

GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss progress of this year's fishery and possible inseason adjustments. The GMT discussion was led by Ms. Jessi Doerpinghaus and Ms. Lynn Mattes. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

Open Access Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery North of 36° N. Latitude

Current trip limit: 300 lb. daily/1,000 weekly/2,000 bimonthly

Industry is reporting there has been a large increase in participation in the fixed gear open access sablefish fishery north of 36° N. latitude, particularly at the ports of Fort Bragg, Bodega Bay, and Port Orford, OR. This is likely due to the domoic acid situation that closed or delayed the Dungeness crab fisheries for most of the winter and forced fishermen to seek out other avenues of income. Complicating the situation is the likelihood of a very short salmon season in California that may in fact exacerbate the problem this summer. GAP members contacted two Fort Bragg processors to inquire about current sablefish landings and were told that actual landings at those processors were already at 110,247 lbs., which is very high for this time of year.

The two open access representatives on the GAP acknowledge there is a problem with high sablefish catch and fear we may shut down the fishery early again this year. To address that concern, the GAP is requesting a decrease in the open access fixed gear sablefish trip limits in the north down to **300 lbs. daily/850 lbs. weekly/1,700 lbs. bimonthly to go into effect at the start of period 4 (July 1)**. The GAP believes these trip limits will slow the fishery down enough to maintain a full season of fishing.

PFMC
4/12/16