

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS INCLUDING PACIFIC WHITING
SET-ASIDES FOR 2022 – 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, Ms. Whitney Roberts, and Ms. Katie Pierson. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

2022 LINGCOD TRIP LIMITS

The fixed gear industry had requested an increase in the lingcod trip limits north of 42° N. latitude for the remainder of 2021 and wish to continue those trip limits for the 2022 season. Fixed gear fishermen have noted that most of their entire allocation of lingcod has been taken during the first two weeks of the fishing period, thus has led to regulatory discards of lingcod. The GMT analysis suggests bycatch of yelloweye would increase only slightly with increased trip limits of lingcod in the area north of 42° N. latitude. Working from the supplemental GMT Report 1, the GAP recommends the following:

Open Access Fixed Gear Lingcod North of 42° N. Latitude

Status Quo trip limits: 2,000 lb./month

The GAP supports GMT **Option 1**: Increase to 2,500 lb./month as soon as possible in 2022

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Lingcod North of 42° N. Latitude

Status Quo trip limit: 4,000 lb./2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Option 1**: Increase to 5,000 lb./2 months as soon as possible in 2022

SABLEFISH DAILY TRIP LIMIT (DTL) FOR 2022

At the September Council meeting, the DTLs were increased substantially for both OA and LE fixed gear fleets for the remainder of the 2021 fishing season. Those final 2021 trip limits are not sustainable for carrying over to start the 2022 season, thus adjustments need to be made at this meeting. Working from the supplemental GMT Report 1, table 1, the GAP recommends the following:

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

Status Quo trip limits: 600 lb./day or one landing per week up to 3,000 lb., not to exceed 6,000 lb./2 months

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

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

Status Quo trip limits: 4,500 lb./week, not to exceed 9,000 lb./2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Option 1**: 2,400 lb./week, not to exceed 4,800 lb./2 months

Open Access Thornyheads N. of 34° 27' N. Latitude

Open access fixed gear fishermen north of 34° 27' N. latitude requested a trip limit increase for shortspine thornyheads for 2022. A new trip limit increase was just implemented at the start of this year and the GMT needs more time to better analyze the impacts of that new trip limit. No increase is supported at this time.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Recommendations for 2022 Fisheries

The GAP reviewed Supplemental CDFW Report 2 regarding inseason adjustments for the 2022 fishing season. The GAP was quite impressed with the in-depth analysis contained within this document as it relates to copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermilion rockfish. The report suggests several different options for industry to consider to better achieve reductions in total mortality of copper, quillback, and vermilion rockfishes in 2022. The GAP notes these species of concern will be closely monitored inseason and that adjustments in management measures can and will be implemented inseason should catch projections exceed harvest limits.

Working from the CDFW Supplemental Report 2, the GAP recommends the following inseason adjustments to California's non-trawl fisheries for 2022.

Referencing Tables 8 and 9, the GAP recognizes the need for the following recommendations in the CDFW report:

Quillback rockfish

- No retention of quillback rockfish in the recreational fishery statewide.
- Implement a 75 lbs /2 months sub-trip limit to the 2,000 lbs /2-month Minor Nearshore Rockfish north of 40° 10' N. latitude in the commercial fishery.
- Implement a 75 lbs/2 months sub-trip limit to the 2,000 lbs /2-month Deeper Nearshore trip limits south of 40°10 N. latitude in the commercial fishery.

Referencing Tables 23 and 24, the GAP acknowledges the CDFW recommendations as follows:

Copper rockfish

- Implement a new statewide 1-fish copper rockfish sub-bag limit within the 10-fish daily rockfish/cabazon/greenling bag limit.
- Implement a 75 lbs /2 months sub-trip limit to the 2,000 lbs 2-month Minor Nearshore Rockfish commercial fishery north of 40° 10' N. latitude.
- Implement a 75 lbs/2 months sub-trip limit to the 2,000 lbs 2-month Deeper Nearshore commercial fishery trip limits south of 40° 10' N. latitude.

Referencing Table 30, the GAP recognizes the need of the CDFW recommendation as follows:

Vermilion rockfish

- Reduce the vermilion rockfish 5-fish sub-bag limit to 4-fish within the 10-fish daily rockfish/cabazon/greenling bag limit within the recreational fishery statewide.

Pacific Whiting Set-Asides

The Council is scheduled to adopt yield set-asides to accommodate the incidental mortality of Pacific whiting in 2022 research activities and in the pink shrimp fishery. The GAP supports selecting a value of 750 mt of Pacific whiting for the 2022 research and pink shrimp set-asides.

PFMC
11/21/21