

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON INSEASON
ADJUSTMENTS TO FISHERIES IN 2020 DUE TO COVID-19

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) understands that at this meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) may consider routine inseason groundfish management actions intended to provide assistance to fishing communities suffering severe economic impacts due to the emergent COVID-19 situation, and appreciates this opportunity. Affected stakeholders have contacted ODFW with concerns about the devastating effects of the loss of some portions of their fishing portfolios for an uncertain period of time in 2020, with substantial, and potentially lasting impacts, and requests for opportunity and/or flexibility in ongoing fisheries that could help offset those impacts.

In response to those requests, ODFW notes that some of the limited entry and open access fixed gear trip limit increases already developed and analyzed for groundfish management in 2021-2022 could provide some of the desired opportunity, if implemented early. A select number of trip limit proposals with the greatest potential to provide immediate benefit are identified in Agenda Item G.8.a Supplemental CDFW/ODFW Report 1. That report combines trip limit proposals of a similar nature from ODFW and CDFW in order to facilitate discussion and analysis.

The joint report also describes potential adjustments to the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area both north and south of 40°10' N. lat. that would provide improved access to those stocks proposed for inseason trip limit increases.

ODFW understands that the late presentation of these requests poses a challenge for consideration by the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public. On behalf of our stakeholders, we appreciate the collective efforts to understand and respond to the rapidly changing situation, and welcome all input on these proposals, in order to best inform potential recommendation from the Council on inseason action at this time.