

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the latest information on the groundfish fisheries to date, and offer the following comments and recommendations.

### Action Items

#### Sablefish Daily-Trip-Limit

Table 1 below shows the projected landings for each of the daily-trip-limit (DTL) sectors with data through the end of August 2018.

**Table 1: Projected landings, landing targets, and attainment by DTL sector for 2018. (LEN= Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 36° N. lat., OAN= Open Access North of 36° N. lat., LES= Limited Entry South of 36° N. lat., OAS= Open Access South of 36° N. lat.)**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt)</b>	<b>Landing Target (mt)</b>	<b>Attainment (%)</b>
LEN	174.9-201.9	269	65-75.1%
OAN	340.4-346.9	444	76.7-78.1%
LES	353-413.4	759	46.5-54.5%
OAS	44.7	325	13.7%

Based on requests from industry, the GMT examined the following trip limit alternatives (*Table 2*) for LEN and OAN.

**Table 2: Trip limit alternatives for LEN, OAN, and OAS**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Trip Limit</b>
LEN	No Action	1,100 lbs/wk, not to exceed 3,300 lb/2 mo
	Alt 1	1,400 lbs/wk, not to exceed 4,200 lb/2 mo
OAN	No Action	300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lbs, not to exceed 2,000 lbs/2 mo
	Alt 1	300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,300 lbs, not to exceed 2,600 lbs/2 mo
	Alt 2	300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,400 lbs, not to exceed 2,800 lbs/2 mo
	Alt 3	300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,500 lbs, not to exceed 3,000 lbs/2 mo
OAS	No Action	300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lbs, not to exceed 3,200 lbs/2 mo
	Alt 1	300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 2,000 lbs, not to exceed 4,000 lbs/2 mo
	Alt 2	300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lbs, not to exceed 4,800 lbs/2 mo

Assuming that these trip limit increases would go into place at the beginning of October 2018, Table 3 shows the projected landings and attainment for each alternative for the LEN and OAN. Due to the lack of participation and variance in trip limits in the OAS fishery, the model was unable to detect any estimated change in attainment. An average of five vessels have actively participated in period 5 and 8 vessels in period 6 from 2015-17, and few vessels have come close to the bimonthly limit in recent years. Therefore, the GMT believes that, even with additional higher trip limits for the OAS fishery, substantial increases in attainment are unlikely due to lower participation rates.

**Table 3: Projected landings, landing targets, and attainment by DTL sector and alternative for 2018.**

Sector	Alternative	Projected Landings (rd. wt. mt)	Landing Target (mt)	Attainment (%)
LEN	No Action	174.9-201.9	269	65-75.1%
	Alternative 1	193.6-224.3		71.9-83.4%
OAN	No Action	341-347.5	444	76.8-78.3%
	Alternative 1	396.4-405.7		89.3-91.4%
	Alternative 2	417.2-427.7		94-96.3%
	Alternative 3	439.3-451		98.9-101.6%

The GMT recommends the Council select Alternative 1 for LEN, Alternative 2 for OAN, and Alternative 2 for OAS.

### Bocaccio South of 40° 10' N. lat. Trip Limit

The GMT received an additional request to increase the bocaccio limited entry (LE) trip limit for the area between 40° 10' - 34° 27' N. lat. from 1,000 lbs/2 months to 1,500 lbs/2 months. Table 4 and Table 5 provide the status quo and proposed trip limit structure for bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat. The status quo trip limit of 1,000 lbs/2 months was the highest trip limit analyzed as part of the 2017-18 harvest specifications; however, at the time of that analysis, too few data were available to provide projected impacts, but it was assumed that it was similar to the 0.3 mt projected impact for previous 500 lbs/2 months trip limit (*Table 6*).

**Table 4: Status quo trip limits for bocaccio south of 40°10' N. lat.**

Sector	Area	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
LE	N 34 27'	1,000 lbs /2 months					
LE	S 34 27'	1,500 lbs /2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lbs / 2 months			
OA	S 40 10'	500 lbs / 2 months	CLOSED	500 lbs / 2 months			

**Table 5: Option 1 trip limits for bocaccio south of 40°10' N. lat.**

Sector	Area	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
LE	N 34 27'	1,000 lbs /2 months				1,500 lbs /2 months	1,500 lbs /2 months
LE	S 34 27'	1,500 lbs /2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lbs / 2 months			
OA	S 40 10'	500 lbs / 2 months	CLOSED	500 lbs / 2 months			

**Table 6: Projected impacts compared to the non-trawl allocation and annual catch limit (ACL).**

Option	Sector	Area	Mortality est.	LE + OA	Non-trawl Allocation	% Non-trawl Allocation	ACL	% ACL
Status Quo	LE	N 34 27'	0.4 <sup>a/</sup>	16.7	442.3	4%	741	2%
	LE	S 34 27'	5.9					
	OA	S 40 10'	10.4					
Option 1	LE	N 34 27'	0.4	16.7	442.3	4%	741	2%
	LE	S 34 27'	5.9					
	OA	S 40 10'	10.4					

a/ Estimate derived from updates to the trip limit model using 2016-2017 data.

The GMT notes the low attainment of bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat. in the commercial fixed gear sector, particularly in the LE fishery between 40° 10' - 34° 27' N. lat. The projected impacts from the Alternative 1 increase, for October through December, are less than 0.1 mt and the overall impact compared to the ACL remains at 2 percent, thus posing no risk to the ACL (*Table 6*). **Therefore, the GMT recommends Alternative 1, increasing the bocaccio LE trip limit for the area between 40° 10' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat. to 1,500 lbs/2 months.**

## Transfer of Pacific Ocean perch and darkblotched rockfish from the incidental open access and research off-the-top deductions into buffers

Pacific ocean perch (POP) and darkblotched rockfish are currently managed as sector-specific set-asides for the at-sea sectors. If the sectors were to exceed their set-asides plus the buffer (25 mt for POP; 50 mt for darkblotched rockfish), the sectors would be automatically closed. The GMT has extensively analyzed the impacts of moving POP and darkblotched rockfish from the incidental open access (IOA) and research off-the-top deductions to the at-sea sectors based on the criteria outlined at 50 CFR 660.60(c)(3)(2) ([Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report, April 2018](#), [Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, June 2017](#)). Most recently, the Council recommended moving 7 mt of POP from the IOA sector to the at-sea sectors (3.5 mt to the mothership (MS) sector, 3.5 mt to the catcher/processor [CP] sector) in 2017.

At-sea participants request in [Agenda Item J.10.a, Supplemental Public Comment 1, September 2018](#) to move any unused POP and darkblotched rockfish from the IOA and research categories into the buffer. Below, the GMT evaluates moving the additional unused set-asides from the IOA and research set-asides to the buffer using the allocation framework in the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

## Off-The-Top Deductions

### Pacific Ocean Perch

As shown in Attachment 1, the current set-aside for POP in the IOA sectors is 10 mt, which is based on the historical maximum since 2005, and in research is 5.2 mt, which is the maximum estimated potential mortality based on proposed research projects. Projected mortalities have been updated to 0.3 mt for the IOA sectors, based on the 2017 Groundfish Mortality report, and 5.2 mt for research, based on estimated maximum mortality ([Agenda Item I.1.b., NMFS NWFS Report 1, September 2018](#)). Table 7 below shows the historical mortality of POP in the pink shrimp, all IOA fisheries, and research activities from 2007-2017 (GEMM 2017).

**Table 7: POP mortality in pink shrimp fishery, total IOA, and research mortality (mt). Source: GEMM 2017**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Pink Shrimp (mt)</b>	<b>Total IOA (mt)</b>	<b>Research (mt)</b>
2007	0.15	0.20	0.60
2008	0.15	0.15	0.84
2009	0.47	0.48	2.73
2010	0.06	0.22	1.68
2011	0.56	0.59	1.94
2012	0.19	0.20	1.63
2013	0.23	0.24	2.14
2014*	10.04	10.04	0.57
2015	0.29	0.32	1.60
2016	0.03	0.06	3.10
2017	0.23	0.29	1.12
2018 set-aside	10		5.2

\*Concluded to be an anomalously high bycatch year due primarily to a substantial recruitment event ([Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report, April 2017](#))

The GMT also received an update from Dr. Jim Hastie from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) on the status of the trawl survey through Pass 1. Through Pass 1, the trawl survey has taken 4592.25 kg of POP or ~4.6 mt. A single haul accounted for almost 3.4 mt, which is more than the total in any year prior to 2005. Therefore, the GMT believes it is unlikely that no residual will remain in the research off-the-top deduction.

The GMT does, however, believe that 9.7 of the total 10 mt of the IOA allocation could remain and be transferred to the POP buffer, because the annual IOA sector mortality from 2015 to 2017 was 0.3 mt or less.

### Darkblotched Rockfish

The current set-aside for darkblotched rockfish in the IOA sectors is 24.5 mt, which is based on the historical maximum, with 6.8 mt of mortality projected, based on the 2017 Groundfish Mortality report. The set-aside and projected mortality for research is 2.5 mt, based on the maximum mortality estimate. Table 8 below shows the historical mortality of darkblotched rockfish in the pink shrimp, all IOA fisheries, and research activities from 2007-2017.

**Table 8: Darkblotched rockfish mortality in pink shrimp fishery, total IOA, and research mortality (mt). Source: GEMM 2017**

Year	Pink Shrimp (mt)	Total IOA (mt)	Research (mt)
2007	18.41	18.50	0.99
2008	12.19	12.22	1.13
2009	18.52	18.62	1.45
2010	12.50	12.56	1.02
2011	5.36	5.60	1.63
2012	4.96	5.03	1.74
2013	3.67	3.85	2.45
2014*	24.60	24.61	1.50
2015	5.23	5.29	8.01
2016	6.38	6.44	8.46
2017	6.05	6.82	1.67
2018 set-aside	24.5		2.5

\*Concluded to be an anomalously high bycatch year due primarily to a substantial recruitment event (Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report, April 2017)

The GMT learned that Pass 1 of the 2018 trawl survey caught 1.53 mt of darkblotched rockfish. The GMT, therefore, does not believe that residual darkblotched rockfish will be available to move from the research off-the-top deduction. For the IOA sector, the GMT estimates 17.7 mt of darkblotched rockfish will remain that could be transferred to the buffer. This is based on annual mortality from 2015-2017 being 6.8 mt or less, compared to the 24.5 mt set-aside in 2018.

#### Status of At-Sea Sectors

Table 9 below shows the mortality of POP, darkblotched rockfish, and whiting through September 5, 2018 and the percentage attainment of the allocations/set-asides.

**Table 9: At-Sea Bycatch Through September 5, 2018 for Sector-Specific Allocation/Set-Asides.**

Species	CP			MS		
	Catch (mt)	Allocation/c Set-Aside (mt)	Attainment (%)	Catch (mt)	Allocation/c Set-Aside (mt)	Attainment (%)
Darkblotched	11.76	16.7	70.42	7.27	11.8	61.61
POP	10.7	12.7	84.25	3.17	9	35.22
Whiting	52,256	123,312	42.38	39,170	87,044	45

Table 10 and Table 11 show the results of inseason bootstrap analysis using data through September 5, 2018, by sector for each species. As shown in Table POP, assuming full attainment in each sector, the CP sector is highly likely to exceed their POP set-aside (65.9 percent chance), while the MS sector has only an 8.5 percent chance of exceeding their set-aside POP value. Analyzing these sectors together, however, results in a 39 percent chance that they exceed their combined set-aside amounts and a less than one percent chance of these sectors exceeding the set-

aside values plus the buffer (46.7 mt). Importantly, the bootstrap analysis samples from all hauls between 2000-2017 with equal probability to predict catch in the remainder of 2018, and the overall abundance of POP may have been lower in the earlier years. Therefore, these bootstrap estimates may be biased low to an unknown degree.

**Table 10: Bootstrap results for POP by sector.**

Sector	Set-aside	0.1	0.25	0.5	0.75	0.95	0.9999
CP	12.7	11	11.7	14.3	17.9	29.9	53
MS	9	3.3	3.8	5	6.7	16.4	32.4

For reference, the shorebased IFQ sector has taken 32 percent of their 2018 POP quota (including carryover) and 68 percent of their whiting quota as of September 8, 2018. The shoreside sector was projected to take 22 percent of their 2018 POP quota for the year and 75 percent of their (2015 allocation) Pacific whiting ([2017-2018 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures](#)). Note that the 2015 total allowable catch (TAC) was the most recent TAC available for analysis at the time of the 2017-18 biennial analysis; the actual 2018 whiting TAC is 36 percent greater than that analyzed for the 2018 season.

For darkblotched rockfish, bootstrap analysis indicates that the CP sector has a 40.1 percent chance of exceeding their set-aside and the MS sector has a 32.3 percent chance. Analyzing the sectors together, there is a 42.9 percent chance of the sectors exceeding their combined set-asides (28.5 mt). No runs of the inseason simulation analyzing the sectors together resulted in exceedance of the set-aside plus the buffer (78.5 mt). The same caveat regarding bootstrap estimates for POP also apply to darkblotched rockfish.

**Table 11: Bootstrap results for darkblotched rockfish by sector.**

Sector	Set-aside	0.1	0.25	0.5	0.75	0.95	0.9999
CP	16.7	13.2	14	15.9	18.4	26.6	54.9
MS	11.8	7.7	8.7	10.6	12.5	15.2	24.4

While the risk of the at-sea sectors exceeding their combined set-asides and the buffer is low or negligible for both POP and darkblotched rockfish, the GMT does recognize that the Council will be making a risk call in moving additional fish from the IOA or research sectors to the buffer. If the Council does nothing at this meeting, there will likely not be enough notice in November to provide any relief if a sector were to close. As shown in Table 12 below, in 2016 and 2017, these sectors caught a small amount of whiting in November compared to the rest of the year and no whiting in December. The projected economic impact associated with a closure of the at-sea whiting sectors in November (when closure would most likely occur) are losses of approximately 200 jobs and \$14 million in personal income ([Agenda Item E.4, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 6, June 2018](#)).

**Table 12: Average catch (mt) of whiting by month during 2016 and 2017, which demonstrates that any inseason transfers adopted by Council in November would have limited value as it would become effective after the at-sea whiting fisheries have mostly concluded fishing.**

Sector	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CP	28,848	18,870	0	242	31,502	32,266	11,145	0
MS	12,535	15,258	3,552	2,533	11,675	19,015	1,165	0

### Considerations

As in 2015 and 2017, the GMT provides the following considerations for the Council in their decision making.

1. The risk of total mortality exceeding the IOA or research off-the-top deduction: The GMT believes that bycatch rates will continue to be lower in the IOA fishery in 2018, given the much lower estimates in all years except 2014. However, because the first pass of the survey has already attained 88.3 percent of the research set-aside, the entire research set-aside will likely be needed in 2018.
2. Fair and equitable distribution of the set-aside: As described under the Groundfish FMP considerations, the GMT believes, based on our projections, that there is a low likelihood that another sector may need access to the off-the-top deduction this year. The buffer would still be available to any sector.
3. Risk to the ACL: If the IOA or research activities were to exceed the off-the-top deductions, the GMT notes that exceeding the ACL remains a relatively low risk, given the low attainments in recent years (i.e., 44 percent in 2017 for POP and 37 percent for darkblotched rockfish; [Agenda Item I.1.b. NMFS NWFSC Report 1, September 2018](#)). Further, the 2018 IFQ fishery is once again tracking low, with approximately a third of both the POP and darkblotched rockfish allocations being taken to date, and less than 50 percent of the allocations being taken in earlier years. Additional residual from the non-trawl fisheries that have trivial impacts to either species will also be available.
4. Other constraints to fully attaining the whiting TAC: External factors may continue to contribute to less than full attainment of sector-specific whiting allocations. The US commercial sector allocation has increased substantially in recent years and was 147 percent higher in 2017 than the recent low in 2012. Excluding the historically anomalous 2015 season, CP sector attainment has remained at a relatively constant full attainment during these TAC increases. Shoreside and MS attainment have not kept pace, with 2017 shoreside sector catch at 85 percent of allocation, and MS catch at 69 percent. Processing capacity, season structure, and/or the availability of opportunities in substitute fisheries for catcher vessels may, to date, place an upper bound on attainment in these sectors.

### Recommendation

After discussing the information presented above, **the GMT does not recommend moving any fish from the research off-the-top deductions for either species given the high catch in the first pass of the trawl survey.** The GMT does not have a recommendation on transferring any fish from the IOA off-the-top deductions as ultimately the Council must make a risk call on the likelihood of the at-sea sector needing the additional buffer. However, if the Council did choose to move fish, we would suggest moving a maximum of 9.7 mt for POP and 17.7 mt for darkblotched rockfish from the IOA sector, which we project will go unused in 2018. We again



note there would be minimal risk to exceeding the ACLs if IOA mortality was higher than expected for reasons listed above.

## Status of Recreational Fisheries in Oregon and California

The GMT was briefed by the California and Oregon state representatives on the status of their recreational fisheries (Supplemental [ODFW Report 1](#), Supplemental [CDFW Report 1](#), [Report 2](#), [Report 3](#), September 2018). Similar to the 2017 season, the recreational fisheries in both states are experiencing higher than expected mortality for yelloweye rockfish. This has resulted in projected or actual impacts that are expected to exceed state specific harvest limits (*Table 13*).

**Table 13: No Action. Recreational yelloweye rockfish catch projections (mt) through the end of the year.**

State	Allocation	Projected Catch	Difference
WA	3.3	3.3	0.0
OR	3.0	3.4	0.4
CA	3.9	4.71	0.81

## Updated Yelloweye Rockfish Projections

The GMT updated the overfished species scorecard to reflect current projections for yelloweye rockfish (Attachment 1). This includes updates to off-the-top deductions (research, tribal, and IOA) and recreational sectors based on status quo season structures for Oregon and California recreational fisheries. This results in a 2.8 mt difference between the projected impacts and the 20 mt ACL for yelloweye rockfish in the scorecard. The GMT notes that higher than expected yelloweye impacts were reported in the 2017 Groundfish Mortality report for non-nearshore and nearshore sectors, however the projected impacts will remain relatively stable as they are based on multi-year grand means.

In addition to the status quo, CDFW and ODFW have both outlined inseason management actions to reduce the overages to yelloweye rockfish through the remainder of the season. Projected impacts from these inseason changes assume an October 1 implementation date.

ODFW proposal (Scenario 3) would restrict the recreational groundfish fishery to the area shoreward of 20 fathoms for the remainder of the season. Scenario 3 would reduce projected impacts for yelloweye rockfish by 0.1 mt compared to No Action (*Table 14*). As described in the ODFW report, the 20 fathom depth restriction would effectively shut out several ports that have no nearby reef structure inside of 20 fathoms.

In addition to management measures to address yelloweye rockfish, ODFW is proposing another option (Scenario 2) that would increase the daily marine fish bag limit from the current 4 fish to 5 fish. ODFW Scenario 2 would increase projected catch of black rockfish by approximately 3 mt but would result in an additional 0.1 mt yelloweye catch compared to No Action.

**Table 14: Yelloweye rockfish projected impacts (mt) under ODFW Scenarios.**

State	HG	Scenario 1 (No Action)	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
OR	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.3

CDFW is proposing three inseason management options to minimize impacts to yelloweye rockfish. Option 1 proposes to close the Northern Management Area (NMA) for the remainder of the season while all other management areas remain open at the current depth limit (as of the August 25, 2018 state inseason action). Option 2 proposes to close the NMA and bring all other management areas north of Point Conception in, to 20 fm, for the remainder of the year. Option 3 proposes to close the coastwide recreational groundfish fishery for the remainder of the season.

**Table 15: Yelloweye rockfish projected impacts (mt) under CDFW Options.**

State	HG	No Action	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
CA	3.9	4.71	4.49	4.3	4.16

### Risk to the ACL

The GMT examined projected yelloweye rockfish mortality under the management measure options proposed by ODFW and CDFW along with projections for the remaining fisheries to assess the risk to the ACL. A “Low Impact Scenario” assumes the Council adopts the most restrictive measures proposed for the Oregon and California recreational fisheries (California would close bottomfish, Oregon would move to 20 fm and not increase the bag limit) which would represent the lowest impacts possible and result in 3.3 mt of yelloweye rockfish residual in the scorecard ). A “Status Quo Scenario” assumes status quo season structure for Oregon and California recreational fisheries for the remainder of 2018 and would leave 2.8 mt of residual yelloweye rockfish in the scorecard). These scenarios are intended to provide the “bookends” of potential yelloweye rockfish impacts.

### Community needs

Given the progress toward rebuilding, increased encounters with yelloweye rockfish are unsurprising. The Council addressed similar problems with the rebuilding of canary rockfish the year prior to the stock being declared rebuilt. In the long run, increased abundance will provide expanded opportunity for recreational sectors, as discussed in the 2019-2020 Harvest Specifications and yelloweye rockfish rebuilding plan revisions. However, in the short run, constraining state harvest guidelines continue to restrict economic opportunity for recreational-dependent communities.

To date, recreational effort coastwide echoes the trends anticipated in the Appendix B yelloweye rockfish rebuilding plan analysis of the 2019-2020 Harvest Specifications. Salmon trips remain low relative to the five year averages, with effort spillover driving record high groundfish trips in Oregon (see *Table 16* effort below). With salmon and halibut trips not expected to increase during the rest of the year, action on yelloweye rockfish is the only avenue which could provide recreational fishing communities opportunity to maintain business operations.

**Table 16: Recreational effort by trip type by state 2013-2018**

		<b>Bottomfish</b>	<b>Halibut</b>	<b>Salmon</b>
Washington a\	2013-2017 Avg. through July	22,331	10,116	35,169
	2018 (through July)	27,342	13,054	19,827
Oregon b\	2013-2017 Avg. (through Aug)	80,312	17,237	48,964
	2018 (through August)	91,528	19,010	46,169
California c\	2013-2017 Avg. through June	338,832		32,080
	2018 (through June)	305,040		18,180

a\ Washington recreational seasons were open year round 2013 - 2016 and mid-March through mid-October in 2017 and 2018.

b\ Oregon recreational season are open year-round.

c\ California recreational seasons length differs between management areas and years during the time period.

### Council Action

When determining the course of action, the Council should consider the information presented by the states and GMT with regard to the residual in the scorecard, risk to the ACL, and needs of the fishing communities.

Given that recreational fisheries operate under “soft-cap” harvest guidelines, the Council can allow recreational fisheries to remain open even in light of catch that is projected to exceed state specific harvest guidelines, as long as enough residual remains in the scorecard to pose no risk to exceeding the ACL. There is no need, for example, for NMFS to reallocate unused IOA to recreational sectors as has been done in the past for the at-sea whiting sectors that operated under “hard-cap” allocations.

As a reminder, the state of Oregon can take action through state processes to make inseason changes to the recreational fishery, without conforming federal action. California can take action through state processes to make inseason changes but has typically relied upon modifications to the federal rule, either through Council action or the inseason process outside of a Council meeting, as described in the Groundfish FMP.

**The GMT recommends that the Council adopt a season structure alternative for the Oregon and California recreational fisheries based on the options proposed by CDFW and ODFW and GMT discussion above.** As this is ultimately a risk call by the Council in terms of the likelihood of exceeding the yelloweye rockfish ACL, the **GMT does not provide a specific season structure recommendation.**

### Incidental Halibut Retention in the Primary Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommended increasing the ratio of incidental halibut allowed in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis from 160 net lbs. halibut per 1,000 lbs. sablefish (plus 2) to 200 net lbs. halibut per 1,000 lbs. sablefish. Through September 11, 2018, incidental catch is 22,464 pounds (net weight) out of the 50,000 pound (net weight) allocation.

The increased halibut allowance would only be in place for approximately one month, as the primary fishery closes on October 31, and the GMT sees very little risk to the allocation given that only 45 percent of the allocation has been harvested. The proposed change to the ratio would give participants in the primary sablefish fishery the opportunity to take more halibut in a year that has been hampered by low sablefish prices. Additionally, the state of Washington tracks the fishery daily and can provide updates to NMFS and the International Pacific Halibut Commission if the limits begin to approach the allocation and notification of the fishery closure can be announced via the NMFS, West Coast Region halibut hotline.

**Therefore, the GMT recommends the Council increase the ratio of incidental halibut allowed in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis to 200 net lbs. halibut per 1,000 lbs. sablefish (plus 2).**

## Informational Items

### At-Sea

Table 17 and Table 18 below shows the catch in the at-sea whiting sectors through September 5, 2018 for selected species. As a reminder, darkblotched rockfish and POP are now managed as sector-specific set-asides, not allocations.

**Table 17: At-Sea Bycatch Through September 5, 2018 for Sector-Specific Allocation/Set-Asides.**

Species	CP			MS		
	Catch (mt)	Allocation/Set-Aside (mt)	Attainment (%)	Catch (mt)	Allocation/Set-Aside (mt)	Attainment (%)
Canary	0.38	16	2.38	2.96	30	9.87
Darkblotched	11.76	16.7	70.42	7.27	11.8	61.61
POP	10.7	12.7	84.25	3.17	9	35.22
Widow	27.58	384.8	7.17	43.78	271.6	16.12
Whiting	52,256	123,312	42.38	39,170	87,044	45
Chinook a/	153			159		

a/ Numbers of fish, not mt

**Table 18: Selected Species Bycatch (mt) in the At-Sea Sectors.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>MS</b>	<b>Total Catch</b>	<b>Total set-aside</b>
Sablefish N	21.47	9.22	30.69	50
Minor Slope RF N a/	63.59	2.16	65.75	100

a/Over 60 mt of the minor slope rockfish north catch was comprised of roughey rockfish.

### Overfished Species Scorecard

Attachment 1 shows the most up-to-date overfished species scorecard. Updates from June include research, incidental open access estimates from the Groundfish Mortality report, and updates from the non-nearshore and at-sea bootstrap models.

### Recommendations

The GMT recommends:

1. **The Council select Alternative 1 for the LEN (1,400 lbs/wk, not to exceed 4,200 lb/2 mo), Alternative 2 for the OAN (300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,400 lbs, not to exceed 2,800 lbs/2 mo), and Alternative 2 for the OAS (300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lbs, not to exceed 4,800 lbs/2 mo).**
2. **The Council select Alternative 1, increasing the bocaccio LE trip limit for the area between 34 27'-40 10' to 1,500 lbs/ 2 months.**
3. **Moving a maximum of 9.7 mt for POP and 17.7 mt for darkblotched rockfish from the IOA sector if the Council does choose to move fish from the IOA off-the-top deduction into the buffer.**
4. **Not moving any fish from the research off-the-top deductions for either species given the high catch in the first pass of the trawl survey.**
5. **Increasing the ratio of incidental halibut allowed in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis to 200 net lbs. halibut per 1,000 lbs. sablefish (plus 2).**
6. **The Council adopt a season structure alternative for the Oregon and California recreational fisheries based on the options proposed by CDFW and ODFW and GMT discussion above.**

PFMC  
09/11/18

**Attachment 1. Allocations<sup>a</sup> and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2018.**

<i>Date</i> : 9/11/2018	Bocaccio b/		Cowcod b/		Dkbl		POP		Yelloweye	
	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts
<b>Off the Top Deductions</b>	15.4	16.8	2.0	2.0	77.3	9.6	49.4	14.7	6.0	3.6
Additional Buffer					50.0		25.0			
EFPc/	10.0	10.0	0.015	0.015	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.03	0.02
Research d/	4.6	4.6	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.5	5.2	5.2	3.3	2.2
Incidental OA e/	0.8	2.2	0.03	0.16	24.5	6.8	10.0	0.3	0.4	0.7
Tribal f/					0.2	0.2	9.2	9.2	2.3	0.6
Bottom Trawl					0.2	0.0	2.0	2.0		0.0
Troll					0.0					0.0
Fixed gear					0.0				2.3	0.6
mid-water					0.0					0.0
whiting						0.2	7.2	7.2		
<b>Trawl Allocations</b>	283.3	86.9	1.4	0.2	546.9	163.4	220.0	63.4	1.1	0.1
-SB Trawl	283.3	86.9	1.4	0.2	518.4	136.9	198.3	44.1	1.1	0.1
-At-Sea Trawl					28.5	26.5	21.7	19.3	0.0	0.0
a) At-sea whiting MS					11.8	10.6	9.0	5.0		
b) At-sea whiting CP					16.7	15.9	12.7	14.3		
<b>Non-Trawl Allocation</b>	442.3	202.1	2.6	2.2	28.8	6.1	11.6	0.7	12.9	13.6
Non-Nearshore	135.1	16.6		0.0		5.9		0.7	0.7	0.8
LE FG		6.2				5.0		0.6		
OA FG		10.4				0.9		0.1		
Directed OA: Nearshore	1.7	0.6		0.0		0.2		0.0	2.0	1.4
Recreational Groundfish										
WA						--		--	3.3	3.3
OR						--		--	3.0	3.4
CA	305.5	184.9		2.2		--		--	3.9	4.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	741.0	305.8	6.0	4.4	653.0	179.2	281.0	78.8	20.0	17.2
<b>2018 Harvest Specification</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Difference</b>	0.0	435.2	4.0	5.6	0.0	473.9	0.0	202.2	0.0	2.8
<b>Percent of ACL</b>	100.0%	41.3%	60.2%	43.9%	100.0%	27.4%	100.0%	28.0%	100.0%	86.2%
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 2b and 2e. 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 17-18 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 2017-2018 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.