

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
2019-2020 MANAGEMENT MEASURES PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:  
SEASON STRUCTURES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) has reviewed the documents under this agenda item and received an overview from Mr. John DeVore from Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff. We have organized and numbered our comments in the order that is presented in the Action Item Checklist ([Agenda Item F.5, Supplemental Attachment 3](#)). This report covers items 9 through 15 on season structures.

### 9. Allocations for the shorebased individual fishing quota fishery based on the final preferred annual catch limits, rockfish conservation area structure, and big skate trip limits

Final shorebased IFQ allocations can be found in Tables A-92 and A-93 of [Appendix A](#). This assumes the Council’s preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) annual catch limit (ACL) for yelloweye rockfish at 39 mt, and the final preferred alternative (FPA) for all other stocks. There are no proposed changes to the trawl rockfish conservation area (RCA) and the non-trawl RCA is being considered under new management measures (Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 4, April 2018).

**The GMT recommends the 2019-2020 IFQ big skate trip limits be the same as those established in the 2017-2018 biennium.** These do not comport with the inseason increases adopted for 2018. The main rationale is that the projected attainment is 87 percent and the GMT notes big skate landings can be volatile, which makes projections uncertain. If tracking low, then trip limits could be increased through future inseason actions as done for 2018.

### 10. Amendment 21 widow rockfish allocations for the at-sea whiting sectors

Table 1 shows the widow rockfish allocations for the shorebased IFQ, catcher-processor, and mothership sectors based on Amendment 21. These will be automatically implemented. We note that the Council is considering revising the Amendment 21 formula and moving to set-aside management through the catch shares follow-on review process.

**Table 1. Widow Rockfish within trawl allocations (mt) for 2019-2020 based on Amendment 21.**

	2019	2020
Shorebased IFQ	9,928.4	9,386.6
Catcher-Processor	358.3	338.8
Mothership	253.0	239.1

## 11. Limited entry fixed gear and open access trip limits

### Sablefish north of 36° N. lat. (Table A-58)

A full description of the 2019-2020 sablefish tier limits, daily trip limit (DTL) shares, and trip limits is contained in pages 82 and 83 of [Appendix A](#).

For limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) north, the projected landings are expected to be within the landings share with the proposed limits for 2019-2020 (Table 2 below from Table 4-58 from [Appendix A](#)). For either sector, inseason adjustments can be made as needed. The GMT will provide updated trip limit projections in June for the Council to consider as FPA. **The GMT recommends the Council adopt the proposed limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) and OA trip limits for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. as shown in Table 2 as PPA.**

**Table 2. Sablefish trip limits north of 36° N. lat. for limited entry and open access fixed gears, with landed share and projected attainment for 2019 (from Table A-58 of Appendix A).**

Sector	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	July-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov-Dec	Landed Share (mt)	Projected Attain. (mt)
Limited Entry	1,200 lbs./week, not to exceed 3,600 lbs. bimonthly						273	200.1 - 266.5
Open Access	300 lbs. daily, or one landing per week up to 1,100 lbs., not to exceed 2,200 lbs. bimonthly						449	384.4 - 480.5

### Sablefish south of 36° N. lat. LE and OA (Table A-59)

The proposed LE and OA trip limits and projected attainments for sablefish south of 36° N. lat. are shown in Table 3. Similar to recent years, the projected attainments are expected to be low for both sectors. **The GMT recommends the Council adopt the proposed LE and OA trip limits for sablefish south of 36° N. lat. as shown in Table 3 as PPA.**

**Table 3. Sablefish trip limits (lbs.) south of 36° N. lat. for limited entry and open access fixed gears, with landed share and projected attainment for 2019 (from Table A-59 of Appendix A).**

Sector	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	July-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov-Dec	Landed Share (mt)	Projected Attain. (mt)
Limited Entry	2,000 lbs./week						788	445.6-463.8
Open Access	300 lbs. daily, or 1 landing per week up to 1,600 lbs., not to exceed 3,200 lbs. bimonthly						338	34.6

### Canary LEFG and OA South of 40° 10' N. lat. (Table A-60)

Canary rockfish is currently open year-round for both LEFG and OA (Table 4). The Option 1 proposals result in a Period 2 closure for canary rockfish to align with the existing trip limit structure currently in place for Shelf rockfish, Deeper Nearshore, Shallow Nearshore, California

scorpionfish, and lingcod. See pages 83-84 of [Appendix A](#) for the detailed analysis of this proposal.

**The GMT recommends the Council select Option 1 for canary rockfish trip limits** to better align the canary rockfish seasons with the broader LEFG and OA seasons with minimal negative impacts to industry.

**Table 4. Trip limit alternatives for canary rockfish south (from Table A-60 from Appendix A); differences in mortality between the two options were negligible.**

Sector	Area	Option	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May- Jun	Jul-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov- Dec
Limited Entry	S. of 34° 27' N. lat.	No Action	300 lbs./ 2 months					
		Option 1	300 lbs. / 2 months	CLOSED	300 lbs. / 2 months			
Open Access	S. of 40° 10' N. lat.	No Action	150 lbs. / 2 months					
		Option 1	150 lbs. / 2 months	CLOSED	150 lbs. / 2 months			

**OA Slope Rockfish and Darkblotched North of 40° 10' N. Lat.**

The No Action OA trip limit for minor slope rockfish and darkblotched rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. is no more than 25 percent of the landed weight of sablefish per trip, which corresponds to a maximum of 500 lbs. bi-monthly (25 percent of the 2,000 lbs. bimonthly limit of sablefish). This is an aggregate limit for all species combined.

The Option 1 trip limit would be a stand-alone 500 lbs. per month (all species combined), which is double the current limit that is linked to 25 percent of sablefish landings. The Council proposed Option 1 in November 2017, based on industry feedback that a stand-alone is simpler for them to abide by, and because it would better allow them to retain more, and discard less, of their incidental catches. See pages 85-86 of Appendix A for the detailed analysis of this proposal ([Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 3, April 2018](#)).

**The GMT recommends the Council select Option 1 for OA trip limits for slope and darkblotched rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. as shown in Table 5** for the reasons above and because projected attainments remain well within allocations.

**Table 5. No Action. Projected total mortality attainments of darkblotched rockfish and the slope rockfish complex north of 40° 10' N. based on alternative OA trip limits for darkblotched rockfish and slope rockfish for north of 40° 10' N. lat.**

Stock	Trip limit Option	LE	OA N	OA S	Rec.	Total	Allocation	% Attainment
Darkblotched Rockfish	Baseline 2017 OA sablefish limits	3.2	2.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	5.8	37.4	15.6%
	No Action 2019-2020 OA sablefish trip limits	3.2	2.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	5.9		15.9%
	Option 1	3.2	3.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	6.3		17.0%
Slope Rockfish Complex N. of 40° 10' N. lat.	Baseline 2017 OA sablefish limits	68.7	5.8	NA	< 0.1	74.5	316.4	23.6%
	No Action 2019-2020 OA sablefish trip limits	68.7	6.1	NA	< 0.1	74.8		23.7%
	Option 1	68.7	11.5	NA	< 0.1	80.2		25.4%

**OA Shortspine Thornyhead, Longspine Thornyhead North of 40° 10' N. Lat.**

Retention of shortspine and longspine thornyheads is currently prohibited year-round for OA north of 34° 27' N. lat. Option 1 would provide a 50 pound per month OA trip limit for each (not collectively) north of 40° 10' N. lat. only, based on November 2017 Council guidance. See pages 85-86 of [Appendix A](#) for a detailed analysis of this proposal.

**The GMT recommends that the Council select Option 1 for OA thornyhead trip limits north of 40° 10' N. lat. as shown in Table 6** because: (1) this would provide opportunity to harvest incidental catches; (2) this closure is no longer relevant, as it is believed to be an artifact from when allocations for LE and OA were separate, and no catch history to OA equaled no retention; and (3) attainments are expected to be well within the non-trawl attainments even under an unlikely maximum catch scenario where every vessel caught the full limit every month.

**Table 6. Projected total mortality for shortspine and longspine thornyheads for No Action OA trip limits north of 40° 10' N. lat. and maximum projected mortality for Option 1 trip limits. From Table 4-18 from Appendix A. (DM = discard mortality)**

Stock	OA Trip limit	Projected non-trawl mortality (mt)					Non-trawl		
		LE landed	LE discard mort	OA discard mort	OA max extra landed	Rec.	Total (mt)	Alloc. (mt)	% Attain.
Longspine thornyhead North 34° 27' N. lat.	No Action	3.1	4.0	0.4	0.0	< 0.1	7.7	127.6	6.0%
	Option 1	3.1	4.0	0.4	3.9	< 0.1	11.5	127.6	9.0%
Shortspine thornyhead North 34° 27' N. lat.	No Action	42.4	0.4	3.4	0.0	< 0.1	46.4	80.9	57.3%
	Option 1	42.4	0.4	3.4	3.9	< 0.1	50.2	80.9	62.1%

**Lingcod North LE and OA (Table A-63)**

There are two proposals for LEFG and OA lingcod trip limits in 2019-2020: (1) for the entire area north of 40° 10' N. lat. (status quo) and (2) for only north of 42° N. lat. This latter approach would result in 2017 trip limits from 40° 10' N. lat. to 42° N. lat., and higher limits to the north.

These two different proposals were developed primarily to provide the Oregon and California nearshore fisheries more flexibility to use alternative management strategies to promote opportunity while staying within their respective yelloweye rockfish shares. Recently, Council has preferred higher lingcod trip limits to the north and greater depth expansion to the south, which could be better facilitated by having different trip limits in the two areas.

Both lingcod proposals are documented in detail in [Appendix A](#) (see pages 86-91 and 148-150) with the key points being: (1) lingcod being a very high-value but vastly underutilized stock; (2) there was insufficient yelloweye rockfish allocations to consider numerous requests for higher limits prior to 2019; (3) inseason trip limit increases were finally made possible in 2017 and 2018 due to numerous science updates to the nearshore model and discard mortality rates, which make it possible to consider even higher limits for 2019-2020 along with extra cushion from higher allocations; (4) the need to address potential enforcement concerns/complications regarding the proposal to have the higher trip limits apply to just north of 42° N. lat.; and (5) the need to record stakeholder trip limit preferences from public meetings held in Oregon in September 2017.

No Action represents the trip limits that were in place at the end of 2017 (Table 7). Option 1 represents the 2018 inseason trip limits that were adopted during the November 2017 Council meeting. Options 2 and 3 are simpler because they are consistent throughout the year, which the Council desired when considering future adjustments.

**Table 7. Limited entry and open access trip limit alternatives for lingcod north of 40° 10' N. lat. (from Table A-63 of Appendix A).**

Sector	Alternative	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov-Dec
Limited Entry	No Action	200 lbs. / 2 months		1,200 lbs. / 2 months	1,400 lbs. / 2 months		700 lbs. / month 400 lbs. / month
	Opt 1	600 lbs. / 2 months		1,400 lbs. / 2 months			700 lbs. / month 400 lbs. / month
	Opt 2	1,500 lbs. / 2 months					
	Opt 3	2,000 lbs. / 2 months					
Open Access	No Action	100 lbs. / month		600 lbs. / month	700 lbs. / month		200 lbs. / month
	Opt 1	300 lbs. / month		700 lbs. / month			300 lbs. / month
	Opt 2	700 lbs. / month					
	Opt 3	900 lbs. month					

Option 3 was the preferred approach from commercial nearshore fishery public meetings hosted in September 2017 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The participants, who mainly fish in the OA sector, supported a flat 900 lbs. per month OA limit, since it would increase opportunity, provide greater market stability, and remain below levels that could entice additional effort and potentially flood the markets and result in higher levels of yelloweye rockfish bycatch.

Projected lingcod attainments and yelloweye rockfish impacts are provided in Table 8 and Table 9 for the trip limits applying to all north 40° 10' N. lat. in Table 10 and Table 11 if they apply to only north of 42° N. lat. We note that both the non-nearshore and nearshore fisheries are projected to be well within their lingcod and yelloweye rockfish allocations for all options.

The GMT notes that there could be considerable benefits associated with the higher lingcod trip limits, however some potential concerns should be noted. First, inseason tracking is not available to evaluate estimated impacts; this data is published annually at the September Council by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program. Therefore, any yelloweye rockfish impacts associated with the 2017 inseason lingcod trip limit increase are currently unknown, and any consequences associated with the 2018 increase will be unknown until 2019. Delaying further lingcod trip limit increases until the 2017 and 2018 estimates can be evaluated could provide data to better inform management decisions.

**Table 8. Projected lingcod landings and mortality for the alternative LEFG and OA lingcod trip limits for north of 40° 10' N. lat. (from Table A-64 of Appendix A). Projections are conservative since they are based on point estimates buffered to reflect the following recent inter-annual variability: +50% to CA nearshore; +30% to OR nearshore, and +13% to the non-nearshore.**

Sector	Trip Limit Option			
	No Action	Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
CA nearshore landings	7.5	9.2	12.5	14.6
OR Nearshore landings	65.7	77.1	100.5	117.3
Non-Nearshore landings	19.3	20.9	22.8	26.1
Total Commercial non-trawl landings	92.5	107.2	135.8	158.0
Recreational mortality a/	264.4	264.4	264.4	264.4
Commercial non-trawl discard mortality a/	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1
Total non-trawl mortality	372.0	386.7	415.3	437.5
Non-trawl 2019 allocation	2,520.0	2,520.0	2,520.0	2,520.0
% Non-trawl	14.76%	15.34%	16.48%	17.36%
Non-trawl residual	2,148.0	2,133.3	2,104.7	2,082.5

a/ 2014-2016 average

**Table 9. Projected yelloweye rockfish impacts for each of the alternative lingcod trip limits for the area north of 40° 10' N. lat. (from Table A-65 of Appendix A). Projections are conservative based on buffered lingcod landings as described above.**

Sector	No Action	Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3	2019 share	2020 share
CA nearshore	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
OR Nearshore	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	2.4	2.5
Non-Nearshore	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.2
Total	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.6	4.4	4.6

Note 1: CA nearshore share and non-nearshore harvest guidelines (HG) are coastwide

Note 2: Projections increase for non-nearshore and CA nearshore (north of 40° 10' N. lat.) by trace amounts that are not seen due to rounding except for in the total

However, there would have to be considerable unanticipated levels of bycatch to pose risks to the 2019-2020 yelloweye rockfish ACLs. The actual impacts would have to be several times higher than projected (2.6 mt) to be problematic given that recent yelloweye rockfish ACL attainments have been 9-13 mt and the No Action ACL for 2019 is 29 mt. We also note that 2016 yelloweye rockfish mortality before the trip limit increases was only 1.4 mt total for the coast-wide nearshore (0.6 mt) and non-nearshore (0.8 mt) fisheries and the projected 2.6 mt is conservative since it is based on high landings assumptions.

**Table 10. Projected lingcod landings for the alternative lingcod trip limits, if applicable to north of 42° N. lat. only (from Table A-66 of Appendix A). Projections are conservative since they are based on point estimates buffered to reflect the following recent inter-annual variability: +50% to CA nearshore; +30% to OR nearshore, and +13% to the non-nearshore.**

Sector	Trip Limit Option			
	No Action	Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
CA nearshore landings	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
OR Nearshore landings	65.7	77.1	100.5	117.3
Non-Nearshore landings	16.0	17.3	18.9	21.6
Total Commercial non-trawl landings	89.2	101.9	126.9	146.4
Recreational mortality a/	264.4	264.4	264.4	264.4
Commercial non-trawl discard mortality a/	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1
Total non-trawl mortality	368.7	381.4	406.4	425.9
Non-trawl 2019 allocation	2,520.0	2,520.0	2,520.0	2,520.0
% Non-trawl	14.6%	15.1%	16.1%	16.9%
Non-trawl residual	2,151.3	2,138.6	2,113.6	2,094.1

a/ 2014-2016 average

**Table 11. Projected yelloweye rockfish impacts for each of the alternative lingcod trip limits based on if they are made applicable to north of 42° N. lat. only (from Table A-67 of Appendix A). Projections are conservative since based on buffered lingcod landings described above.**

Sector	No Action	Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3	2019 share	2020 share
CA nearshore	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9
OR Nearshore	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	2.4	2.5
Non-Nearshore	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.2
Total	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	4.4	4.6

Note 1: CA nearshore share and non-nearshore share are coastwide

In conclusion, the GMT does not offer a specific recommendation in regards to northern lingcod trip limit increases due to the numerous policy factors at play. **For northern LEFG and OA lingcod trip limits, the GMT recommends the Council specify their preferred trip limits from Table 7, and specify if they apply to the entire area north of 40° 10' N. lat. or only the area north of 42° N. lat.**



**Lingcod South LE (Table A-68) and OA (Table A-69)**

The 2017 lingcod stock assessment indicated that the stock south of 40° 10' N. lat. is in the precautionary zone, so there is a proposal to reduce trip limits to stay within the 2019 and 2020 harvest guidelines.

There are no proposed changes to LE trip limits from 2017-2018 (Table 12). However, to accommodate the reduction in the 2019-2020 ACLs for lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat., the trip limits are proposed to be reduced for the OA fishery (Table 13). Projected lingcod attainments for the reduced OA trip limits can be found in Table 14, and yelloweye rockfish impacts for each of the alternative lingcod trip limits are shown in Table 15.

**Table 12. Status quo limited entry trip limits for lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat.**

Sector	Alternative	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov	Dec
Limited Entry	No Action	200 lbs. / 2 months	CLOSED	800 lbs. / 2 months	1,200 lbs. / 2 months		600 lbs. / month	300 lbs. / month

**Table 13. Open access trip limit alternatives for lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat.**

Sector	Alternative	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov	Dec
Open Access	No Action	100 lbs. / month	CLOSED	400 lbs. / month	600 lbs. / month		400 lbs. / month	150 lbs. / month
	Opt 1	300 lbs./ month	CLOSED	300 lbs./ month				
	Opt 2	100 lbs./ month	CLOSED	200 lbs./ month	400 lbs. / month		200 lbs./ month	100 lbs./ month
	Opt 3	250 lbs. / month	CLOSED	250 lbs./ month				
	Opt 4	100 lbs./ month	CLOSED	200 lbs./ month	350 lbs./ month		200 lbs./ month	100 lbs./ month

**Table 14. Projected lingcod mortality (mt) for the alternative lingcod trip limits if applicable to south of 40° 10' N. lat.**

Sector	Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3	Opt 4
CA nearshore	20.5	16.7	17.0	15.4
Non-Nearshore	29.6	26.1	24.7	24.2
Recreational	320	320	320	320
Non-trawl total	380.3	373.0	371.9	369.8
Non-trawl 2019 allocation	541.6	541.6	541.6	541.6
% Non-trawl	70%	69%	69%	68%

**Table 15. Projected yelloweye rockfish mortality (mt) for each of the alternative lingcod south of 40° 10' N. lat. trip limit options.**

Sector	Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3	Opt 4	2019 share	2020 share
N. CA nearshore	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.9
S. CA nearshore	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1		
Non-Nearshore	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.1	1.2
Total	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	2.0	2.1

**The GMT supports the GAP’s recommendation for open access trip limit Option 1, 300 lbs. per month with a Period 2 closure, as a flatline trip limit structure is easier to remember and provides more lingcod in the winter. Additionally, we recommend that the Council adopt the LE trip limits in Table 12 as PPA.**

### **Public comment request**

A public request was submitted ([Agenda Item F.5.b. Supplemental Public Comment 1, April 2018](#)) to increase the OA trip limit south of 40° 10' N. lat. for shelf and canary rockfish. Canary rockfish total mortality estimates for 2017 are not yet available from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program to fully analyze whether additional opportunity can be accommodated. Similarly, adjustments were made to the seaward RCA boundary in 2017 from 150 fathoms to 125 fathoms that would provide more access to shelf targeting however the total mortality estimates are not available to analyze yelloweye impacts. Therefore, as described above, **the GMT does not recommend increasing shelf and canary rockfish trip limits south of 40° 10' N. lat., at this time.**

### **GAP request**

At the April 2018 Council meeting, the GAP requested an increase in the 2019-2020 OA canary rockfish trip limits north of 40° 10' N. lat. from 150 lbs. bimonthly to 200 lbs. bimonthly. This is

within the range previous analyzed in B.1.2 from the 2017-2018 biennial harvest specifications and management. Since retention was first allowed in 2017 and discard mortality estimates will not be available until August 2018, **the GMT recommends postponing northern canary rockfish trip limit increases until November 2018 inseason as this will allow better evaluation of retention options.**

## 12. Treaty Fisheries

At the November 2017 Council meeting, the tribes submitted a report ([Agenda Item F.9.a REVISED Supplemental Tribal Report 1](#)) indicating the tribes' intended management measures for 2019 and 2020. For the 2019-2020 biennial management measures, the tribes proposed a single change to the tribal set-asides and management measures for tribal fisheries. Specifically, the tribes have asked for an increase in the set-aside for petrale sole from 220 to 290 mt annually in 2019 and 2020. All other treaty management measures, and harvest guidelines, including yelloweye rockfish, are identical to those submitted within the 2017-2018 biennial process. **The GMT recommends the Council approve the Treaty Management Measures as described in Agenda Item F.9.a, REVISED Supplemental Tribal Report 1, November 2017.**

## 13. Washington Recreational Fisheries

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) met with stakeholders to discuss PPA management measures for 2019-2020, which are summarized in [Agenda Item, F.5.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1](#). After discussing the WDFW report, **the GMT recommends the Council approve the Washington recreational PPA for public review.**

## 14. Oregon Recreational Fisheries

The baseline recreational season structure, bag limits, and regulations are similar to what has been in place in 2017 and 2018 under all yelloweye rockfish ACL alternatives; modifications are dependent primarily on the yelloweye rockfish HG. Unlike in previous cycles, black rockfish will also limit the Oregon recreational fishery. Measures that reduce yelloweye rockfish impacts, such as seasonal depth restrictions, tend to increase black rockfish impacts, and vice versa. Therefore, season structure modeling alternatives attempted to balance impacts to the two species. The baseline Oregon recreational groundfish fishery would be open offshore year-round, except from April 1 to September 30, when fishing is only allowed shoreward of 40 fathoms, as defined by waypoints; the same season structure that has been in place for several cycles as shown in Figure A-5; [Appendix A](#). Restricting the fishery to shallower than 40 fathoms from April to September, when angler effort and yelloweye rockfish encounters have been greatest, mitigates mortality of yelloweye rockfish, but also puts additional pressure on black rockfish.

If the Oregon recreational HG for yelloweye rockfish increases from the 2017-2018 levels, anglers have requested that reducing the number of months with depth restrictions be the first measure to explore. Secondly, if enough yelloweye rockfish impacts were available, anglers requested additional opportunities for lingcod. Currently, the federal daily limit is 3 fish, while the state limit is 2. The federal limit would remain the same, while the state limit could be increased up to the federal limit. Additionally, restrictions to groundfish retention in the halibut all-depth seasons could be liberalized.

The GMT understands that ODFW will be working with constituents between April and June to develop the preferred season structure from within the range analyzed in [Appendix A](#), based on the yelloweye rockfish HG decision at this meeting. Therefore, **the GMT does not have a recommendation on the preferred Oregon recreational fisheries structure**, at this time.

## 15. California Recreational Fisheries

Three potential season structures are proposed for the California recreational fishery. Option 1 is the same season structure that was in place at the beginning of 2017, with the addition of allowing year-round take of California scorpionfish. Option 2 maintains the same season structure as in Option 1 (including the year-round California scorpionfish fishery) but extends the RCA boundary from 60 fathoms to 75 fathoms in the Southern Management Area. Lastly, Option 3 would provide a year-round, all depth fishery in all management areas. CDFW analyzed a full suite of management measures under the range of yelloweye ACLs (see Option 1 Figure A-13, Option 2 Figure A-14, and Option 3 Figure A-16 in [Appendix A](#)).

There are three bag limit adjustment proposals for the California recreational fishery for canary rockfish, cabezon, and lingcod. The canary rockfish sub-bag limit is proposed to increase statewide from one to two fish. The Council approved this increase to the sub-bag limit as an inseason adjustment in 2018.

CDFW proposes to remove the cabezon sub-bag limit of three fish to allow up to the 10-fish rockfish cabezon greenling (RCG) bag limit to reduce regulatory complexity, and the lingcod bag limit south of 40° 10' N. lat. be decreased from two to one fish.

The GMT understands that CDFW has not identified a complete PPA for recreational seasons and depths at this time pending decisions on yelloweye rockfish. Therefore, **the GMT does not have a recommendation on the preferred California recreational fisheries season structure, at this time, but does recommend the bag limit PPA as outlined in the [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplement CDFW Report 1, April 2018](#).**

## Recommendations summary

### GMT recommendations in bold

2019-2020 Season Structures			
#	Category	Sector	Measure
9		Shorebased IFQ	<p>Allocations based on preferred ACLs (Table A-47 and Table A-48)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The GMT recommends the 2019-2020 IFQ big skate trip limits be the same as those established in the 2017-2018 biennium.</b></li> </ul>
10		At-Sea Sectors	<p>Amendment 21 allocations for widow rockfish based on preferred ACLs (Table A-49)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This item is informational and the GMT has no recommendation.</li> </ul>
11		Commercial Non-Trawl	<p>Same as 2017, except proposed routine trip limit changes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sablefish N LE and OA (Table A-58) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The GMT recommends the Council adopt the proposed limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) and OA trip limits for sablefish north of 36° N. lat. as shown in Table 2 as PPA.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Sablefish S LE and OA (Table A-59) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The GMT recommends the Council adopt the proposed LE and OA trip limits for sablefish south of 36° N. lat. as shown in Table 3 as PPA.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Canary LE and OA (Table A-60) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The GMT recommends the Council select Option 1 for canary rockfish trip limits.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Darkblotched rockfish and slope rockfish N (Table A-61) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The GMT recommends the Council select Option 1 for OA trip limits for slope and darkblotched rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. as shown in Table 5.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Thornyheads N OA (Table A-62) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>The GMT recommends that the Council select Option 1 for OA thornyhead trip limits north of 40° 10' N. lat. as shown in Table 6.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Lingcod N LE and OA (Table A-63)</li> </ul>

2019-2020 Season Structures			
#	Category	Sector	Measure
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For northern LEFG and OA lingcod trip limits, the GMT recommends the Council specify their preferred trip limits from Table 7, and specify if they apply to the entire area north of 40° 10' N. lat. or only the area north of 42° N. lat.</li> <li>● Lingcod S LE (Table A-68) and OA (Table A-69) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The GMT supports the GAP's recommendation for open access trip limit Option 1, 300 lbs. per month with a Period 2 closure, as flatline trip limit structure is easier to remember and provides more lingcod in the winter. Additionally, we recommend that the Council adopt the LE trip limits in Table 12 as PPA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● New: Canary and shelf rockfish increases south of 40°10' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The GMT does not recommend does not support increasing shelf and canary rockfish trip limits south of 40° 10' N. lat., at this time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● New: Canary rockfish increases north of 40°10' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Postpone until November inseason</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12		Treaty Fisheries	<p>Same as 2018, except petrale sole set-aside increases from 220 mt to 290 mt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The GMT recommends the Council approve the Treaty Management Measures as described in <a href="#">Agenda Item F.9.a REVISED Supplemental Tribal Report 1</a>.</li> </ul>
13		WA Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The GMT recommends the Council approve the Washington recreational PPA for public review as described in <a href="#">WDFW Supplemental Report 1</a>.</li> </ul>
14		OR Recreational	<p>Same as 2018, except</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Season open year-round, except June-Aug when fishing is allowed shoreward of 40 fm</li> <li>● Higher yelloweye ACLs than under No Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Could allow fewer months with depth restrictions</li> <li>○ Possibly allow additional lingcod opportunities</li> <li>○ Possibly reduce bottomfish retention restrictions with halibut on board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

2019-2020 Season Structures			
#	Category	Sector	Measure
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bag limits will be adjusted through state regulations</li> <li>● April-Sept offshore longleader fishery</li> <li>● <b>The GMT does not have a recommendation on the preferred Oregon recreational fisheries structure.</b></li> </ul>
15		CA Recreational	<p>Same as 2018, except</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Year-round fishing for California scorpionfish</li> <li>● Option to fish deeper than 75 fm in Southern Management Area</li> <li>● Higher yelloweye ACLs than under No Action could allow year-round fishing at all depths statewide</li> <li>● Sub-bag limit options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lingcod S: decrease to 1</li> <li>○ Cabezon: removal of sub-bag limit; up to 10</li> <li>○ Canary: increase to 2</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>The GMT does not have a recommendation on the preferred California recreational fisheries season structure, at this time, but does recommend the bag limit PPA as outlined in <a href="#">Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1</a>.</b></li> </ul>

PFMC  
04/09/18