

2023-2024 Management Measures-PPA



Action Items 12-18
Supplemental GMT Report 4

Item #12: “New” Management Measures

- a. ~~CCA Repeal~~ → *moved to Non-Trawl RCA package*
- b. ~~Prohibit directed fishery of shortbelly rockfish~~ → *moved to stand-alone management measure*
- c. FMP amendment to establish shortbelly rockfish bycatch threshold to trigger Council review
- d. ~~Quillback rockfish rebuilding plan~~
- e. Non-bottom contact hook-and-line gear allowance in the Non-Trawl RCA
- f. Extend primary sablefish season from Oct. 31 to Dec. 31
- g. Correct FMP language for Block Area Closures - *NEW*
- h. CA Recreational Fishery Bag Limit Changes - *NEW*
- i. CA Recreational Fishery RCA Management Measures - *NEW*
- j. Midwater Trawl Block Area Closures - *NEW*

Item #12c: Shortbelly Rockfish

The GMT recommends Option 2 as PPA

Rationale:

- No direct impacts from this action
- Formally sets a mortality threshold that would initiate a review of pertinent fishery information if total mortality is projected to or did exceed 2,000 mt

Item #12e: Non-bottom contact hook and line gear in the Non-Trawl RCA

- Overwinter - no specific gear definition
- March - [NMFS Supplemental Report](#)
- April- [NMFS Supplemental report](#)- further refinement of gear definition
- For June- the team anticipates more analysis

| | NMFS 12E Report |
|---------|--------------------------|
| Scope | 46° 16' to US/Mex border |
| Sectors | OA, LEFG |
| Gears | EFP specified gears |
| Bait | Artificial only |
| Limits | Can fish up to OA limits |

Item #12e: GMT Recommendation

The GMT recommends the Council adopt the revised 12e proposal as described in NMFS Report 1 as the PPA to open the Non-trawl RCA to certain gear types with the gear definition revisions that the GMT understands are being further developed with the EC and GAP.

Rationale:

- Low bycatch with gear types
- Prohibition on live bait further reduced impacts to seabirds
- Habitat impacts expected to be minimal
- Difficult to determine projected effort

Item #12e: Relationship to NT RCA Item

| | | NMFS 12e Report | NT RCA (Alt 1 & 2) |
|---------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Scope | | 46° 16' N. lat. to US/Mex border | 46° 16' to 34° 27' N. lat. |
| Sectors | | OA, LEFG | OA, LEFG |
| Gears | | EFP specified gears | Non bottom contact HKL |
| Bait | | Artificial only | Live and artificial |
| Limits | | Can fish up to OA limits | Can fish up to LEFG limits (Alt 2) |

If Council selects NMFS Revised 12e, could consider it an intermediate step and address other elements in NT RCA stand alone package.

Item #12f: Sablefish Primary Tier Season Extension

The GMT recommends Option 1 and Sub-Option 2

Option 1: The LEFG primary sablefish tier fishery season end date will be December 31

- Option 1 is a permanent primary fishery season extension that will not change any other aspects of the program (e.g. stacking privileges, transferability, allocation).

Rationale:

- Add flexibility
- Allow for planning based on markets and weather
- Potentially increase attainment
- Potentially increase profitability

Item #12f: Sablefish Primary Tier Season Extension - Impacts

- Habitat impacts expected to remain roughly the same (i.e., number of vessels using fixed gear)
- Gear usage is expected to lessen later in the year when weather conditions worsen
- All gear related impacts are likely to fluctuate with sablefish ACLs
- Humpback whales could co-occur for slightly longer periods
 - Possible aggregations decreases from Oct-Dec
- Impacts to seabirds are expected to remain within the 2017 BiOp
- Little to no impacts on salmon expected

Item #12f: Sablefish Primary Tier Season Extension - Inc. Halibut

Sub-Option 2: would close on the date/time specified by the IPHC for the closure of commercial fisheries coastwide, or until the quota is taken, whichever comes first.

Rationale:

- Sub-option 2 would result in minimal impacts to mortality
- Little risk of exceeding the WA sport allocation because of the flexibility built into the catch sharing plan

Item #12g: Correct FMP language for Block Area Closures

- Over-winter analysis discovered a mismatch between the FMP and current federal regs

The GMT recommends that the Council amend the FMP to align it with federal regulations.

“BACs are available in the EEZ off Oregon and California, ~~and are intended as a catch control mechanism, not for habitat protection.~~ for vessels using groundfish bottom trawl gear and in the EEZ off Washington, Oregon and California for vessels using groundfish midwater trawl gear. BACs are intended as a catch control mechanism, not for habitat protection.”

Item #12h: CDFW Recreational Bag limits

- Several bag limit options are analyzed as part of the 2023-24 specifications
- Range from modifying current sub-bag limits to prohibiting retention of some species
- Can be used in the season setting process or as inseason action

The GMT supports the adoption of this new management measure as PPA for utilization in the 2023-24 biennium, and for inseason action in the future.

Item #12i: CDFW Recreational RCA Management Measures

- Novel utilization of the previously established Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundary lines
- Allows fishing seaward of a specified RCA boundary line and prohibit fishing shoreward of that line (aka Offshore fishing)
- Allows for targeting of healthy shelf and slope rockfish
- Can be used in the season setting process or as inseason action

The GMT supports the adoption of this new management measure as PPA for utilization in the 2023-24 biennium, and for inseason action in the future.

Item #12j: Midwater Trawl BACs (Supp. GMT Report 2)

The majority of Pacific spiny dogfish bycatch is by midwater trawl gear targeting Pacific whiting in the at-sea and shoreside whiting fleets

Scope of June analysis:

- Block Area Closures (BACs) for groundfish mitigation purposes by midwater trawl gear coastwide and by bottom trawl gear off WA
 - All groundfish species

Items #13: Shorebased IFQ

Other than Pacific spiny dogfish, the IFQ fishery landed less than 0.2 mt in 2021 of all stocks with IFQ trip limits.

The GMT recommends the status quo Shorebased IFQ trip limits for non-IFQ species.

Items #14a: Open Access North of 40° 10' N. lat.

North of 36° N. lat.

- Sablefish
 - **Option 1: 2,000 lbs / week, not to exceed 4,000 lbs. / 2 months (removal of the 600 lb. daily limit)**

42° - 40° 10' N. lat.

- Quillback rockfish and copper rockfish have the same proposed sub-limits
 - **Status Quo: 75 lbs. per 2 months, within the 2,000 lbs per 2 months Minor Nearshore Rockfish limit**

Items #14b: Open Access South of 40° 10' N. lat.

South of 36° N. lat.

- **Sablefish - Status Quo 2,000 lbs./week, not to exceed 4,000 lbs./2 months**

South of 40° 10' N. lat.

- Quillback rockfish and copper rockfish have the same proposed sub-limits
 - **Status Quo: 75 lbs. per 2 months, within the 2,000 lbs per 2 months Deeper Nearshore Rockfish limit**

Items #15a: Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40° 10' N. lat.

North of 36° N. lat.

- LEFG sablefish - **Status Quo 2,400 lbs./week; 4,800 lbs./ 2 months**

42° - 40° 10' N. lat

- Quillback rockfish and copper rockfish have the same proposed sub-limits
 - **Status Quo: 75 lbs. per 2 months, within the 2,000 lbs per 2 months Minor Nearshore Rockfish limit**

Items #15b: Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40° 10' N. lat.

South of 36° N. lat.

- LEFG sablefish - **Status Quo 2,500 lb. weekly**

South of 40° 10' N. lat

- Quillback rockfish and copper rockfish have the same proposed sub-limits
 - **Status Quo: 75 lbs. per 2 months, within the 2,000 lbs per 2 months Deeper Nearshore Rockfish limit**

Item #16: Washington Recreational

Proposed changes for 2023-2024:

- Prohibit retention of copper rockfish, quillback rockfish, and vermilion rockfish in May, June, and July

Otherwise maintain:

- Mid-March to mid-October season
- Status quo bag limits
- Depth restrictions

The GMT recommends adopting the PPAs as indicated in Agenda Item F.4.a WDFW Report 1

Item #17: Oregon recreational

- Much the same as in 2021-22
- Season open to all-depth year round
 - Stonewall Bank YRCA remains closed
- Bag limits remain the same
 - General marine bag--10
 - Lingcod--3
 - Flatfish--25
 - Longleader gear--10, of select species
- Size limits remain the same
 - Lingcod--22 inches & Cabezon--16 inches
- Longleader gear fishing, limited other groundfish, & all-depth halibut allowed on same trip

Item #17: Oregon recreational

The GMT recommends adopting the PPA season structure (Figure 1; GMT Report 4), with the addition of allowing longleader gear fishing on the same trip as all-depth Pacific halibut and otherwise legal groundfish with all-depth Pacific halibut.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Bottomfish Season | Open all depths | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marine Bag Limit | Ten (10) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lingcod Bag Limit | Three (3) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flatfish Bag Limit | Twenty Five (25) | | | | | | | | | | | |

Noting that the State of Oregon may put in additional regulations through state rule to be more precautionary

Item #18: California recreational

- Different combinations of offshore, all-depth, and date and season length, season structures
- Further refinement of recommendations in preparation of final action in June

Questions