

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2020 AND 2021 INCLUDING
PACIFIC WHITING SET ASIDES FOR 2021 – 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.

INSEASON ACTION ITEMS FOR 2020

There were no inseason requests for the remainder of the 2020 fishing season.

INSEASON ACTION ITEMS FOR 2021

The following inseason adjustments are anticipated to be implemented on January 1, 2021 – coinciding with the 2021-2022 biennial harvest specifications and management measures package. However, these inseason adjustments would supersede the trip limits contained in the biennial specifications.

Sablefish Daily-Trip-Limit (DTL) Fishery

Due to poor market conditions associated with the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, fixed gear sablefish landings have been tracking quite low to date and catches are expected to continue below normal well into 2021. Industry has requested increasing the DTLs for open access and limited entry fixed gear where possible both north and south. For those fishermen that have a buyer willing to purchase their sablefish, a trip limit increase would be greatly beneficial. Working from the G.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, the GAP recommends the following:

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

Proposed Rule 2021-22 trip limits: 300 lbs. daily/or 1 landing per week of up to 1,400 lbs., not to exceed 2,800 lbs./2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Table 1, Option 1**: 600 lbs. daily/or 1 landing per week of up to 2,000 lbs., not to exceed 4,000 lbs./2 months

Open Access Fixed Gear Sablefish South of 36° N. Latitude

Proposed Rule 2021-22 trip limits: 1,600 lbs. per week, not to exceed 4,800 lbs./2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Table 3, Option 1**: 2,000 lbs. per week, not to exceed 6,000 lbs./2 months

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish South of 36° N. Latitude

Proposed Rule 2021-22 trip limits: 2,000 lbs. per week

The GAP supports GMT **Table 3, Option 1**: 2,500 lbs. per week

Commercial Fixed Gear Lingcod South of 40° 10' N. Latitude

Landings of fixed gear lingcod continue to track quite low, likely due at least in part to the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on the market. There is an opportunity to increase the lingcod trip limits which could benefit those fishermen that have a willing buyer. The GAP suggests we remain somewhat cautious on choosing an option for 2021 as we will be opening commercial fixed gear fishing in period 2 for the first time in 20 years. Again, working from the supplemental GMT report 1, the GAP recommends the following:

Open Access Fixed Gear Lingcod Trip Limits South of 40° 10' N. Lat.

Proposed Rule 2021-22 trip limits: 500 lbs./ month

The GAP supports GMT **Table 5, Option 1**: 700 lbs./month

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Lingcod Trip Limits South of 40° 10' N. Lat.

Proposed Rule 2021-22 trip limits: 1,200 lbs./2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Table 5, Option 1**: 1,600 lbs./2 months

Open Access Fixed Gear Shortspine and Longspine Thornyhead South of 34° 27' N. Latitude

The GAP supports a slight increase in the open access shortspine and longspine thornyhead trip limits south of 34° 27' N. latitude to help reduce regulatory discards in the directed sablefish fishery.

Proposed Rule 2021-2022 trip limits: 50 lbs./day, no more than 1,000 lbs./2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Table 7, Option 1**: 100 lbs./day, no more than 1,000 lbs./2 months

Pacific Whiting Set-Asides

The Council is scheduled to adopt yield set-asides to accommodate the incidental mortality of Pacific whiting in 2021 research activities and in the pink shrimp fishery. The GAP recommends selecting a value of 750 mt of Pacific whiting for the 2021 research and pink shrimp set-asides. This value would more closely reflect the realistic research and pink shrimp needs, based on the five-year average mortality of 599 mt (2015-2019), plus a buffer for uncertainty.

Table 1. Five-Year Historical Mortality of Pacific Whiting in Research Activities and the Pink Shrimp Fishery

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average
Research	12	654	84	14	18	156
Pink Shrimp	1,157	521	375	119	39	442
Total	1,169	1,175	459	133	57	599

PFMC
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