

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS – FINAL ACTION

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

Sablefish Daily-Trip-Limit (DTL)

Due to very tough market conditions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, fixed gear sablefish landings have been tracking quite low to date, thus, there is an opportunity to increase the DTLs for both limited entry and open access fixed gear in the north. For those fishermen that have a buyer willing to purchase their sablefish, a trip limit increase would be greatly beneficial. Working from D.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, the GAP recommends the following:

Open Access DTL Fixed Gear Sablefish North of 36° N. Latitude

Current 2020 trip limits: 300 lbs./day or one landing per week up to 1,500 lbs., not to exceed 3,000 lbs./2 months.

The GAP supports GMT **Alternative 1**: 600 lbs./day or one landing per week 2,000 lbs., not to exceed 4,000 lbs./2 months.

Limited Entry DTL Fixed Gear Sablefish North of 36° N Latitude

Current 2020 trip limits: 1,500 lbs./week, not to exceed 4,500 lbs./2 months.

The GAP supports GMT **Alternative 1**: 2,500 lbs./week, not to exceed 7,500 lbs./2 months.

Pacific Halibut

The GAP was informed that the sablefish fishery tiered program that operates to the north of Pt. Chehalis and is currently allowed 200 lbs. of halibut to be delivered with 1,000 lbs. of dressed sablefish plus two fish, has currently landed about 29,000 lbs. of halibut. The allocation for this fishery is 70,000 lbs. of halibut. The GAP recommends that the Council advise National Marine Fisheries Service this number should be increased in order to harvest the assigned allocation. The GAP recommends consideration of 250 lbs. per 1000 lbs. of dressed sablefish plus two fish, with this change made effective as quickly as possible to allow the greatest opportunity before the close of the primary sablefish season on October 31.

The GAP notes that should the sablefish tier fishery season be extended beyond October 31 through an emergency rule under the forthcoming groundfish Agenda Item D7, we do not support extending the halibut retention limits for the fishery beyond October 31, 2020. Therefore, halibut retention after October 31 would be prohibited.

PFMC
09/16/20