GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON
INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS, INCLUDING CARRYOVER

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed possible inseason adjustments and offers comments and recommendations on the following action and informational items.

Action Items

- Trip Limit Adjustments for Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) Daily-Trip-Limit (DTL) North of 36° Lat. for 2016
- Pacific Halibut Retention in the Primary Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis, Washington

Informational Items

- 2015 Results of Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL) and Primary Fisheries
- Canary and Yelloweye Rockfish in the Oregon Recreational Fishery in 2015
- Overfished Species Scorecard

2016 Action Items

Limited Entry North of 36° N. lat. Daily Trip Limits

During discussions with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and other industry members, it came to the GMT's attention that the LEFG and DTL for north of 36° N. lat., for 2016 did not align well to allow for uniform prosecution of the fishery. Trip limits for the 2016 fishery were established in the 2015-2016 harvest specifications and management measures rulemaking and are 1,275 pounds per week and 3,375 pounds per bimonthly period. In addition to updated fishery models with 2015 data, we note that the weekly limit does not follow the recent conventions of setting the weekly limit as an even fraction of the bimonthly limit. Given these limits, it would take a vessel two full trips at the weekly limit of 1,275 lbs and a third trip hauling in 825 pounds to reach a bimonthly limit.

At the current weekly and bimonthly trip limit ratio, the fishery is predicted to attain between 90 and 100+ percent of their landing target (model updated with 2015 data). **The GMT recommends the Council consider changing the weekly trip limit to 1,125 lbs per week.** This change would be more efficient for vessels, as three full weekly limits would equate to one bimonthly trip limit (i.e. 1,125 lbs x 3 weeks = 3,375 lbs), and would ensure that the fishery, which saw increased effort last year, remains within its landing target. A predicted attainment between 81 and 93 percent is associated with the GMT alternative trip limit structure.

Incidental Pacific Halibut Retention in the Primary Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis, Washington

Based on the Area 2A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) recommended by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), incidental halibut retention in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington will be allowed in 2016. The Council took action under Agenda

Item H.2. to finalize the ratio of halibut to sablefish and the total amount of halibut allowed per trip. The groundfish regulations will be updated accordingly.

Informational Items

2015 Results of Sablefish DTL and Primary Fisheries

In September of 2015, the Council chose to close both the LEFG DTL and open access (OA) DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. based on analysis from the GMT and input from the GAP. At that time, even with the closure, the landing targets for both sectors were predicted to be exceeded (Agenda Item H.9.a. Supplemental GMT Report, September 2015).

As of March 11, 2016, fish ticket data for 2015 are 90 percent complete through December 31 for Oregon and Washington and through October 31 for California. Therefore, while these estimates may change slightly, it can be considered the best available estimate since the fishery was closed for Period 6 (November and December) in the North. PacFIN's Quota Species Monitoring (QSM) Best Estimate Report (BER) through December 31, 2015 was used as the best estimate for sectors S of 36° N. lat. as the fishery was open for Period 6. Table 1 below shows the estimated total landings and the landing targets (shares minus estimated mortality) for the primary (PRI), LEFG DTL, and OA sablefish fisheries for north (LEN and OAN) and south of 36° N. lat. (LES and OAS).

Table 1: 2015 Landings, Targets, and Percent Attainment by Sector

Sector	Landings (mt)	Landing Target (mt)	Percent Attainment
LEN	188	236	80%
LES a/	409	529	77%
OAN	433	389	111%
OAS	59	433	14%
PRI	1,256	1,339	94%

a/ IFQ landings of 142 mt were removed from the QSM BER estimate for LES.

As Table 1 shows, the OAN landing target was exceeded by 11 percent. Predictions in the DTL model are based on historical trends and the estimates from the QSM BER. Therefore, when the GMT made the recommendation to close the fishery for Period 6 in September, it was the best information available. The GMT will be updating models for 2016 with 2015 data for the April Council meeting and will be exploring how to incorporate the effort seen in 2015 as it is expected that 2016 will see high effort due to projected poor salmon fishing opportunity, no Dungeness crab season in California, and relatively higher prices for sablefish in the north.

Yelloweye and Canary Rockfish in the Oregon Recreational Fishery in 2015

The final estimates of total impacts (landed and released dead) of yelloweye and canary rockfish in the Oregon recreational fishery for 2015 are 3.4 mt and 13.9 mt, respectively. Both of these estimates from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) inseason tracking are above the respective harvest guidelines (HGs) of 2.6 and 11.7 mt. ODFW informed the Council at the September 2015 meeting that the yelloweye rockfish HG was likely to be exceeded, and the fishery was allowed to proceed as planned pre-season. The Oregon recreational groundfish fishery had much higher than expected angler trips in 2015, up 36 percent from 2014, and 40 percent from the 2010-2014 average (Figure 1). This large increase in angler trips was likely driven by exceptionally nice weather and ocean conditions off of Oregon that started in January and lasted until October. The 2015 weather pattern was unusual compared to recent years. January data indicates that 2016 is starting off slower than recent years (365 bottomfish angler trips vs. 3,910 bottomfish angler trips in 2015) with weather and ocean conditions preventing anglers from fishing for multiple days at a time. The number of yelloweye rockfish per angler trip in 2015 was almost identical to that in 2014 (0.036 vs. 0.037), therefore it appears that the increase in angler effort was the primary reason for the high yelloweye rockfish impacts.

For canary rockfish, 2015 was the first year that a one-fish sub-bag limit was allowed, the regulation went into place in March. There was a fair bit of uncertainty about what changes in angler behavior might occur with the allowance. There was a slight increase in the number of canary rockfish encountered per angler trip (landed and discarded) from 2013 and 2014 (0.13) to 2015 (0.2). This increase in encounters could also be caused by the increasing canary rockfish population size. The amount of angler effort that impacted yelloweye rockfish above (Figure 1), also influenced the canary rockfish encounters and total impacts.

The GMT was informed that ODFW intends to continue to monitor the weather patterns, angler effort, and yelloweye and canary rockfish impacts throughout 2016 and will take inseason action if necessary.

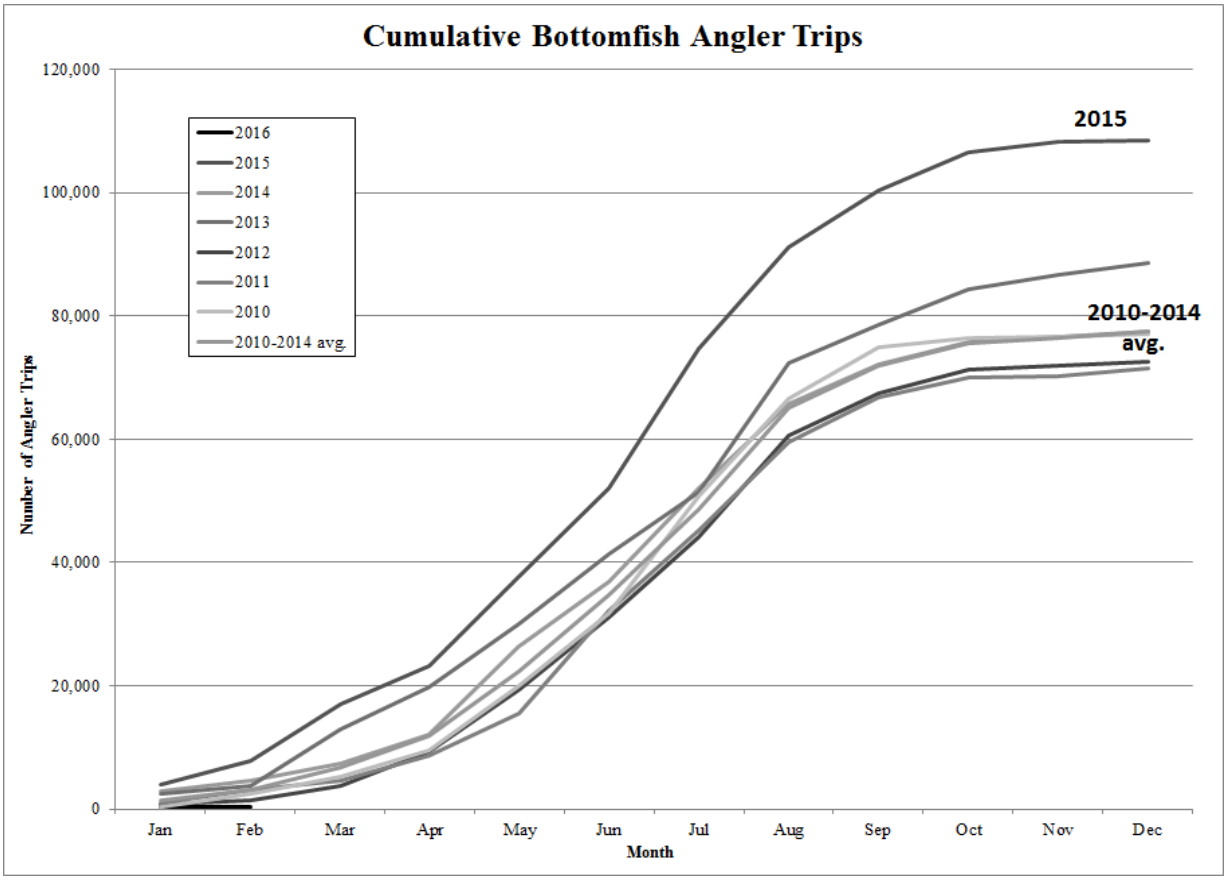

Figure 1: Cumulative number of bottomfish (groundfish) angler trips by month in the Oregon recreational fishery, 2010-2015

Overfished species scorecard

The overfished species scorecard, Attachment 1, has been updated with the updated nearshore model. Those updates include changes to bocaccio and canary rockfish projected impacts.

PFMC
03/13/16

Attachment 1. Allocations[a] and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2016.

Fishery	Bocaccio b/		Canary		Cowcod b/		Dkbl		Petrale		POP		Yelloweye	
***Date*: 12 March 2016**	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts
Off the Top Deductions	8.3	8.3	15.2	15.2	2.0	2.0	20.8	20.8	236.6	236.6	15.0	15.0	5.8	5.8
EFPc/	3.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Research d/	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	14.2	14.2	5.2	5.2	3.3	3.3
Incidental OA e/	0.7	0.7	2.0	2.0	--	--	18.4	18.4	2.4	2.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2
Tribal f/			7.7	7.7			0.2	0.2	220.0	220.0	9.2	9.2	2.3	2.3
Bottom Trawl			0.8	0.8			0.2	0.2	45.4	70.0	3.7	3.7		0.0
Troll			0.5	0.5			0.0							0.0
Fixed gear			0.3	0.3			0.0						2.3	2.3
mid-water			3.6	3.6			0.0							0.0
whiting			4.3	4.9				0.3			7.2	11.1		
Trawl Allocations	85.0	81.9	58.5	58.5	1.4	1.4	308.9	308.9	2,638.4	2,638.4	141.6	141.6	1.1	1.1
-SB Trawl	85.0	81.9	44.5	44.5	1.4	1.4	292.8	292.8	2,633.4	2,633.4	124.2	124.2	1.1	1.1
-At-Sea Trawl			14.0	14.0			16.1	16.1	5.0	5.0	17.4	17.4	0.0	0.0
a) At-sea whiting MS			5.8	5.8			6.7	6.7			7.2	7.2		
b) At-sea whiting CP			8.2	8.2			9.4	9.4			10.2	10.2		
Non-Trawl Allocation	268.7	186.1	51.3	47.0	2.6	1.2	16.3	6.3	35.0		7.5	0.5	12.1	11.8
Non-Nearshore	82.1		3.9					6.1				0.4	0.6	0.7
LE FG				1.0						0.4				
OA FG				0.2								0.1		
Directed OA: Nearshore	1.0	**0.5**	6.9	**6.8**				0.2		0.0			1.9	1.8
Recreational Groundfish														
WA			3.5	2.0				--		--		--	3.1	2.8
OR			12.0	12.0				--		--		--	2.8	2.8
CA	185.6	185.6	25.0	25.0		1.2		--		--		--	3.7	3.7
TOTAL	362.0	276.3	125.0	120.7	6.0	4.6	346.0	336.0	2,910.0	2,875.0	164.1	157.1	19.0	18.7
2016 Harvest Specification	**362**	**362**	**125**	**125**	**6.0**	**6.0**	**346**	346	**2,910**	2,910	**164**	158	**19**	19
Difference	0.0	85.7	0.0	4.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	10.0	0.0	35.0	-0.1	0.9	0.0	0.3
Percent of ACL	100.0%	76.3%	100.0%	96.6%	100.0%	76.7%	100.0%	97.1%	100.0%	98.8%	100.1%	99.4%	100.0%	98.5%

Key	
	= not applicable
--	= trace, less than 0.1 mt
	= Fixed Values
	= off the top deductions

a/ Formal allocations are represented in the black shaded cells and are specified in regulation in Tables 1b and 1e. The other values in the allocation columns are 1) off the top deductions, 2) set asides from the trawl allocation (at-sea petrale only) 3) ad-hoc allocations recommended in the 2013-14 EIS process, 4) HG for the recreational fisheries for canary and YE.

b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.

c/ EFPs are amounts set aside to accommodate anticipated applications. Values in this table represent the estimates from the 13-14 biennial cycle, which are currently specified in regulation.

d/ Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.

e/ The GMT's best estimate of impacts as analyzed in the 2015-2016 Environmental Impact Statement (Appendix B), which are currently specified in regulation.

f/ Tribal values in the allocation column represent the the values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.