 200	75 - 150	100 - 150	75 - 200	75 - 200
45 46 to 40 10			75 - 150	100 - 200	75 - 200	



Table 8. Proposed Cumulative Limits and RCA Boundaries – Option 2

Subarea	Period	RCA Config		Sablefish	Longspine	Shortspine	Dover	Other Flat	Petrale	Arrowtooth	Slope Rk
		Inline	Outline								
No 40 10 Large & small footrope	1			18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	150,000	2,000
	2			18,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	2,000	150,000	2,000
	3	See Attached Table		22,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	2,000
	4			24,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	2,000
	5			26,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	150,000	2,000
	6			26,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	150,000	2,000
No 40 10 SFFT	1			5,000	3,000	3,000	40,000	90,000	16,000	90,000	2,000
	2			7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000
	3	See Attached Table		7,500	5,000	3,000	45,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000
	4			11,000	5,000	3,000	60,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000
	5			11,000	5,000	3,000	60,000	90,000	18,000	90,000	2,000
	6			11,000	3,000	3,000	60,000	90,000	16,000	90,000	2,000
38 to 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	26,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	10,000
	6	100	150	26,000	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	26,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	30,000	10,000	55,000
	6	100	150	26,000	22,000	17,000	110,000	110,000	50,000	10,000	55,000

Table 9. Proposed RCA Boundaries in the North – Option 2

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
North of 48 10	0 - 200*	0 - 200	0 - 150	0 - 150	0 - 200	0 - 200*
48 10 to 45 46	75 - 200*	75 - 200	75 - 150	100 - 150	75 - 200	75 - 200*
45 46 to 40 10			75 - 150	100 - 200	75 - 200	

note: a " \* " means petrale areas (modified seaward RCA boundaries with petrale cut-outs) are open

Table 10. Projected impacts from Option 1 (sable, arrow, slope rock, petrale area closed)

	North	South	Total	OY/HG/Allocation
Canary	18.1	3.7	21.8	
POP	94.6	0.8	95.5	
Darkblotch	170.8	32.3	203.1	
Widow	10.1	9.2	19.3	
Bocaccio	2.9	11.9	14.8	
Yelloweye	0.6	-	0.6	
Cowcod	-	1.3	1.3	
Sablefish	2,632.6	580.1	3,212.7	3,280
Longspine	721.7	284.8	1,006.5	2,231
Shortspine	1,046.2	255.0	1,301.2	1,608
Dover	11,524.4	1,781.2	13,305.5	16,500
Arrowtooth	4,794.1	175.4	4,969.5	11,267
Petrale	1,578.5	285.6	1,864.0	2,433
Other Flat	1,572.9	579.3	2,152.2	4,884
Slope Rock	96.7	186.0	282.7	1160N/626S

Table 11. Projected impacts from Option 2 (petrale areas open, sablefish)

	North	South	Total	OY/HG/Allocation
Canary	18.2	3.9	22.2	
POP	106.6	0.8	107.4	
Darkblotch	204.9	34.9	239.8	
Widow	11.4	9.3	20.7	
Bocaccio	3.1	12.3	15.3	
Yelloweye	0.6	-	0.6	
Cowcod	-	1.3	1.3	
Sablefish	2,601.9	573.8	3,175.6	3,280
Longspine	721.7	284.8	1,006.4	2,231
Shortspine	1,053.3	255.2	1,308.5	1,608
Dover	11,553.6	1,784.0	13,337.6	16,500
Arrowtooth	4,818.7	175.5	4,994.2	11,267
Petrale	2,032.1	361.5	2,393.6	2,433
Other Flat	1,589.2	580.0	2,169.3	4,884
Slope Rock	97.2	181.4	278.6	1160N/626S

Table 12. Comparison of projected impacts under various trawl alternatives.

	Staus Quo	Option 1	Option 2
Canary	21.8	21.8	22.2
POP	94.8	95.5	107.4
Darkblotch	201.4	203.1	239.8
Widow	19.3	19.3	20.7
Bocaccio	14.8	14.8	15.3
Yelloweye	0.6	0.6	0.6
Cowcod	1.3	1.3	1.3
Sablefish	2,960.2	3,212.7	3,175.6
Longspine	1,006.5	1,006.5	1,006.4
Shortspine	1,301.2	1,301.2	1,308.5
Dover	13,305.5	13,305.5	13,337.6
Arrowtooth	4,969.5	4,969.5	4,994.2
Petrale	1,864.0	1,864.0	2,393.6
Other Flat	2,152.2	2,152.2	2,169.3
Slope Rock	273.7	282.7	278.6

## **Petrale Sole and Canary Rockfish Interim Measures**

In June, 2009 the Council identified a point of concern under FMP section 6.2.2 and recommended that NMFS take action to reduce harvest of petrale sole in 2009 and 2010 in response to the preliminary results of the new 2009 stock assessment. The Council also recommended that NMFS take action to reduce catches of canary rockfish in 2010 in response to the results of the new 2009 stock assessment update. Under the FMP Section 5.5.1, harvest specifications for species subject to rebuilding requirements may be modified during the biennium if the Council determines they are not adequately conservative to meet rebuilding plan goals.

Based on the Council recommendations in June 2009, NMFS developed and analyzed the potential impacts of two petrale sole alternatives, and three canary rockfish alternatives (including status quo/no action). NMFS published a Draft EA (Agenda Item E.4.b NMFS Report) and a proposed rule (Agenda Item E.4.b Supplemental NMFS Report 2) for changes to harvest specifications and management measures for these two species on September 11, 2009.

As a means of avoiding an overfished status at the beginning of 2011, or to speed the rebuilding of petrale if it is found to be overfished, the Council considered measures that would: reduce the catch of petrale sole to a level of approximately 2,000 mt in 2009, or roughly 400 mt below the 2009 OY of 2,433 mt; and reduce the catch to approximately 1,200 mt in 2010, or approximately 1,200 mt below the current 2010 OY of 2,393. Alternative P2 from the Draft EA results in impacts of 1,995 mt in 2009 and 1,178 mt in 2010 with a commensurate estimated depletion of 13 percent in 2011 (compared to 9 percent for P1, the no action alternative). In June, the Council preliminarily recommended modifications to petrale sole trip limits and sub-limits, and closure of petrale areas by modifying the trawl RCA as described in Table 13 below. These are reflected in the options put forward by the GMT for the LE non-whiting trawl earlier in this document.

Table 13. Proposed management measures to reduce petrale sole projected impacts by approximately 400 mt at the end of 2009. (Figure 2-1 in the Draft EA)

NOV-DEC	
<b>Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA):</b>	
North of 48°10' N. lat.	shore - <b>200 fm line</b>
48°10' N. lat. - 45°46' N. lat.	75 fm line - <b>200 fm line</b>
45°46' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	
South of 40°10' N. lat.	100 fm line - 150 fm line
<b>Flatfish North of 40°10' N. Lat.</b> (except Dover sole and Arrowtooth flounder)	
Other flatfish, English sole, starry flounder, & Petrale sole	
large & small footrope gear for Other flatfish, English sole, & starry flounder	110,000 lb/ 2 months
large & small footrope gear for Petrale sole	<b>2,000 lb/ 2 months</b>
selective flatfish trawl gear for Other flatfish, English sole, & starry flounder	90,000 lb/ 2 months, <b>no more than 2,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.</b>
selective flatfish trawl gear for Petrale sole	
multiple bottom trawl gear	90,000 lb/ 2 months, <b>no more than 2,000 lb/ 2 months of which may be petrale sole.</b>
<b>Flatfish South of 40°10' N. Lat.</b> (except Dover sole and Arrowtooth flounder)	
Other flatfish <sup>3/</sup> , English sole, & starry flounder	110,000 lb/ 2 months
Petrable sole	<b>2,000 lb/ 2 months</b>

Several alternative canary OYs are considered in the Draft EA. Preliminary estimates of changes in depletion from reducing the canary OY in 2010 are presented in Table 14.

Table 14. Canary Rockfish 2010 OY Alternatives – excerpted from Draft EA

Alternative	2010 OY	Estimated 2011 % Depletion <sup>a/</sup>
C1 – No Action	105 mt	25.2
C2	85 mt	25.2
C3	44 mt	25.3

a/ NOTE: These point estimates are presented to facilitate comparison of the alternative 2010 OYs. The depletion values are generated in the base case stock assessment (assuming the same harvest rate adopted under Amendment 16-4) and do not account for uncertainty in the assessment like the rebuilding analysis will. These point estimates are uncertain, with an unknown confidence interval.

The Council is scheduled to take final action at this meeting on management measures for the end of 2009 relative to petrale sole. The Council may choose to finalize their preliminary recommendation, as described in Table 13 and the LE trawl Option 1 presented in this report.

In November the Council is scheduled to consider the rebuilding analysis for canary rockfish, which will illustrate the rebuilding trade-offs of the three alternative 2010 OYs and make a final recommendation on a 2010 canary rockfish OY, and associated management measures. The Council will also make a final recommendation on a 2010 petrale sole OY, and associated management measures. This may include considering the rebuilding analysis for petrale sole (assuming the stock is overfished), which will illustrate the rebuilding trade-offs of the two alternative 2010 OYs.

**GMT Recommendations:**

1. Consider increasing the LEFG sablefish DTL limits north of 36° N.lat. from “1,500 lbs per week, and 6,000 lbs per 2 months” to “2,000 lbs per week, and 7,000 lbs per 2 months” and eliminating the daily limit for the remainder of the year.
2. Consider increasing LEFG sablefish DTL weekly limit South of 36° N. lat from “400 lb / day, one landing per week up to 1,500 lb” to a “weekly limit of 3,000 lb”, with no daily limit.
3. Consider increasing the OA sablefish DTL trip limits South of 36° N. lat from “400 lb per day, one landing per week of up to 1,500 lb, and 8,000 lb per/ 2 months” to “400 lb/day, one landing per week of up to 2,500 lb” and eliminating the bi-monthly limit for the remainder of the year.
4. Consider increasing the LE and OA deeper nearshore rockfish trip limits south of 40° 10’ N lat. to “800 lb/2 months” for the remainder of the year.
5. Consider changes to petrale sole, sablefish, arrowtooth, and slope rockfish cumulative limits and RCA boundaries for the LE non-whiting trawl fishery.
6. Provide notice of the intention to implement measures for 2010 groundfish fisheries that impact petrale sole and canary rockfish at the November meeting.

**Projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species updated with most recent research estimates and fishery projections through June 2009.**

Fishery	Bocaccio b/	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
<b>Limited Entry Trawl- Non-whiting</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>21.8</b>	1.3	<b>201.4</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>19.3</b>	0.6
<b>Limited Entry Trawl- Whiting</b>							
At-sea whiting motherships a/		4.3		6.0	0.5	60.0	0.0
At-sea whiting cat-proc a/		6.1		8.5	0.5	85.0	0.0
Shoreside whiting a/		7.6		10.5	0.1	105.0	0.0
Tribal whiting		1.4		0.0	0.7	3.7	0.0
<b>Tribal</b>							
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
<b>Fixed Gear Sablefish</b>	0.2	2.8	0.0	4.2	0.5	0.1	0.9
<b>Fixed Gear Nearshore</b>	0.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.2
<b>Fixed Gear Other</b>	5.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
<b>Open Access: Incidental Groundfish</b>	2.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.3
<b>Recreational Groundfish e/</b>							
WA							
OR		<b>10.3</b>				1.0	5.2
CA	67.3	<b>15.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>			<b>6.0</b>	2.8
<b>EFPs</b>	13.7	2.7	0.3	1.3	0.0	5.5	0.3
<b>Research: Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.</b>							
	2.0	<b>4.5</b>	0.2	2.0	2.0	5.7	<b>0.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	105.3	85.9	2.1	242.9	102.8	336.3	14.3
<b>2009 OY f/</b>	288	105	4.0	285	189	522	17
<b>Difference</b>	182.7	19.1	1.9	42.1	86.2	185.7	2.7
<b>Percent of OY</b>	36.6%	81.8%	52.5%	85.2%	54.4%	64.4%	84.1%
Key		= either not applicable; trace amount (<0.01 mt); or not reported in available data					
<p>a/ Non-tribal whiting values for canary, darkblotched, and widow reflect bycatch limits for the non-tribal whiting sectors. The widow bycatch limit is the difference between the OY and the projected impacts in all non-whiting fisheries. All other species' impacts are projected from the GMT's whiting impact projection model. The Council may elect to change these bycatch limits when setting final whiting management measures in March of 2009 or 2010 or under any inseason action at any of their future meetings.</p> <p>b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.</p> <p>c/ Mortality estimates are not hard numbers; based on the GMT's best professional judgment.</p> <p>d/ Bycatch amounts by species unavailable, but bocaccio occurred in 0.1% of all port samples and other rockfish in another 0.1% of all port samples (and squid fisheries usually land their whole catch).</p> <p>e/ Values in scorecard represent projected impacts for all species except canary and yelloweye rockfish, which are the prescribed harvest guidelines.</p> <p>f/ 2009 and 2010 OYs are the same except for darkblotched (291 mt in 2010), POP (200 mt in 2010), and widow (509 mt in 2010).</p>							