

Agenda Item E.7.a Supplemental GMT Report 4

Action Items #11-20
Trip Limits, Bag Limits, Season Structures,
“New” Management Measures, Rebuilding
Plan

Action Item Checklist #11-20

Action Item #11: Shorebased IFQ

Action Item #12: Open Access Fixed Gear Fishery North of 40° 10' N lat

Action Item #13: Open Access Fixed Gear Fishery South of 40° 10' N lat

Action Item #14: Limited Entry Fixed Gear Fishery North of 40° 10' N lat

Action Item #15: Limited Entry Fixed Gear Fishery South of 40° 10' N lat

Action Item #16: Washington Recreational

Action Item #17: Oregon Recreational

Action Item #18: California Recreational

Action Item #19: “New” Management Measures

Action Item #20: Range of Alternatives for Potential Rebuilding Analysis and
Remove Quillback Rockfish from Complex

Action Item #11: Shorebased IFQ

- The GMT has not received any requests for changes to the shorebased IFQ trip limits at this time
- The GMT also did not identify any stocks for which IFQ trip limit adjustments need to be analyzed to stay within 2025-26 harvest limits.
- **GMT recommendation: Adopt status quo IFQ trip limits for non-IFQ species**

Action Item #12-15: Open access and limited entry fixed gear fisheries

Investigate changing commercial trip limit tables to be either monthly or bi-monthly for consistency between all trip limit tables.

Action Item #12: Open Access Fixed Gear Fisheries North of 40° 10' N lat.

Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.:

- Council may want to consider increasing sablefish trip limits to account for ACL increases.
 - Status Quo: 3,000 lbs. per week and 6,000 lbs. per bimonthly period trip limit

Canary Rockfish: Adjust bimonthly limits to implement 2025-26 harvest specifications in response to the new stock assessment.

Shortspine thornyhead: Trip limit adjustments to stay within the 2025-26 ACLs and non-trawl allocations

- Status quo: 50 lbs/month trip limits

North of 40° 10' to 42° N. Lat.: Trip limit adjustments to limit quillback rockfish mortality

Action Item #13: Open Access Fixed Gear Fisheries South of 40° 10' N lat.

Sablefish south of 36 ° N. lat.:

- Status Quo: 2,000 lbs. per week and 6,000 lbs. per bimonthly period trip limit
- GMT did not identify a need to analyze adjustments because vessels are not attaining status quo

South of 40° 10' N lat.: Trip limit adjustments to limit quillback rockfish mortality

Copper Rockfish: Adjust bimonthly limits to implement 2025-26 harvest specifications

Canary Rockfish: Adjust bimonthly limits to implement 2025-26 harvest specifications

Shortspine thornyhead: GMT will investigate trip limit adjustments but does not expect they will be necessary

Action Item #14. Limited Entry Fixed Gear Fisheries North of 40° 10' N lat.

Sablefish north of 36° N. lat.:

- Council may want to consider increasing sablefish trip limits to account for ACL increases.
 - Status Quo: 4,500 lbs. per week and 9,000 lbs. per bimonthly period trip limit
 - Setting trip limits high for the entire year may be more equitable across the fleet

Canary Rockfish: Adjust bimonthly limits to implement 2025-26 harvest specifications

Shortspine Thornyhead:

- Analyze adjustments to bimonthly trip limits for shortspine thornyhead north of 34° 27' N.
- Status quo: 2,000 lbs. per two months January through June and 2,500 lbs. per two months July through December.

North of 40° 10' to 42° N. Lat.: Trip limit adjustments to limit quillback rockfish mortality

Action Item #15. Limited Entry Fixed Gear Fisheries South of 40° 10' N lat.

Sablefish south of 36° N. lat.:

- Status quo: 2,500 lbs. per week trip limit
- GMT did not identify a need to analyze adjustments because vessels are not attaining status quo

South of 40° 10' N lat.: Trip limit and area management adjustments which may impact quillback rockfish mortality

Copper Rockfish: Adjust bimonthly limits to implement 2025-26 harvest specifications

Canary Rockfish: Adjust bimonthly limits to implement 2025-26 harvest specifications

Action Item # 16. Washington Recreational

- Routine management measures as needed:
 - Bag limits
 - Season dates
 - Depth restrictions

Action Item # 17. Oregon Recreational

- Bag limits
- Season structures
- Depth restrictions
 - Contrasting impacts on yelloweye and black/nearshore complex species
- Black, canary, China, copper, and quillback rockfishes are primary drivers of recreational fisheries regulations
- Increased interest in targeting sablefish offshore

Action Item # 18. California Recreational

- Bag & sub-bag limits
 - Likely include further reductions to the vermillion rockfish sub-bag limit
- Season lengths
- Seasonal depth restrictions
- Consideration of sub-management areas or different management lines for the Morro Bay and Avila port areas

Action Item #18a: Model recreational fishery season structure for areas north of 34° 27' N. lat. for scenarios shoreward of 20 fms and seaward of 50 fm.

- Goal is to avoid quillback rockfish
- CDFW is exploring the feasibility of creating 20 fm RCA line in state waters
- Ensure mortality from both state and federal fisheries are accounted for during the Councils season setting process

Action Item #18b: Include March in the current offshore-only season south of 34° 27' N. lat.

- Will be analyzed for recreational fisheries south of Pt. Conception

Action Item #18c: Regulatory clarification of closed areas around Farallon Islands, California

- CDFW proposed removing incorrect language in Federal Regulations referencing California State law pertaining to a groundfish closure inside 10 fathoms around the Farallon Islands
- **GMT supports this regulatory clean up**

Action Item #18d: Model zero retention of copper rockfish south of Point Conception (34° 27' N. lat.) and estimate the savings available to attribute to descending device credits (in the future), thus providing additional time to the nearshore portion of the fishery.

- GMT considers this part of CDFW's routine process for recreational fisheries.
- Any impacts would be reflected in CDFW analysis of impacts of state regulations on federally-managed species

Action Item #18e: Allow fishing for non-groundfish species with hoop nets and hand-held dip nets in nearshore waters during the offshore-only season, with shelf and slope rockfish complex species on-board north of 34° 27' N. lat.

- In Sept. 2023, Council recommended that CA recreational fishing vessels be required to fish seaward of the Recreational RCA line for rest of the year
- Continuous transit rules apply, meaning vessels may only be transiting shoreward of 50 fm on their way back to port
 - Concern that these prevent rec vessels from anchoring overnight and stopping to fish non-groundfish species shoreward of 50 fm
- CA took state emergency action, new regs on Oct 30
- Federal regs only need address continuous transit provisions while groundfish is in possession on board a vessel.
- **The GMT supports this administrative action**

Action Item #18f: For the area south of Point Conception, modify the regulations to explicitly allow recreational vessels to stop and fish with hoop nets and hand-held dip-nets and/or anchor within nearshore waters during the offshore-only season, with shelf and slope species on board so long as no other fishing gear is deployed.

- See previous information in 18e.
- Primary difference between 18e and 18f requests is related to the difference in the primary invertebrate target which is different between Northern and Southern California.
- **The GMT supports this administrative action**

Action Item #19a: Create open access permit/registration

- NMFS recommends this to better capture information on vessels using 12e gear to verify they have low interactions with quillback
- Will facilitate targeted observer coverage
- The GMT recommends including this proposal as a new management measure for the 2025-26 biennium and beyond.

Action Item #19b: Require recreational anglers to possess a descending device aboard a vessel when fishing in federal waters for groundfish

- Require descending devices on board all recreational groundfish vessels in federal waters
- Measure to reduce mortality of quillback and other rockfish
- WA and OR already have state laws, CA is considering similar law for state waters
- **GMT supports this proposal as a new management measure and recommends that it be implemented in federal waters off WA, OR, and CA**

Action Item #19c: Update discard mortality rates (DMRs) as appropriate for use in management

- Updating surface release DMRs requires SSC review and so is not appropriate for new management measures
- Instead, GMT proposes that a sub-group works with SSC on developing new DMRs
- GMT recommends removal of this item from the harvest specifications and new management measures process in favor of alternate pathway

Action Item #19d: Rittenburg Bank Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area

- Concern over recreational yelloweye bycatch
- Recreational vessels not subject to commercial regulations in the Non-Trawl RCA
- A new Recreational Yelloweye RCA (YRCA) would be the most appropriate management tool to reduce catch at Rittenburg Bank
- Some GAP members indicate that this has been addressed via a shift in recreational fishing strategies
- If the Council is interested, the GMT could still analyze the option to define a new YRCA in regulation for potential use in the future if needed

Recommendations for Action Item #19

The GMT recommends keeping all proposed new management measures in the range of alternatives with the exception of #19c (updating surface release DMRs) in which the GMT proposes an alternative pathway.

Action Item #20a: Range of Alternatives for Potential Rebuilding Analysis

GMT recommends analyzing 'bookends' of the rebuilding strategies:

- **F=0 ($T_{\text{target}} = 2045$), which represents the minimum time to rebuild**
- **ABC Rule ($T_{\text{target}} = 2060$), which represents the maximum time to rebuild**

Action Item #20b: Remove Quillback Rockfish from Complex

- **If quillback rockfish south of 42° N. lat. is declared overfished, the GMT recommends that quillback rockfish south of 42° N. lat. be removed from the minor nearshore rockfish complexes**
 - Facilitate managing to a species-specific OFL and ACL
 - Allow the GMT to identify and conduct any needed analyses to support the 2025-26 harvest specification for the remaining species in the complexes
 - Quillback will remain in the minor nearshore rockfish complex north of 42° N. lat.

Questions
