

**GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
 INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS – FINAL ACTION**

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the current status of groundfish fisheries, requests from industry, and any needs for inseason adjustments during the June 2021 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting.

**Action Item**

Canary rockfish - Open Access North of 40° 10' N lat. trip limit

The GMT received a request from a California fisherman to increase the Open Access (OA) canary rockfish north of 40° 10' N lat. trip limit from 1,000 lbs. per 2 months to 1,500 lbs. per 2 months. The rationale for the request was to reduce regulatory discarding as the weather improves over summer months and effort increases. This is especially of concern in the newly reopened area between 30 and 40 fathoms, where industry has reported large numbers of canary rockfish. The current trip limit for yellowtail rockfish is 1,500 lbs. monthly and for widow rockfish is 2,000 lbs. per 2 months.

As a reminder, canary rockfish is a coastwide stock with harvest guidelines (HG) for the fisheries that operate in the non-trawl sector. For the 2021-22 biennium, Council preferred to combine the HGs for the commercial nearshore and non-nearshore fisheries, providing the commercial sector an HG of 126 mt. Table 1 shows the canary rockfish HGs for 2021-22 as seen in Table 4-17 of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery 2021-2022 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Analytical Document organized as a Draft Environmental Assessment Chapters 1-5 (hereafter referred to as the 2021-22 Analytical Document; [Agenda Item F.1. Attachment 8, June 2020](#)).

**Table 1. Canary rockfish adopted non-trawl HGs (mt) for 2021 and 2022.**

Sector	2021	2022
Non-Trawl Allocation	351.6	343.1
Nearshore HG	126.6	123.5
Non-nearshore HG		
WA Recreational HG	43.3	42.2
OR Recreational HG	64.1	63.5
CA Recreational HG	116.7	113.9

All canary rockfish trip limits (Limited Entry [LE] and OA, north and south of 40° 10' N. lat.) that went into effect January 1, 2021, had a combined estimated mortality projection of 75 mt of the 126.6 mt HG, as seen in Table 4-100 of the 2021-22 Analytical Document. To-date, commercial non-trawl landings of canary rockfish are tracking higher than January through June of 2020, and the average January through June landings from 2017-2019.

**Table 2. Status quo trip limits for canary rockfish and associated estimated mortality to-date, compared to the commercial non-trawl HG. Status quo trip limits for LE north of 40° 10' N. lat., LE south of 40° 10' N. lat., and OA south of 40° 10' N. lat. are shown for context.**

Fishery	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul- Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec	Coastwide est. mort. (mt)	HG (mt)	% of HG
LEFG N	3,000 lbs. / 2 months						31.0	126.6	24.5%
OA N	1,000 lbs. / 2 months								
LEFG S	3,500 lbs. / 2 months								
OA S	1,500 lbs. / 2 months								

Current projections show the commercial non-trawl fisheries at 24.5 percent of the HG through June 2021 (Table 2). Additionally, the Council chose to increase the canary rockfish trip limit in the OA fishery north of 40° 10' N. lat. from 300 lbs. per 2 months to 1,000 lbs. per 2 months as part of the 2021-22 harvest specifications and management measures package. With a January 1, 2021 implementation date for the current trip limit, discard data is not yet available to determine whether vessels are reaching the 1,000 lbs. limit and whether there is a need for additional opportunity beyond the newly implemented increase. Therefore, **the GMT does not recommend increasing the canary rockfish trip limit for the OA fishery north of 40° 10' N. lat.**

The GAP inquired about the interactions of canary rockfish with other nearshore stocks. Due to time and other high priority agenda items, the GMT did not analyze the full extent of the interactions, but a preliminary look confirmed vessels that landed canary rockfish sometimes also landed nearshore stocks on the same trip. The GMT notes that the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program groundfish expanded multi-year mortality report includes total mortality estimates for canary rockfish in the nearshore fishery.

## Informational Items

### Sablefish Daily-Trip-Limit

In Appendix 1, the GMT provides 2021 landings projections for the Limited Entry North of 36° N. lat. (LEN), Open Access North of 36° N. lat. (OAN), and Limited Entry South of 36° N. lat. (LES) sectors in the sablefish Daily-Trip-Limit (DTL) fishery compared to each sector's 2021 landed share (target). Projections for the Open Access fishery South of 36° N. lat. (OAS) are not provided because fewer than 27 mt have been landed annually since 2017, with a range of 1-6 percent attainment of the target during that time. As of June 23rd, the OAS sector's landings are tracking higher than those of 2020 but lower than those of the prior three years (Figure OAS, Appendix 1). All four sectors are on track to remain within their respective 2021 targets. **The GMT requests input from the Council on whether inseason updates of the Sablefish DTL fishery are helpful when there are no requests to adjust trip limits, and whether they should be included in future reports.**

### Chinook Salmon Scorecard

Table 3 shows Chinook salmon catches from groundfish fisheries and exempted fishing permits (EFPs) as of June 26, 2021, in relation to the sector thresholds. Table 4 shows the breakdown of catches from the EFPs.

**Table 3. Chinook salmon catch (individuals) in 2021 as of June 26, 2021 in relation to the sector thresholds (Source =PacFIN IFQ521 Combined Sector Salmon Bycatch ESA Report).**

Sector <sup>a/</sup>	Sub-Sector	Catch To Date	% of Threshold	Total Threshold
Whiting	CP	60	0.5%	<b>11,000</b>
	MS	41	0.4%	
	Shoreside	38	0.3%	
	Tribal	560 b/	5.1%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	
Non-Whiting	Bottom Trawl	291	5.3%	<b>5,500</b>
	Midwater Trawl	29	0.5%	
	Tribal	25 b/	0.5%	
	Fixed Gear	500 c/	9.1%	
	WA Rec			
	OR Rec + longleader			
	CA Rec			
<b>Total</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>15.4%</b>		
All groundfish fisheries & EFPs		1,544		

a/ Also, there is a reserve of 3,500 fish, in addition to the number of fish in the whiting and non-whiting thresholds.

b/Current year tribal landings are estimated as the maximum of the historic landings for the last 5 years.

c/ GMT proposed assumption of annual mortality, which assumed maximum historical mortality (154) plus a 250 fish buffer from the 2017 BiOp and an additional 96 fish to account for some uncertainty in recreational salmon seasons; recreational estimates only apply to groundfish fisheries occurring outside of salmon seasons.

**Table 4. Chinook and coho salmon catch in 2021 EFPs (Source: NMFS WCR on 21 June 2021). These EFP values are included in the sector totals in Table 3 above.**

Gear	Region	Vessels	Trips	Chinook Count	Unid. Salmon Count	Coho Count	Groundfish Weight (lbs.)	Groundfish Revenue
Bottom Trawl	N of 42°	6	23	11	0	1	1,498,815	\$ 804,562
Midwater Trawl	N & S of 42° combined a/	13	103	28	0	3	10,412,036	\$ 2,310,890

a/ Due to the limited number of participants in one area, both north and south of 42° N. lat. are combined to retain confidentiality.

### Shortbelly Rockfish Scorecard

Table 5 estimates that 146.6 mt of shortbelly rockfish has been taken as of June 26, 2021. The GMT notes that shortbelly rockfish is once again available on the public groundfish scorecard (Report GMT007) on the [PacFIN Reports Dashboard](#). **Since the data is publicly available, the GMT requests guidance from the Council on continued inclusion of this table in future inseason reports.**

**Table 5. Estimated mortality of shortbelly rockfish by sector, as of June 26, 2021. (Source PacFIN)**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Estimated Mortality (mt)</b>
At-Sea Hake Catcher Processor	*
At-Sea Hake Mothership	54.5
IFQ	19.9
Incidental/Miscellaneous	-
Shoreside Hake	63.5
Treaty	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>146.6</b>

\* Indicates confidential

### **Rebuilding Species Scorecard**

Appendix 2 shows 2021 rebuilding species scorecard for yelloweye rockfish. No updates since the April 2021 meeting.

## Appendix 1. 2021 Cumulative Landings Projections for the Sablefish Daily-Trip-Limit Fishery North and South of 36° N. lat.

Figures 1 through 3 display the 2021 cumulative landings projections for the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) and open access (OA) sablefish daily-trip-limit fishery north and south of 36° N. lat. Dashed lines represent actual 2021 cumulative landings as of June 24th.

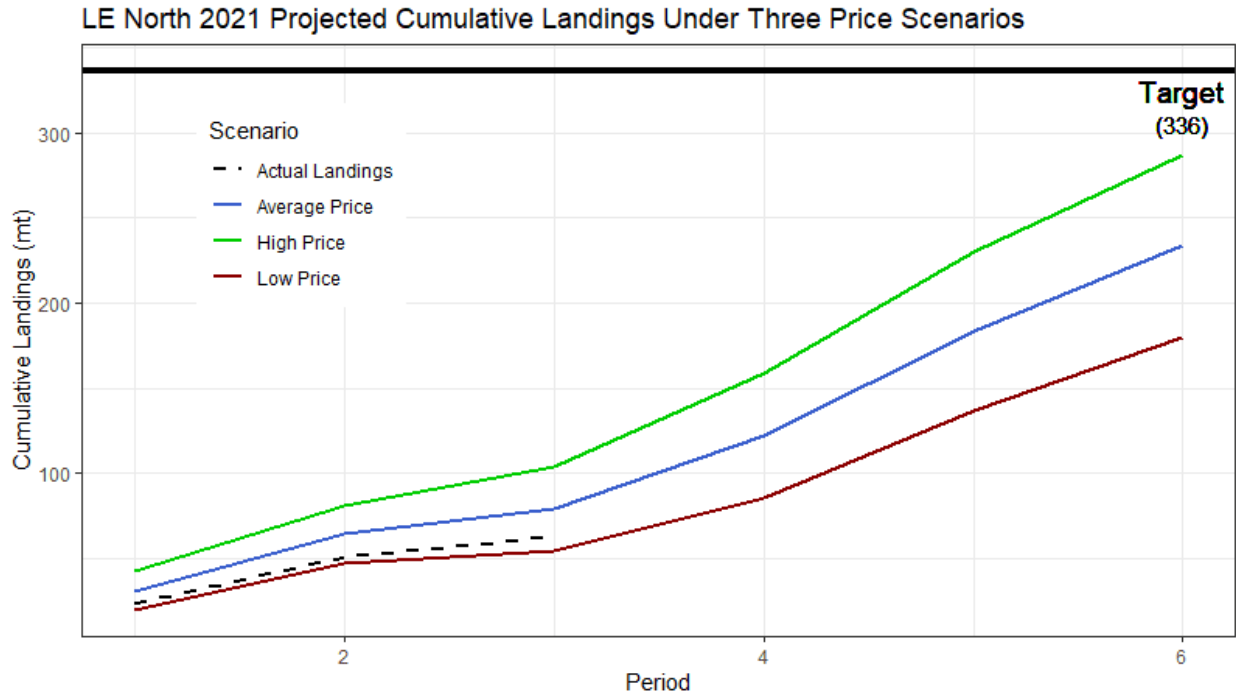
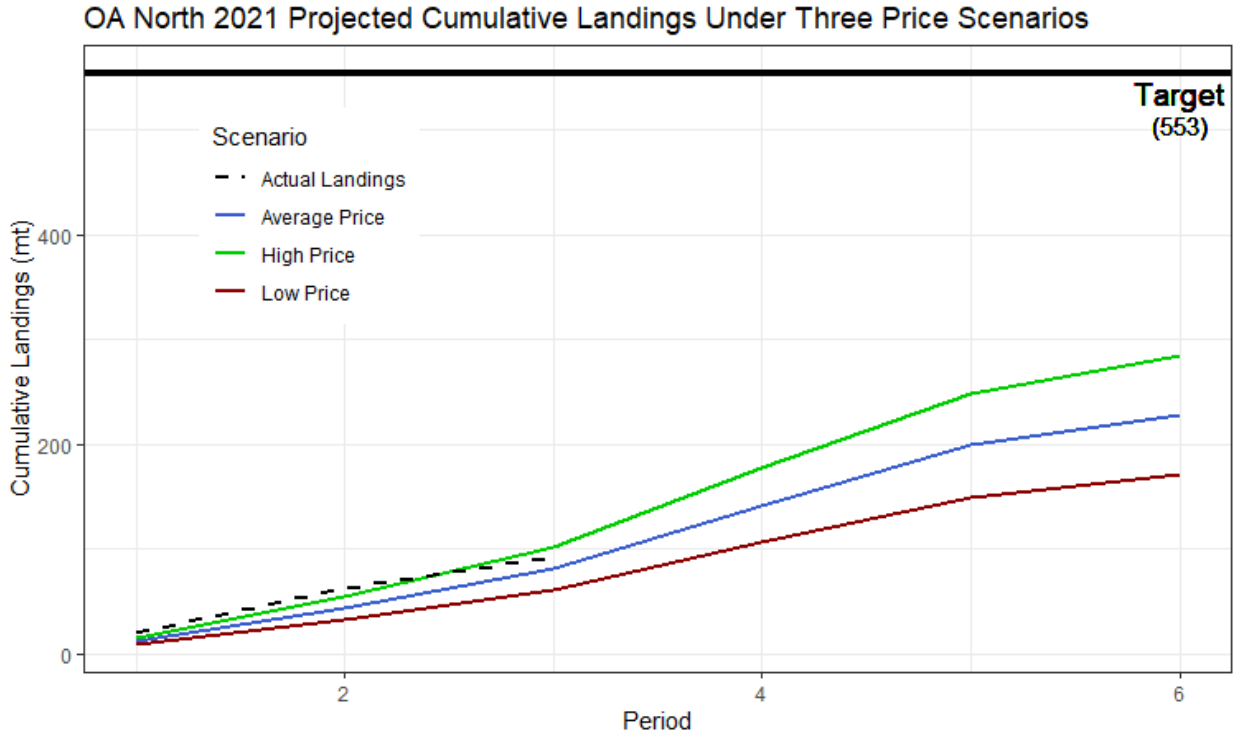
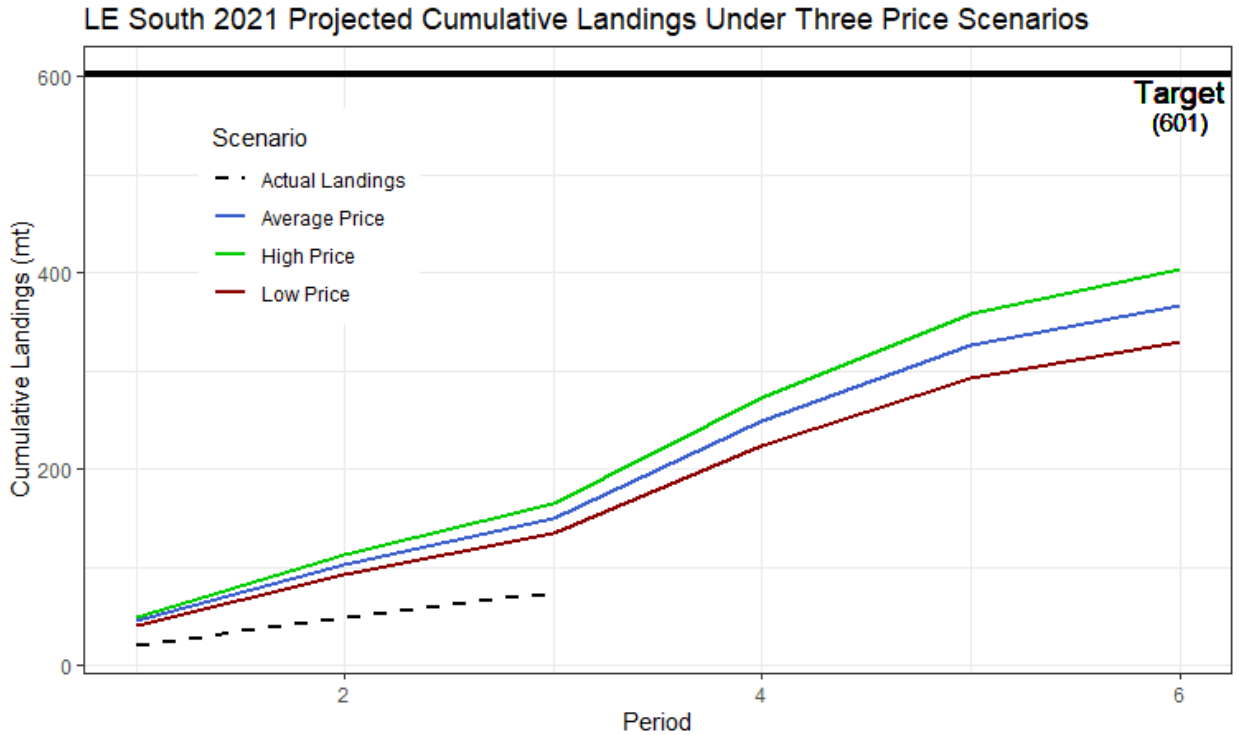


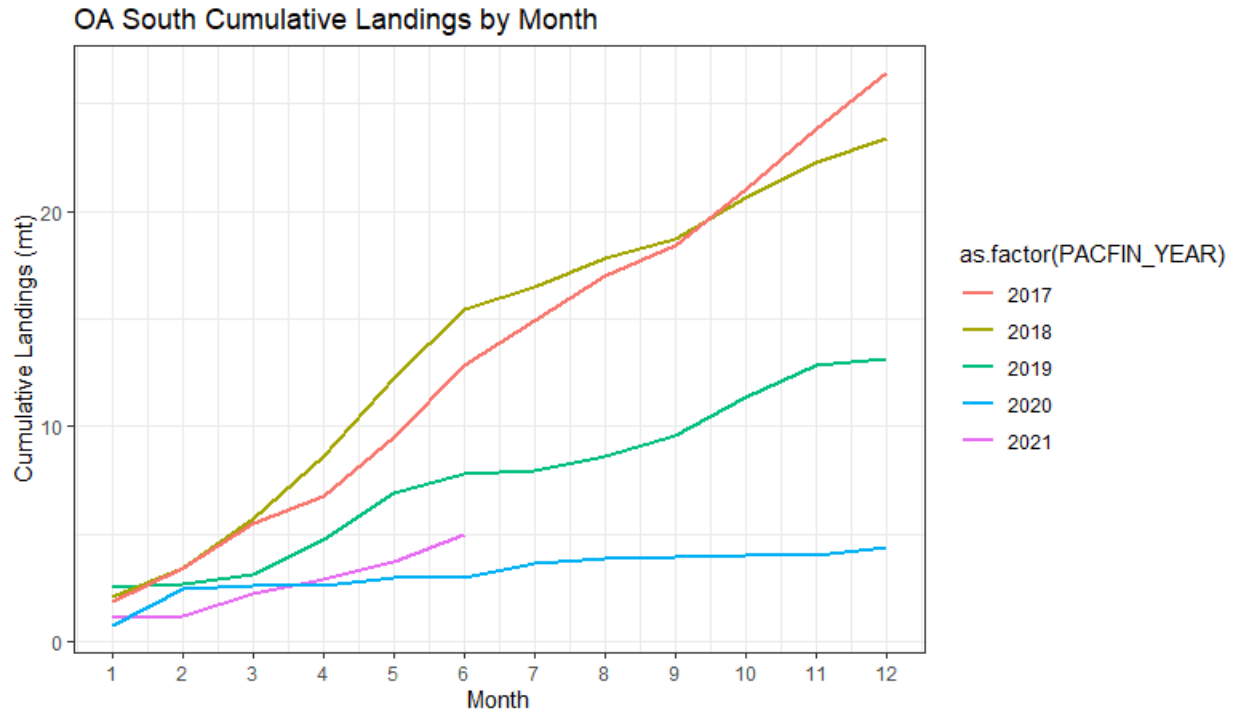
Figure 1. 2021 Cumulative Landings Projections for the LEFG Sablefish Daily Trip Limit Fishery North of 36° N. lat.



**Figure 2. 2021 Cumulative Landings Projections for the OA Sablefish Daily Trip Limit Fishery North of 36° N. lat.**



**Figure 3. 2021 Cumulative Landings Projections for the LEFG Sablefish Daily Trip Limit Fishery South of 36° N. lat.**



**Figure 4. Cumulative landings by month for the OA Sablefish Daily Trip Limit fishery South of 36° N. lat.**

## Appendix 2. Rebuilding Species Scorecard

Appendix 2 shows the updated 2021 rebuilding species scorecard for yelloweye rockfish.

Fishery	Yelloweye		
	HG Allocations a/	ACT Allocations a/	Projected Impacts f/
<b>Date: June 26, 2021</b>			
<b>Off the Top Deductions</b>	8.85	8.85	16.0
EFP b/	0.24	0.24	0.02
Research c/	2.9	2.92	2.9
Incidental OA d/	0.69	0.69	8.04
Tribal e/	5.0	5.0	5.0
Bottom Trawl			0.0
Troll			0.0
Fixed gear	5.0	5.0	5.0
mid-water			0.0
whiting			
<b>Trawl Allocations</b>	3.3	3.3	0.6
<b>-SB Trawl</b>	3.3	3.3	0.6
<b>-At-Sea Trawl</b>	0.0		0.0
<b>a) At-sea whiting MS</b>			
<b>b) At-sea whiting CP</b>			
<b>Non-Trawl Allocation</b>	37.9	29.5	23.6
Non-Nearshore			
LE FG	7.8	6.2	3.9
OA FG			
Directed OA: Nearshore			
Recreational Groundfish			
WA	9.7	7.5	5.7
OR	8.8	6.9	5.5
CA	11.4	8.9	8.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	50.1	41.7	40.2
<b>Harvest Specification</b>	50	41.7	41.7
<b>Difference</b>	0.0	0.1	1.5
<b>Percent of ACL</b>	100.1%	99.9%	96.4%
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 1b and 1e. The other values in the allocation columns are 1) off the top deductions, 2) set asides from the trawl allocation 3) ad-hoc allocations recommended in the 2021-2022 EIS process, 4) HG for the recreational fisheries for yelloweye rockfish.

b/ EFPs are amounts set aside to accommodate anticipated applications. Values in this table represent the estimates provided by the applicants and approved by the Council, which are currently specified in regulation.

c/ Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.

d/ The GMT's best estimate of impacts as analyzed in the 2021-2022 Environmental Impact Statement, which are currently specified in regulation.

e/ Tribal values in the allocation column represent the values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.

f/ taken from Agenda Item F.1.Attachment 8, June 2020, draft analytical document.