

HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS – FINAL ACTION

Harvest Specifications Technical Corrections:

In late July 2023, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff were notified by the Northwest Fishery Science Center (NWFSC) of a technical error in the 2023-2024 harvest specifications for yelloweye rockfish. After this notification, Council staff and NWFSC staff initiated a review of the 2023-24 harvest specifications for all managed groundfish. This review process resulted in finding harvest specifications for canary, squarespot, darkblotched and yelloweye rockfishes are incorrect for the 2023-24 biennium as well. Additionally, Council and NWFSC staff determined the 2023-24 coastwide apportionment for sablefish was incorrectly calculated. Council staff and NWFSC staff developed a report (Agenda Item G.8, Attachment 1, September 2023) which details the errors and provides the corrected harvest specifications, including allocation amounts, for these species. These corrections will require the Council to recommend technical corrections to the harvest specifications and inseason adjustments to management measures, as necessary. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) should review this report and comment to the Council regarding the issue, as appropriate. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) is expected to submit a report to the Council with information regarding catch-to-date compared to the correct harvest specifications for these stocks. The National Marine Fisheries Service is expected to provide guidance on the process to review the regulations.

Inseason Adjustments

The Council will be informed by the GMT regarding the status of the groundfish fishery relative to harvest goals and objectives. The most recent groundfish landings data are available on PacFIN's [APEX website](#) in report GMT007. The Council will consider, as appropriate, inseason adjustments to routine groundfish management measures to attain, but not exceed, the annual catch limits. Inseason adjustments are, in part, based on recent landings data and the latest information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has provided a report on recent inseason action in their state (Agenda Item G.8.a, CDFW Report 1, September 2023). The GMT and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are expected to provide the Council with reports regarding any inseason adjustments.

Council Request of At-Sea Whiting Cooperatives

At the June 2023 meeting, the Council was informed by the GMT of Chinook salmon and darkblotched rockfish bycatch in the whiting at-sea fishery ([Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, June 2023](#)). The Council invited representatives from the at-sea sector cooperatives to discuss their fall fishing plans, as well as this year's bycatch issues, with the Council at this meeting. The Whiting Mothership Cooperative (Agenda Item G.8, Attachment 2, September 2023) and the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative (Agenda Item G.8, Attachment 3, September 2023) have submitted letters to the Council regarding this information. The GMT is expected to provide analysis of regarding Chinook salmon and groundfish bycatch in the at-sea whiting sector as a supplemental report.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt technical corrections to the harvest specifications for selected species.**
2. **Review the at-sea cooperative reports to the Council, as appropriate.**
3. **Adopt 2023-2024 inseason adjustments, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.8, Attachment 1: Joint Council Staff and NWFSC report on Technical Corrections to the 2023-2024 Harvest Specifications.
2. Agenda Item G.8, Attachment 2: Whiting Mothership Cooperative: Inseason Report.
3. Agenda Item G.8, Attachment 3: Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative: Inseason Report.
4. Agenda Item G.8.a, CDFW Report 1: CDFW Report on Inseason Adjustments for 2023.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.8 Harvest Specifications Technical Corrections and
Inseason Adjustments – Final Action Todd Phillips
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Technical Corrections to Harvest Specifications for Selected Species and Inseason Adjustments for 2023 and 2024 Fisheries, as Needed

PFMC
08/16/23