

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Actions Items

- Sablefish daily trip limit (DTL) adjustment for Open Access North of 36° N. latitude
- Black rockfish trip limit increase for California, North of 40° 10' N. latitude

Informational Items

- Bycatch of Pacific Ocean perch (POP) in at-sea mothership sector
- Bycatch of POP by the F/V Raven
- Yelloweye rockfish in the Oregon recreational fishery
- Overfished species scorecard

Action Items

Sablefish Daily Trip Limit

In March, the Council took action to modify the weekly trip limit for Limited Entry Fixed Gear Daily Trip Limit (DTL) North of 36° N. latitude (LEN) from 1,275 pounds per week to 1,125 pounds per week, to better align with the bimonthly trip limit of 3,375 lbs. Furthermore, in April, the Council reduced the trip limits in the Open Access DTL fishery North of 36° N. latitude (OAN) from 300 lbs per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lbs, not to exceed 2,000 lbs per two months to 300 lbs per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 850 lbs, not to exceed 1,700 lbs per two months due to concerns about an increase in effort. Both of these trip limits will be in place starting on July 1 (i.e. start of Period 4). Table 1 shows the trip limits that will be in place as of July 1.

Table 1: DTL trip limits as of July 1, 2016 (LES: Limited Entry DTL S of 36° N. latitude, OAS: Open Access DTL S of 36° N. latitude).

Sector	Daily	Weekly	Bimonthly
LEN	--	1,175	3,275
OAN	300	850	1,700
LES	--	2,000	--
OAS	300	1,600	3,200

The projections below for LEN, OAN, and LES in Table 2 are based on PacFIN Quota Species Monitoring (QSM) Best Estimate Report (BER) dated June 18, 2016 with hard data 90 percent complete through April for Washington, June 18 for Oregon, and February for California. Due to a data completeness issue in PacFIN, OAS is based on QSM BER through April 29, 2016.

Table 2: Projected landings and percent attainment for DTL fisheries.

Sector	Projected Landings (mt)	Landing Target (mt)	Percent Attainment
LEN	224-237	258	86.8%-91.9%
OAN	See Table 3	425	
LES	404.5-586	578	68.9%-89.8%
OAS	75.2	473	15.9%

In 2016, the OAN fishery has seen extremely high landings due to lack of other fishing opportunities (e.g. crab and salmon). Specifically, actual landings from the QSM BER have been approximately double the projected landings. In discussions with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), a proposed trip limit adjustment of 300 lbs per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 750 lbs, not to exceed 1,500 lbs per two months, was proposed for the start of Period 5 (September 1). GAP members stated that these limits would be low enough to not incentivize the additional effort that has been seen in 2016. Table 3 shows the original model predictions as well as predictions with “corrected effort” in which the model assumed that the remaining periods also experience double the landings as projected (No Action and Alternative 1- Scenario 1) as well as if the new trip limits for September had the intended effect and reduced effort to “normal” in Periods 5 and 6 (Scenario 2).

Table 3: Model Projected Landings under Various OAN Trip Limit Effort.

Alternative	Effort Scenario	Model Prediction	Model with QSM updates	Factor of Difference	Corrected Effort Prediction	Landing Target	Percent Attainment with Effort Corrections
No Action	1 (double)	252.21	382.76	0.66	496.93	425.00	116.9
Alternative 1	1 (double)	240.67	371.22	0.65	473.85	425.00	111.5
	2 (normal for P5/P6)	240.67	371.22	0.65	416.11	425.00	97.9

The GMT therefore recommends Alternative 1 of 300 lbs per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 750 lbs, not to exceed 1,500 lbs per two months, beginning September 1 through the end of the year.

Black Rockfish, California North of 40° 10' N. Latitude

Industry requested that a 2016 inseason adjustment of black rockfish trip limits for northern California (north of 40° 10' N. latitude) be considered by the Council. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) calculated that current landings are tracking behind projections for this year due, in part, to poor fishing conditions as a result of rough weather and sea conditions that have existed for the better part of this year. Therefore, to provide more fishing opportunity to the commercial sector as a result of these lower than expected landings, the GMT is proposing

that the Council consider an inseason adjustment to the minor nearshore rockfish and black rockfish fishery for California north of 40° 10' N. latitude.

For 2016, California’s minor nearshore rockfishes and black rockfish trip limits for north of 40°10' N. latitude are provided in Table 4. All trip limits apply to both the LE and OA sectors and apply to both the individual California commercial licensee in addition to the federally-defined vessel-based limits.

Table 4: No Action trip limits for the minor nearshore rockfish and black rockfish sectors north of 40° 10' N. latitude in 2016.

Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
8,500 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish				6,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	

Landings History

California’s black rockfish fishery north of 40°10' N. latitude was severely impacted by the 2011 tsunami event with landings decreasing to less than half of what they were in 2010 and continuing to decrease the following year (Table 5). The after effects of the tsunami damage were particularly pronounced for the Crescent City port complex infrastructure. However, since 2012, landings have been increasing with a total of 95.7 mt taken in 2015. As a result of these high landings in 2015, trip limits for period 5 and period 6 were adjusted so that a maximum of 6,000 pounds of black rockfish per period could be landed. It is generally recognized that 2015 was an anomalous year as a result of good weather and sea conditions prevailing for much of the year, strong fish aggregations, and a poor Dungeness crab season – the combination of which hasn’t been experienced for some time. The reductions imposed in 2015 were due to the combination of these factors, which contributed to increased fishing effort and increased landings. Those similar conditions do not exist currently.

Table 5: California commercial landings (mt) of black rockfish north of 40° 10' N. latitude.

Year	Landings (mt)
2008	80.9
2009	86.7
2010	48.2
2011	22.3
2012	16.9
2013	27.1
2014	34.0
2015	95.7

Commercial landings data source: PacFIN

Proposed Trip Limits

The GMT analyzed a range of potential trip limit increases for black rockfish (Table 6) that would provide greater opportunity for this sector. These proposed trip limit action Alternatives differ from the No Action alternative in that the amounts for the last two periods would be adjusted to 6,500 pounds or 7,000 pounds per period under Alternatives 1 and 2, respectively.

Table 6: Trip limit alternatives for the minor nearshore rockfish and black rockfish sectors north of 40°10' N. latitude. All trip limits are in pounds with the estimated mortality given in metric tons. The sub-limit of “which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish” still applies for all periods.

	Trip Limits (pounds per period)						Est. Mort.
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	
No Action	8,500			6,000			66.0
Alt. 1	8,500			6,500			67.6
Alt. 2	8,500			7,000			69.2

The GMT recommends adjusting California’s trip limits for period 5 and period 6 for the minor nearshore rockfish and black rockfish fishery sector north of 40° 10' N. latitude from “6,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish” to “7,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish.”

Informational Items

Pacific Ocean Perch Bycatch in the At-Sea Fleet

Under Agenda Item G.2, public comments submitted by participants in the mothership (MS) sector noted significant bycatch of POP early in the season, which has the potential to constrain the ability of the MS fleet to access their allocation of whiting. As of June 23, the MS sector has taken 69.3 percent of their POP allocation, while only taking 36.6 percent of their whiting (Table 7).

Table 7: Total Catch of Bycatch Species and Whiting (mt) queried from NPAC 6/23/2016 at 9:02 pm.

Species	CP			MS		
	Mortality	Allocation	% Taken	Mortality	Allocation	% Taken
Canary	0.03	8.20	0.3%	0.31	5.8	5.4%
Darkblotched	1.10	9.40	11.7%	0.42	6.7	6.2%
POP	0.40	10.20	3.9%	4.99	7.2	69.3%
Widow	11.54	170.00	6.8%	42.33	120	35.3%
Whiting	46,529.30	102,589	45.4%	26,507	72,415	36.6%

If this bycatch rate of POP were to continue through the remainder of the season, the MS sector would only be able to take 53 percent of their 72,415 mt Pacific whiting allocation before exceeding their POP allocation (i.e., [(7.2 mt POP allocation / 4.99 mt POP taken)] x 26,507 mt whiting taken=38,246 mt). In order to harvest all of their Pacific whiting under the current bycatch rate, the MS sector would need 13.6 mt of POP to utilize their full whiting allocation, which is 6.4 mt above their allocation of 7.2 mt (i.e., [(72,415 mt whiting allocation) / (26,507 mt whiting taken)] x 4.99 mt POP taken.=13.6 mt).

Unfortunately, the options to increase the MS allocation through an inseason transfer of POP appear limited, even though there appears to be a 7 mt residual in projected impacts in the scorecard (Attachment 1). Additional allocation can only come from two sources: (1) off the top deductions (i.e. incidental open access [IOA], research, and exempted fishing permits [EFPs]) or (2) from the catcher-processor (CP) sector through a cease fishing agreement. In 2015, the Council and NMFS were able to transfer projected unused set-asides of darkblotched rockfish from the incidental open access (IOA; i.e. pink shrimp fishery) to both the MS and CP sectors based on new information on bycatch in that fishery. However, there is only 0.6 mt of POP set-aside for the IOA fisheries. Furthermore, the entire research set-aside of 5.2 mt is less than the projected 6.4 mt extra that would be needed for the mothership to obtain their full whiting allocation, and a portion or all of the research set-aside may be taken. There are no EFP set-asides for POP in 2016. As such, the only remaining option appears to be a transfer from the CP sector, such as occurred in 2014 when the CP volunteered to transfer projected unused darkblotched rockfish to the MS sector during an emergency Council meeting. However, as the CP sector has only attained 45.4 percent of their whiting (Table 7), it is unknown how much POP may be needed for the remainder of the year.

POP Bycatch in the IFQ fishery: F/V Raven

On June 22, the F/V Raven had a “lighting strike” of POP while participating in the shoreside IFQ whiting fishery. Paired with earlier catches, the F/V Raven has now exceeded their annual vessel limit of 16,422 lbs, and will not be allowed to fish IFQ for the remainder of the year. They could however cover their deficit next year and resume fishing. However, they still may participate in the mothership fishery during this year, but as noted above, the mothership sector is also having issues with bycatch of POP.

The situation with F/V Raven is very similar as to what occurred with the F/V Seeker last year with their overage of canary rockfish, which was documented by the GMT in March under [Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#). The GMT suggested at that time that the Council consider a potential mechanism to assist vessels that accidentally exceed their annual vessel limits and have to tie up until the deficit is covered.

Yelloweye Rockfish in the Oregon Recreational Fishery

The GMT was informed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) that yelloweye rockfish in the Oregon recreational fishery is tracking higher than projected. This was due to higher than anticipated effort and yelloweye rockfish encounters during the initial opening for Pacific halibut. It is the GMT’s understanding that ODFW intends to look at data again in early July (final through May and preliminary through June), and will take action through state regulations to reduce impacts to yelloweye rockfish at that time if necessary.

Overfished species scorecard updates

The overfished species scorecard (Attachment 1) has been updated to reflect the most current information available to the GMT. The projected impact to canary rockfish from the Washington recreational sector reflects the current end of the year projection for 2016. The GMT was notified that a bycatch research project being conducted has encountered 3.5 mt more petrale sole than originally projected. Therefore, the research projected impacts for petrale sole has been increased from 14.2 to 17.7 mt.

Recommendations

- **The GMT recommends Alternative 1 of 300 lbs per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 750 lbs, not to exceed 1,500 lbs per two months for Open Access north, beginning September 1 through the end of the year.**
- **The GMT recommends adjusting California’s trip limits for period 5 and period 6 for the minor nearshore rockfish and black rockfish fishery sector north of 40°10' N. latitude from “6,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish” to “7,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish.”**

PFMC
06/27/16

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	
	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
Date: 26 June 2016														
Off the Top Deductions	8.3	8.3	15.2	16.5	2.0	2.0	20.8	20.8	236.6	240.1	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	5.8	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	14.2	17.7	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	47.3	2.6	1.2	16.3	6.3	35.0		7.5	0.4	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										
Directed OA: Nearshore	1.0	0.5	6.9	7.5				0.2		0.0			1.9	1.8
Recreational Groundfish														
WA			3.5	1.6				--		--	--	--	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	122.3	6.0	4.6	346.0	336.0	2,910.0	2,878.5	164.1	157.0	19.0	18.7
2016 Harvest Specification	362	362	125	125	6.0	6.0	346	346	2,910	2,910	164	164	19	19
Difference	0.0	85.7	0.0	2.7	0.0	1.4	0.0	10.0	0.0	31.5	-0.1	7.0	0.0	0.3
Percent of ACL	100.0%	76.3%	100.0%	97.8%	100.0%	76.7%	100.0%	97.1%	100.0%	98.9%	100.1%	95.7%	100.0%	98.5%
Key			= not applicable											
		--	= trace, less than 0.1mt											
			= 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 values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.