

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON 2017-2018 MANAGEMENT MEASURES

During the April Council meeting, the Council selected Preliminary Preferred Alternatives (PPA) for all of the management measures listed in the Action Item Checklist ([Agenda Item F.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, April 2016](#)). However, due to new information and model updates, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) offers the following comments for consideration for selecting a Final Preferred Alternative (FPA).

### Big Skate Trip Limits

In April, [Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1 \(Table 4-13\)](#) provided recommended trip limits for big skate in the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fishery under the PPA of managing big skate in the fishery with species-specific harvest specifications. Since the April Briefing Book deadline, the GMT reexamined the available data and updated the model with data through 2015. Using an average of 2014 and 2015 bimonthly vessel landings (with the same methods as described in [Agenda Item D.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report, June 2015](#) and [Agenda Item I.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report, November 2015](#)), the GMT proposes the following trip limits (Table 1) for big skate within the shorebased IFQ fishery for both 2017 and 2018. Projected mortality for each alternative is shown in Table 2.

**Table 1: Big Skate Bimonthly Trip Limits (lbs.) under PPA and Option 1.**

Alternative	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-June	July-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov-Dec
PPA	5,000	25,000	30,000	35,000	10,000	5,000
Option 1	10,000	30,000	35,000	35,000	20,000	5,000

**Table 2: Big Skate Projected Mortality and Percent Attainment under PPA and Option 1.**

Alternative	Projected Shorebased IFQ Mortality (mt)	Total Estimated Mortality (mt) a/	Harvest Guideline (mt)	Percent Attainment
PPA	328	389	436.6	89.1%
Option 1	365	426.5		97.6%

a/Includes estimated trawl and non-trawl discard from the 2014 WCGOP GEMM and average of 2014-2015 non-IFQ landings

### Sablefish DTL Trip Limits

In April, the GMT provided updated trip limit alternatives for all four daily trip limit (DTL) fishery sectors ([Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)). However, due to the timing of the statements, and continuing discussions in the GMT and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), the GAP referenced trip limits in [Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1, April 2016](#) for limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) North of 36° N. lat. and open access (OA) for both North and South of 36° N.

lat. For the DTL South of 36° N. lat., the GAP proposed a new sharing allocation of 70 percent LE: 30 percent OA (adopted as PPA), which was different than the No Action (55:45) and Alternative 1 (75:25) sharing allocations analyzed in Attachment 1. The GAP trip limit recommendation of 1,700 lbs per week was initially analyzed under the 75:25 sharing allocation. All of the GAP's recommendations were selected as PPA. Unfortunately, due to the data lag with fish tickets, the original trip limits in Attachment 1 were not based on best available data. Furthermore, the new sharing allocation had not been analyzed for South of 36° N. lat. Table 3 shows the projected attainment under the PPA for each of the DTL sectors.

**Table 3: PPA DTL Trip Limits for 2017-2018, Projected Landings (mt) and Attainment (Based on 2017 Landing Targets). LEN= LEFG North of 36° N. lat.; OAN=OA North 36° N. lat.; LES=LE South of 36° N. lat.; OAS= OA South of 36° N. lat.**

Sector	PPA Trip Limit	Projected Landings (mt)	Landing Target (mt)	Projected Attainment
LEN	1,125 lbs per week, not to exceed 3,375 lbs. bimonthly	217-254	297	73.1-85.7%
OAN	300 lbs daily, or one landing per week of 1,400 lbs, not to exceed 2,800 lbs bimonthly	586	490	119%
LES	1,700 lbs weekly	273-386	419	65.2-92.2%
OAS	300 lbs daily, or one landing per week of 1,600 lbs, not to exceed 3,200 lbs bimonthly	34.9	179	18.7%

Therefore, the GMT proposes the trip limits in Table 4 for OAN as PPA within Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 2 for consideration for FPA in June:

**Table 4: GMT Proposed PPA OAN DTL Trip Limits, Projected Landings (mt) and Attainment (Based on 2017 Landing Target).**

Sector	Proposed Trip Limit	Projected Landings (mt)	Landing Target (mt)	Projected Attainment
OAN	300 lbs/day, or one landing per week up to 1,200 lbs., not to exceed 2,400 lbs. bimonthly	426	490	86.9%