

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an inseason report from Mr. John DeVore and Ms. Kelly Ames and has the following recommendations.

**Yelloweye scorecard reductions to meet 14 mt:** At the outset, the GAP wishes to note that even before this additional reduction, yelloweye limits and the constraining effect that has on target fisheries was causing hardship up and down the coast across all fisheries. A further reduction from 17 mt to 14 mt of yelloweye is nearly unbearable for many in the fleet and fishing communities. An example of this can be seen in Shelter Cove, a small community that relies in large part on recreational fishing to sustain itself where, due to reduced opportunity and future uncertainty, the owner has decided to no longer maintain his infrastructure, including launch facilities which are the only launch facilities in Shelter Cove. Furthermore, it is the ultimate in tragic irony that, in order to meet the 14 mt limit without putting more communities out of business, research catch, our investment in the future, will be curtailed. But, reducing research catch was the only available remedy without shutting down commercial and recreational fisheries on a wide swath of the coast.

The GAP recognizes that in order to comply with the court order we do need to reduce our yelloweye catch to 14 mt, so we offer the following recommendations for making targeted cuts with the minimum possible economic hardship. Reduce nearshore groundfish from 1.3 mt to 1.1 mt; reduce Washington and Oregon combined recreational from 5.1 mt to 4.9 mt; reduce California recreational from 2.8 mt to 2.7 mt; reduce exempted fishing permits (EFPs) from .3 mt to .2 mt. While the GAP has not yet heard from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) regarding the specific effects of these recommended yelloweye reductions on the fisheries mentioned, the GAP believes this represents a relatively fair reduction across the board. The GAP offers the following rationale for the specific cuts mentioned.

- Nearshore groundfish is tracking such that it is unlikely to catch as much fish nor require as much bycatch as it has needed in the recent past. Inclement weather has prevented the fleet from fishing as much as in a normal year and even assuming good weather for the remainder of the year, the GAP does not believe nearshore will be unduly constrained by this reduction.
- The scorecard projection for Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries is combined so the .2 mt reduction recommended by the GAP essentially represents a .1 mt reduction for each state. The GAP feels that recreational fisheries can stay under this projection and in the event that catch appears to be running high, the Council has the ability to adopt depth restrictions to slow yelloweye catch. While the GAP believes this targeted cut can be met, it will cause effort shift onto other species which may themselves become constraining.
- As stated previously, the mechanical launch at Shelter Cove, one of the most significant yelloweye hotspots on the coast, will not be operational this year, thereby greatly

- reducing both effort and yelloweye catch in the California recreational fishery. It appears to the GAP that this reduction will not add additional constraint because effort has been reduced due to the economic collapse of some recreational ports caused by previous constraints.
- The author of the Oregon yellowtail EFP believes a .1 mt reduction can be accommodated based on the fact that there was no yelloweye catch last year. While this EFP was willing to make this sacrifice, it becomes less certain that it will be able to prosecute it throughout the year which again reduces important research into yelloweye avoidance.

Reductions in slope survey catch and non-whiting trawl catch already accounted for in GMT Report B.5.b reduce the projected yelloweye mortality from 17 mt to 14.6 mt. In the absence of additional analysis by the GMT, the GAP believes this is the best way to attain the additional .6 mt yelloweye reduction needed to meet the 14 mt mortality allowed by the court ruling.

PFMC  
6/15/10