

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS- FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the current status of groundfish fisheries and the need for any inseason adjustments during their March 2023 pre-Council meeting webinar on February 22, 2023. At that point, the GMT had not received any requests for inseason changes. We do not anticipate any requests at this meeting, as we are early in the season and at the start of a new biennium with new management measures; however, should any requests come to the GMT during the March 2023 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) meeting, the GMT will provide an additional supplemental report. This report provides final estimates for the 2022 scorecards and the current estimates for the 2023 scorecards, noting that the requested Pacific spiny dogfish scorecard will be included in the June 2023 GMT Inseason report.

### 2022 Scorecards

#### **Chinook Salmon Scorecard**

The 2017 Endangered Species Act Salmon Incidental Take Statement specified thresholds of Chinook salmon bycatch for the non-whiting and whiting sectors ([Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1, March 2018](#)). These thresholds are enforced through sector closure mechanisms in regulations. For 2022, neither the whiting nor the non-whiting sectors exceeded their thresholds (Table 1). Overall bycatch of Chinook salmon in all groundfish fisheries was 6,353 fish, or 32 percent of the 20,000 Chinook salmon threshold.

**Table 1. Chinook salmon catch (numbers of fish) in 2022 in relation to the sector thresholds (Source: PacFIN APEX Report).**

Sector <sup>a/</sup>	Sub-Sector	Catch To Date	% of Threshold	Total Threshold
Whiting	CP	1,997	18%	<b>11,000</b>
	MS	682	6%	
	Shoreside	2,327	21%	
	Tribal	264	5%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,270</b>	<b>51%</b>	
Non-Whiting	Bottom Trawl	404	7%	<b>5,500</b>
	Midwater Trawl	150	3%	
	Tribal	19	<0.01%	
	Fixed Gear	500 b/	9%	
	WA Rec			
	OR Rec + longleader			
	CA Rec			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>20%</b>		
All groundfish fisheries & EFPs		6,353		

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/ 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.

### Shortbelly Rockfish Scorecard

In 2022, there was 359.7 mt of shortbelly rockfish bycatch in the groundfish fisheries, which is 18 percent of the 2,000 mt threshold set by the Council. Total estimates are provided in the [PacFIN APEX Reports](#) GMT 007 - Scorecard of Groundfish Stock Species and Complexes and IFQ001 - Targeted Whiting Fishery Summary Data. Table 2 provides the estimated mortality by each sector.

**Table 2. Estimated 2022 mortality of shortbelly rockfish by sector. (Source: PacFIN APEX Reports)**

Sector	Estimated Mortality (mt)
At-Sea Catcher Processor	5.3
At-Sea Mothership	47.6
IFQ (non-whiting)	118.4
Shoreside whiting	188.4
Incidental/Miscellaneous	--
Treaty	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>359.7</b>
<b>Threshold</b>	<b>2,000</b>

## **Rebuilding Species Scorecard**

Table 3 shows yelloweye rockfish estimated mortality from groundfish fisheries in 2022 in relation to the harvest guidelines (HG) and annual catch targets (ACT).

**Table 3. Estimated mortality (metric tons) of yelloweye rockfish by sector in 2022.**

Fishery	Yelloweye Rockfish		
	HG Allocations a/	ACT Allocations a/	Estimated Mortality f/
Date: February 2023			
<b>Off the Top Deductions</b>	8.85	8.85	10.22
EFP b/	0.24	0.24	0.02
Research c/	2.92	2.92	2.58
Incidental OA d/	0.69	0.69	2.62
Tribal e/	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Trawl Allocation</b>	3.4	3.4	0.9
<b>-SB Trawl</b>	3.4	3.4	0.9
<b>-At-Sea Trawl</b>			0.0
<b>a) At-sea whiting MS</b>			0.0
<b>b) At-sea whiting CP</b>			0.0
<b>Non-Trawl Allocation</b>	38.8	30.4	16.4
Non-Nearshore			
LE FG			
OA FG	8.1	6.3	3.6
Directed OA: Nearshore			
Recreational Groundfish			
WA	9.9	7.8	2.9
OR	9.0	7.1	5.2
CA	11.7	9.2	4.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	51.0	42.6	<b>27.5</b>
<b>Harvest Specification</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>42.2</b>
<b>Difference</b>	0.0	-0.4	<b>14.7</b>
<b>Percent of ACL</b>	100.0%	101.0%	54.0%
<b>Key</b>		= 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 2b 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/ Updated based on GMT's best estimates			

## 2023 Scorecards

### Chinook Salmon Scorecard

Table 4 shows Chinook salmon bycatch (828 fish or 0.4 percent of the 20,000 threshold) from groundfish fisheries and exempted fishing permits (EFPs) as of March 1, 2023, in relation to the sector thresholds. The GMT will report the Chinook salmon numbers from the Year-Round Coastwide Midwater Rockfish EFP during the March, June, and September meetings; however, at this time EFP data is confidential. National Marine Fisheries Service will provide a full report on the Chinook salmon numbers from the Year-Round Coastwide Midwater Rockfish EFP at the April and November meetings.

**Table 4. Chinook salmon catch (numbers of fish) in 2023 as of March 1, 2023 in relation to the sector thresholds (Source: PacFIN Report).**

Sector <sup>a/</sup>	Sub-Sector	Catch To Date	% of Threshold	Total Threshold
Whiting	CP	N/A	N/A	<b>11,000</b>
	MS			
	Shoreside			
	Tribal	264 b/	0.02%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>0.02%</b>	
Non-Whiting	Bottom Trawl	44	<0.01%	<b>5,500</b>
	Midwater Trawl	*	*	
	Tribal	19 b/	<0.01%	
	Fixed Gear	500 c/	9%	
	WA Rec			
	OR Rec + longleader			
	CA Rec			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>10%</b>	
All groundfish fisheries & EFPs	828			

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.

N/A = no catch to date, season has not started

\* = confidential data

### Shortbelly Rockfish Scorecard

As per Amendment 30 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, if shortbelly rockfish mortalities exceed, or are projected to exceed, 2,000 mt in a calendar year, the Council would review relevant fishery information and consider if management changes are warranted, including, but not limited to reconsideration of its current classification as an ecosystem component (EC) species. To help track shortbelly rockfish throughout the season, Table 5 provides the estimated mortality by each sector.

**Table 5. Estimated mortality of shortbelly rockfish by sector, as of March 1, 2023. (Source: PacFIN APEX Report)**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Estimated Mortality (mt)</b>
At-Sea Catcher-Processor	N/A
At-Sea Mothership	
IFQ (non-whiting)	0.6
Shoreside whiting	N/A
Incidental/Miscellaneous	N/A
Treaty	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Threshold</b>	<b>2,000</b>

N/A = no catch to date

### **Rebuilding Species Scorecard**

Table 6 shows yelloweye rockfish projections from groundfish fisheries as of March 1, 2023, in relation to the HG and ACT.

**Table 6. Allocations and projected mortality impacts (mt) of yelloweye rockfish as adopted for 2023.**

Fishery	Yelloweye Rockfish		
	HG Allocations a/	ACT Allocations a/	Projected Impacts f/
<i>Date: February 2023</i>			
<b>Off-the-Top Deductions</b>	10.70	10.70	10.26
EFP b/	0.12	0.12	0.02
Research c/	2.92	2.92	2.58
Incidental OA d/	2.66	2.66	2.66
Tribal e/	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Trawl Allocation</b>	4.4	4.4	0.42
-SB Trawl	4.42	4.42	0.42
<b>-At-Sea Trawl</b>			0.0
<b>a) At-sea whiting MS</b>			0.0
<b>b) At-sea whiting CP</b>			0.0
<b>Non-Trawl Allocation</b>	50.9	39.9	24.6
Non-Nearshore			
LE FG	10.7	8.4	3.9
OA FG			
Directed OA: Nearshore			
Recreational Groundfish			
WA	13.2	10.4	3.2
OR	11.7	9.2	5.5
CA	15.3	12.0	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	65.9	55.1	35.3
<b>Harvest Specification</b>	66	55.3	55.3
<b>Difference</b>	0.1	0.2	20.0
<b>Percent of ACL</b>	99.8%	99.6%	83.8%
<b>Key</b>		= 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 2b 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/ updated based on GMT's best estimates			