

GROUND FISH ADVISORY PANEL REPORT ON INSEASON MANAGEMENT - 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. Whitney Roberts. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

Commercial Lingcod South of 42° N. Latitude

Due to severe trip limit reductions to copper rockfish and quillback rockfish, fixed gear fishermen have seen an increasing demand for other species in the live market fishery. The current size limit for fixed gear lingcod south of 42° N. latitude is 24 inches, which is the maximum preferable size for live fish customers. Dropping the size limit down to 22 inches would better meet the demands of this market.

In contrast, the current minimum size limit for lingcod for both commercial and recreational lingcod north of 42° N. latitude is 22 inches, as well as recreational lingcod south of 42° N. latitude, which is also 22 inches.

Therefore, the GAP supports a 22" length for all commercial lingcod south of 42° N. latitude. Working from **GMT Table 2**, the GAP supports **Option 1: 22 inches total length**.

The GAP notes that the current minimum size limit for trawl lingcod south of 42° N. latitude is also 24 inches. The GAP suggests allowing a 22" minimum size length across all sectors would simplify the regulations and be more equitable for fishermen participating in each sector.

Commercial Fixed Gear Bocaccio South of 40° 10' N. Latitude

Some fixed gear fishermen targeting chilipepper rockfish south of 40° 10' N. latitude have reported seeing increasing amounts of bocaccio bycatch in that fishery. Fixed gear representatives on the GAP report that it would come as no surprise to anyone who has fished in the chilipepper fishery in the past as there is a large bocaccio bycatch in that fishery, sometimes nearly a one-to-one species ratio in catch.

However, current catch data suggests fishermen are not landing their entire bocaccio trip limit. Therefore, the GAP does not support an increase in bocaccio trip limits for those engaged in the directed chilipepper fishery at this time but may need to be further analyzed at the September Council meeting.