

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FINAL INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS FOR 2025/2026

SABLEFISH NORTH OF 36° N. LATITUDE

Sablefish landings north of the Conception management area have increased since the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) implemented trip limit increases at the June meeting. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) analysis shows that 11 limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) vessels and six open access (OA) vessels have landed the larger trip limits since June. The trip limits the Council adopted as part of the 2025-2026 biennium are lower than the current trip limits. Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) members requested that the GMT analyze some larger sablefish trip limits for consideration. After that detailed GMT analysis, there are concerns that an increase in sablefish trip limits would likely lead to an increase of shortspine thornyhead landings. Therefore, the GAP now believes we should maintain the sablefish trip limits proposed to be in place for 2025 and then take another look at the final 2024 shortspine thornyhead landings data at the March 2025 Council meeting to possibly reconsider an increase in the sablefish trip limits.

OA TRIP LIMITS FOR SHELF ROCKFISH 40°10' N TO 42° N. LATITUDE

OA representatives in far northern California have requested an increase in the trip limits for shelf rockfish for 2025. Fishermen have been severely impacted by the nearshore rockfish closures due to the overfished declaration of quillback rockfish. Fixed gear fishermen have been forced to fish further offshore for shelf rockfish to help supplement their incomes. Fishermen in this area report there are large numbers of both chilipepper and bocaccio rockfish. As most folks are aware, bocaccio and chilipepper rockfish have separate trip limits south of 40°10' N. lat. but that is not the case for the north. Both of these species are contained within the shelf rockfish trip limits. To increase the shelf rockfish trip limits to allow for more chilipepper and bocaccio, this would likely increase landings of vermilion rockfish. Following the GMT analysis, there appears to be room for a slight increase in the shelf rockfish trip limits for the OA sector north of 40°10' N. lat. and would conform the trip limits for this area to the limits in Oregon and Washington. The GAP supports this option and will be working with the GMT in the future to begin crafting separate trip limits for chilipepper, bocaccio and vermilion rockfish in this area as part of the 2027/2028 biennial management measures.

Working from Supplemental GMT Report 1, the GAP recommends GMT **Option 1**: 1,600 lb. every 2/months to be implemented as soon as is possible.

PACIFIC WHITING SET-ASIDES

The GAP recommends maintaining a 750 mt set-aside to accommodate 2025 incidental mortality of Pacific whiting in research activities and in the pink shrimp fishery.