

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FINAL INSEASON
MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING SHOREBASED CARRYOVER AND SALMON CAPS FOR
MIDWATER TRAWLEXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFP)

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. Melissa Mandrup. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

California Recreational Lingcod Bag Limits

The California south of 40° 10' N. latitude. lingcod stock assessment process was atypical, initially resulting in lower harvest guidelines. Given those guidelines, the Council recommended a reduction of both open access trip limits and recreational bag limits south of the 40° 10' line. The assessment was subsequently updated, resulting in somewhat higher harvest guideline (HG) values closer to those needed to support retaining the previously existing trip limits and recreational daily bag limits.

The GAP discussed the [Supplemental CDFW Report 1](#) which evaluated catch projections against the 2019 non-trawl allocations. Those updated catch projections suggest that under status quo regulations the non-trawl attainment will be well under the 2019 non-trawl allocations.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife also modeled projected 2019 non-trawl impacts under a scenario that increased fishing opportunities for both recreational and commercial fixed gear sectors. Those model projections suggest there is ample room to accommodate increased bag limits for recreational fishermen as well as increased trip limits for the fixed gear sectors. The GAP notes there was considerable discussion within the recreational user representatives with respect to non-trawl. California Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) operators feel strongly that management should prioritize long term continued access to lingcod over short term higher harvest rates.

The GAP supports the GMT recommendation to increase the California recreational bag limit for lingcod from the current one fish bag to a two fish lingcod bag limit, to be implemented as soon as is possible.

Open Access (OA) Fixed Gear Lingcod South of 40°10' N. Latitude

Current trip limit: 300 lb per month

Referencing Supplemental GMT Report 1, Table 3, the GAP supports the GMT recommendation of **Option 1, which would increase the OA lingcod trip limit to 500 lb per month for the remainder of 2019**, to be implemented as soon as is possible.

Limited Entry (LE) Fixed Gear Lingcod South of 40° 10' N. Latitude

Referencing Supplemental GMT Report 1, Table 3, the GAP supports the GMT recommendation of **Option 1, which would increase the LE lingcod trip limit to 1,200/2 months for the remainder of 2019**, to be implemented as soon as possible.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Blackgill Rockfish South of 40° 10' N Latitude

Current trip limit: 40,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,375 lb may be blackgill rockfish

LE fixed gear fishermen targeting slope rockfish, sablefish and shortspine thornyheads have been hindered by blackgill bycatch for years due mainly to very small trip limits. The 2017 blackgill update assessment projected the stock to be above T target of B/0 by 2018 resulting in a much larger HG of blackgill in 2019. Industry has requested an increase in trip limits to be implemented as soon as is possible. Working from the GMT Supplemental Report 1, Table 6, the GAP supports Alternative 3 **“40,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 4,000 lb may be blackgill rockfish.”**

Open Access Fixed Gear Blackgill Rockfish South of 40° 10' N. Latitude

Current trip limit: 10,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 475 lb may be blackgill rockfish

OA fixed gear fishermen targeting slope rockfish have requested an increase in blackgill rockfish trip limits to account for bycatch. Working from GMT Supplemental Report 1, Table 6, the GAP supports Alternative 1 **“10,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 800 lb may be blackgill rockfish.”**

Salmon Caps for Midwater Trawl Exempted Fishing Permits

Chinook catch in the midwater rockfish fishery continues to remain low in 2019. The GAP recommends we continue with the existing exempted fishing permit (EFP) salmon caps for all EFP trips of 1,000 fish for Chinook salmon caught north of 42° N. latitude and 100 fish for Chinook salmon caught south of 42° N. latitude.

SFCFA (Emley-Platt) EFP-Lingcod EFP Catch Limit for South of 40° 10' N. Latitude

The GAP supports the GMT recommendation to allocate a portion (1.0 mt) of the research off the top ACL deduction along with 0.5 mt from the Incidental Open Access to accommodate an EFP catch limit for lingcod south of 40° 10' N. latitude.

PFMC
04/15/19