

## 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, Ms. Whitney Roberts and Ms. Katie Pierson. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

### LINGCOD TRIP LIMITS

The fixed gear industry has requested an increase in the lingcod trip limits north of 42° N latitude for the remainder of 2022. Fixed gear fishermen have noted that most of their entire allocation of lingcod has been taken during the first two weeks of the period thus has led to regulatory discards of lingcod. Previous GMT analysis suggests bycatch of yelloweye would increase only slightly (less than 0.01 mt.) with increased trip limits of lingcod in the north of 42° N latitude area. Effort increase is expected to be lower due to the expected Dungeness crab opener. Working from the supplemental GMT report 1, table 4, the GAP recommends the following:

#### **Open Access Fixed Gear Lingcod North of 42° N Latitude**

Current No Action 2022 trip limits: 2,500 lb./month

The GAP supports GMT **Option 2**: Increase to 3,500 lb./month as soon as possible

#### **Limited Entry Fixed Gear Lingcod North of 42° N Latitude**

Current No Action 2022 trip limit: 5,000 lb./2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Option 2**: Increase to 7,000 lb./2 months as soon as possible

### SABLEFISH DAILY-TRIP-LIMIT (DTL)

Due to continuing difficult 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 daily trip limits 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 the supplemental GMT Report 1 the GAP recommends the following:

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

Current 2022 trip limits: 600 lb./day or one landing per week up to 2,000 lb., not to exceed 4,000 lb./2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Option 2**: 600 lb./day or one landing per week 4,000 lb., not to exceed 8,000 lb./2 months

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

Current 2022 trip limits: 2,400 lb./week, not to exceed 4,800 lb./2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Option 2**: 4,500 lb./week, not to exceed 9,000 lb./2 months

FIXED GEAR OPEN ACCESS TRIP LIMITS FOR CANARY ROCKFISH

Fixed gear representatives requested an increase in the canary rockfish trip limits for the remainder of the year. Fishermen are encountering large numbers of canary while fishing for shelf rockfish leading to regulatory discards. Working from the supplemental GMT report 1, the GAP recommends the following:

**Fixed Gear Open Access Canary Rockfish North of 40°10'N Latitude**

Current 2022 trip limits: 1,000 lb. every 2/months

The GAP supports GMT **Option 3**: 2,000 lb. every 2/months

**Fixed Gear Open Access Canary Rockfish South of 40°10'N Latitude**

Current 2022 trip limits: 1,500 lb. every 2 months

The GAP supports GMT **Option 3**: 2,000 lb. every 2/months

**Fixed Gear Limited Entry Canary Rockfish Trip Limits North of 40°10' N Latitude**

Current 2022 trip limits: 3,000 every 2/months

The GAP supports GMT **Option 3**: 4,000 every 2/months

**Fixed Gear Limited Entry Canary Rockfish Trip Limits South of 40°10' N Latitude**

Current 2022 trip limits; 3,500 lb. every 2/months

The GAP supports GMT **Option 3**: 4,000 lb. every 2/months

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (ODFW) INSEASON REQUEST FOR THE RECREATIONAL FISHERY

The GAP was briefed by Ms. Lynn Mattes of ODFW as to the progress of the Oregon recreational groundfish fishery in 2022. Extremely favorable weather and sea conditions have led to large increases in recreational fishing effort in 2022. Bag limits have been adjusted downward as well as implementing non-retention of several nearshore rockfish species in an effort to extend the fishing season through the end of the year.

For the 2023 fishing season, ODFW is requesting to increase the longleader gear fishery daily-bag-limit to fifteen (or twelve) fish per angler per day, of only the ten rockfish species allowed. Lingcod retention would continue to be prohibited, and the fishery would remain restricted to seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line.

Following GAP discussion led by recreational industry leaders from Oregon, we suggest the following:

The GAP recommends that Oregon does not pursue a long leader bag limit past 10 rockfish. With the shift in angling efforts this could negatively affect canary rockfish and potentially over harvest the allocated quota. We feel that Oregon should look at encouraging efforts toward the quotas of blue and deacon rockfish as well as pursuing under-utilized stocks.

### COPPER ROCKFISH

Lastly, the GAP would like to highlight and thank the southern California CPFV fleet efforts in regard to copper rockfish of avoidance, voluntary zero retention and use of descending devices. The catch projections are reflective of this showing only 23 percent attainment of the annual catch projections. This paired with the pending updated depth dependent discard mortality table could offer opportunity of inseason action to give anglers some much needed relief.

PFMC  
09/11/22