

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

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. Jessi Doerpinghaus and Ms. Melissa Mandrup. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

California Recreational Canary Rockfish Bag Limits

For 2019, California recreational fishing representatives requested that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) consider increasing the 2019 canary rockfish sub-bag limit from two fish to three fish. Fishermen reported they were having to release canary rockfish in excess of the two-fish bag limit in 2018. Estimates of canary rockfish mortality (58.4 mt) tracked well below the California recreational harvest guideline (HG) (135 mt) in 2018 (CDFW Report 1). Therefore, the GAP supports increasing the California canary rockfish sub-bag limit to **three fish** within the overall 10-fish bag limit for rockfish, cabezon and greenling, to be implemented as soon as is possible.

California Recreational Black Rockfish Bag Limits

The total take of black rockfish in 2018 fell below 50 percent of the California HG, and recreational interests that rely on this stock have requested an increase in the sub-bag limit for 2019. Black rockfish is a particularly important species for the far northern ports of California as it has historically made up a large portion of the total catch of rockfish. Therefore, the GAP supports increasing the black rockfish sub-bag limit to **four fish** within the overall 10-fish bag limit for rockfish, cabezon and greenling, to be implemented as soon as is possible.

California Recreational Lingcod Bag Limits

The California south of 40° 10' N. lat. lingcod stock assessment process was atypical, initially resulting in lower HGs. Given these guidelines, the Council recommended a reduction of open access trip limits and recreational bag limits for the non-trawl sector south of the 40° 10' line. The assessment was subsequently updated, resulting in somewhat higher HG values closer to those needed to support retaining the previously existing trip limits and recreational daily bag limits.

At the present time, the GAP does not recommend increasing the lingcod bag limit but does request the GMT provide updated lingcod catch projections later this year. We would ask that the GMT then provide an in-season recommendation based on those results at that later date.

LE and OA Fixed Gear Minor Nearshore Rockfish from 42° 00' N. Lat. to 40° 10' N. Lat.

Current trip limit: 7,000 lb./2 months, no more than 1,200 lb. of which may be species other than black rockfish.

The northern California commercial fixed gear sector has requested trip limit increases for minor nearshore rockfish. Landings of nearshore rockfish in the north have been tracking quite low in 2019 likely due to poor weather and sea conditions. Some nearshore fishermen are still fishing for Dungeness crab which is contributing to the lower landings of nearshore rockfish. With that in mind, the GAP supports **Option 1** in table 2 of the GMT Supplemental report, which would increase the nearshore rockfish sub-limit to 1,500 lb., to be implemented as soon as is possible.

LE and OA Fixed Gear Deeper Nearshore Rockfish from 40 10 south to the Mexican border

Current trip limit: 1,000 lb./2 months with the closed period of March/April

California Deeper nearshore rockfish permits became transferable in 2018. At the time there was concern about the potential impacts of latent permits being transferred. Currently it does not appear that many permits have transferred, most likely due to the high prices to purchase those permits. Due to low landings of deeper nearshore rockfish, fixed gear fishermen have requested an increase in the trip limits. Working from table 5 in the GMT Supplemental report, the GAP supports **Option 1**, which would increase the Deeper nearshore rockfish trip to 1,200 lb./2 months beginning with Period 3.

PFMC
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