

## THE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) considered the most recent information on the status of ongoing fisheries, research, and requests from industry, and provides the following information and recommendations for 2012 inseason adjustments.

The GMT also received guidance from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region (NWR) regarding timing of implementation of inseason recommendations from this meeting. NMFS anticipates implementing routine inseason adjustments to fishery management measures before May 1, 2012.

### SUMMARY

#### 1) Inseason request

- GAP request: move the shoreward Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundary from 75 fm to 100 fm from 40°10' N. lat. To 48°10' N. lat for greater access to target species on the shelf during the summer months.
- Summary: The 2011 year-end individual fishing quota (IFQ) data, progress of the fishery to date, and historical data indicate a low risk of a “disaster tow” of overfished species as a result implementing such a change, although some increase in rebuilding species catch could result. As usual, consideration is due to individual accountability and risk.
- GMT recommendation: The GMT recommends the Council consider changes to the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA during periods 3 and 5 (May, June, September and October) of 2012, from the 75 fm line to the 100 fm line (Table 2.) for the area between 40°10' N. lat. and 48°10' N. lat. (Cape Alava).

#### 2) Agenda Item F.6.b, PCFDC Report – tracking of sablefish DTL landings north of 36° N. lat. in PacFIN

- The GMT recommends continuing the dialogue between representatives from different agencies, including state fishery data managers, PacFIN, state and federal enforcement necessary to improve accuracy of sablefish daily-trip-limit (DTL) landings data in PacFIN.

#### 3) Informational items

- 2012 IFQ catch, recreational update, scorecard update.

#### IFQ FISHERY

The GMT received a request from the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) to examine the following possible changes to the trawl RCA during 2012:

- 40°10' - 48°10': Move the shoreward line from 75 fm to 100 fm for periods 3 and 5.

Tables 1 and 2 highlight the changes proposed in this request.

Table 1. Current trawl RCA boundaries for the area north of 40°10' N. lat.

	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov-Dec
North of 48°10' N. lat.	shore - modified 200 fm line	shore - 200 fm line	shore - 150 fm line		shore - 200 fm line	shore - modified 200 fm line
48°10' N. lat. - 45°46' N. lat.	75 fm line - modified 200 fm line	75 fm line – 150 fm line	75 fm line - 150 fm line	100 fm line - 150 fm line	75 fm line - 150 fm line	75 fm line - 150 fm line
45°46' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.		75 fm line - 200 fm line	75 fm line - 200 fm line	100 fm line - 200 fm line	75 fm line - 200 fm line	75 fm line - modified 200 fm line

Table 2. Requested trawl RCA boundaries for the area north of 40°10' N. lat. (proposed changes shaded gray, with bold and strikethrough font).

	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov-Dec
North of 48°10' N. lat.	shore - modified 200 fm line	shore - 200 fm line	shore - 150 fm line		shore - 200 fm line	shore - modified 200 fm line
48°10' N. lat. - 45°46' N. lat.	75 fm line - modified 200 fm line	75 fm line – 150 fm line	<del>75</del> <b>100 fm line - 150 fm line</b>	100 fm line - 150 fm line	<del>75</del> <b>100 fm line - 150 fm line</b>	75 fm line - 150 fm line
45°46' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.		75 fm line - 200 fm line	<del>75</del> <b>100 fm line - 200 fm line</b>	100 fm line - 200 fm line	<del>75</del> <b>100 fm line - 200 fm line</b>	75 fm line - modified 200 fm line

*Historic bycatch data*

We examined time-weighted average bycatch rates from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP), from 2006 to 2010, (Figure 1, Table 3), which generally show increased bycatch rates of rebuilding species in Periods 3 and 5, in the area shoreward of 100 fm, versus the area shoreward of 75 fm. This indicates that if the shoreward RCA were moved from 75 fm to 100 fm during periods 3 and 5 of 2012, which the probability of encountering canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch (POP), widow rockfish and yelloweye rockfish will likely be higher than if status quo shoreward boundaries remained in place.

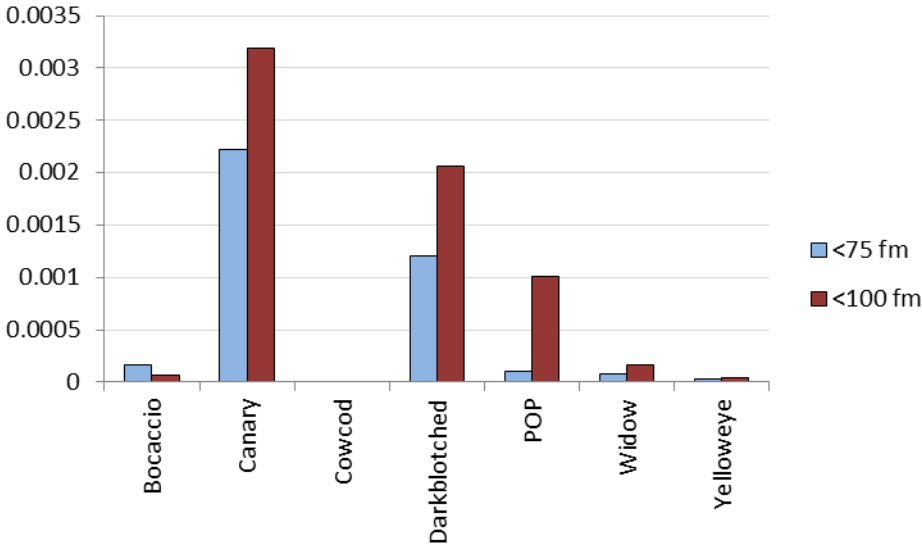


Figure 1. Comparison of historical (2006-2010), time weighted average bycatch rates of rebuilding species, for the area north of 40°10' N. lat., during periods 3 and 5.

Table 3. Historical (2006-2010), time weighted average bycatch rates of rebuilding species, shoreward of the trawl rockfish conservation area (RCA), for the area north of 40°10' N. lat. during periods 3 and 5.

Species	<75 fm	<100 fm	% change
Bocaccio rockfish	0.0166%	0.0070%	-58%
Canary rockfish	0.2225%	0.3193%	44%
Cowcod	0.0000%	0.0000%	0%
Darkblotched rockfish	0.1204%	0.2066%	72%
Pacific ocean perch	0.0103%	0.1007%	878%
Widow rockfish	0.0081%	0.0160%	98%
Yelloweye rockfish	0.0036%	0.0039%	8%

Attainment of these rebuilding species was low under IFQ management in 2011 (Agenda Item F.6.b, Supplemental NMFS Report: West Coast Groundfish IFQ Fishery Catch Summary for 2011: First Look), at 14 percent, 36 percent, 39 percent, 40 percent and 10 percent respectively, as of January 30, 2012. Current attainment rates for these same species so far in 2012 are: 0.6 percent, 5.8 percent, 2.9 percent, 0.1 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively. Total catch of rebuilding species under IFQ was lower in 2011 than 2010 (except for widow rockfish), although the widow rockfish assessment adopted by the Council for use in the 2013-2014 cycle indicates a rebuilt status.

*New observer data*

We also examined newly available observer data for those rebuilding species (canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch and yelloweye rockfish), and identified target species shoreward of the RCA. Of the target species caught using trawl gear during periods 3 and 5, north of 40°10' N. lat., 96 percent of English sole, 81 percent of lingcod, 70 percent of minor shelf rockfish, 63 percent of other flatfish, 96 percent of petrale sole, 99.8 percent of starry flounder, and 93 percent of yellowtail rockfish were caught shoreward of the RCA.

It is worth noting that 96 percent of the petrale sole which was harvested during periods 3 and 5 of 2011, north of 40°10' N. lat., was taken shoreward of the RCA. Ninety-three percent of the 2011 allocation was attained, and 85 percent of that catch was from north of 40°10' N. lat. As of March 5, 25 percent of the 2012 allocation of petrale sole (582,400 pounds, of 2,324,995 pounds) has been harvested, according to the Vessel Accounts (VA) system of NMFS.

As for rebuilding species during 2011, most of the canary rockfish harvested north of 40°10' N. lat. with trawl gear during periods 3 and 5 was taken shoreward of the RCA, (78 percent by weight), and the vast majority of hauls positive for canary rockfish in this time and area were shoreward of the RCA (94 percent, or 142 of 151). Of those 142 hauls, the mean haul weight was 10.4 pounds, with a maximum of 279.2 pounds (Figure 2). This maximum haul size corresponds to less than 0.5 percent of the fleet allocation of 57,100 pounds in 2011.

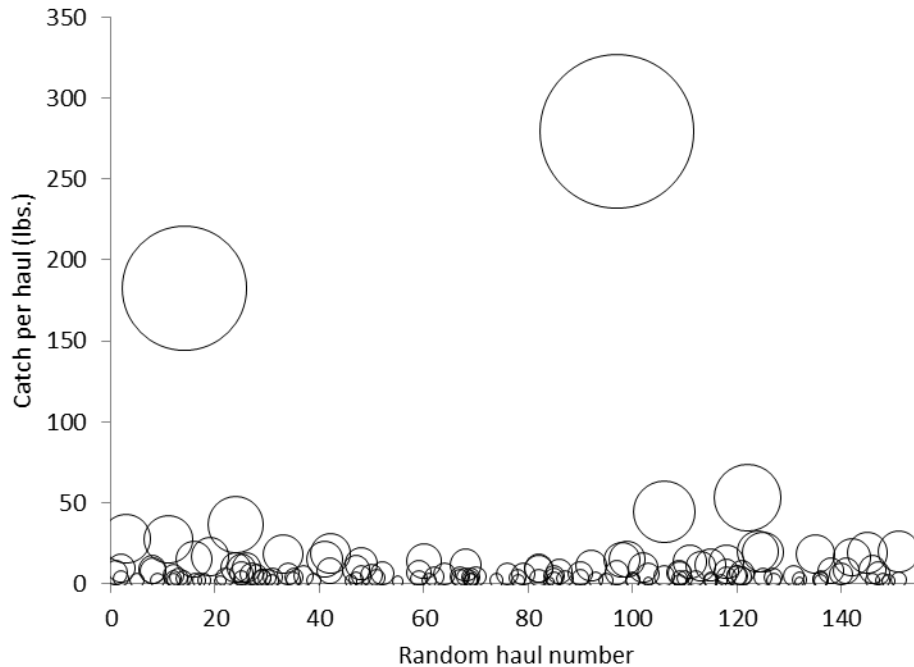


Figure 2. Weights of canary rockfish per haul using trawl gear, north of 40°10' N. lat., shoreward of the RCA, during periods 3 and 5 of 2011 under IFQ. The X axis is a randomly assigned haul number; the Y axis is weight of canary rockfish per haul in pounds, and bubble size also represents weight of canary rockfish per haul.

Only a small portion of the darkblotched rockfish (2.7 percent) taken with trawl gear during these periods, was harvested from shoreward of the RCA. Twenty-four percent of darkblotched-

positive hauls in this time and area occurred shoreward of the RCA. The mean weight per haul of this species in the shoreward area was only 6.8 pounds, with a maximum of 125 pounds.

A small minority of the catch of POP harvested north of 40°10' N. lat. with trawl gear during these periods was taken shoreward of the RCA (0.5 percent). Out of 541 POP-positive hauls in these months and area only 5 were shoreward of the RCA; their maximum weight was 142 pounds; the others were less than 10 pounds.

The majority of yelloweye rockfish (61.9 percent) caught with trawl gear north of 40°10' N. lat., during periods 3 and 5 of 2011, under IFQ, was taken shoreward of the RCA. Those consisted of five yelloweye-positive hauls, for a total of 33.75 pounds. Only 128 pounds or 9.7 percent of the 1,323 pound allocation was harvested in all areas and periods during 2011. The maximum individual haul size shoreward of the RCA during periods 3 and 5, north of 40°10' N. lat., was 15.15 pounds, or 1.2 percent of the fleet allocation.

These data, together with low catch of rebuilding species during the first year of IFQ, suggest that the probability of a “disaster tow”, i.e. one tow which would catch enough of a rebuilding species so that it would exceed the IFQ fishery allocation is relatively low, assuming similar behavior as during 2011.

Fishing behavior, and bycatch rates in these areas and time periods, could potentially be different than those observed during pre-IFQ or during 2011, the first year of the program, given the variation in catch among months that was observed for many species during 2011. The Council should consider the potential impact of individual accountability when making this decision.

## 2012 IFQ CATCH UPDATE

Total catch by species, in the IFQ groundfish fishery through March 5, 2012, with current attainment of the species allocations is shown in Table 4 (available from <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/ifq/>).

Currently, the species with the highest attainment is petrale sole, which is reportedly at 25 percent of its allocation.

## RECREATIONAL

Recreational fisheries in Washington and Oregon are open; however effort and overfished species impacts in January and February are relatively low. The first California recreational fishery opened on March 1, in the southern management area. Areas north of Pt. Conception will not open until May 1, at the earliest. Therefore, there are currently no recreational updates to the overfished species scorecard.

## CATCH ACCOUNTING FOR SABLEFISH DTL; CURRENT EFFORT

In September, 2011, the Council recommended pursuing methods to further increase the accuracy of future sablefish DTL landings data, beyond the 2011 PacFIN software correction (Agenda Item F.6.b, PCFDC Report). One way to accomplish this is through dividing primary and DTL landings based on tallies of primary landings by permit (enabling correct tracking of

landings on transferred permits, etc.), which would better identify at when a vessel switches from the primary to DTL fishery.

The GMT would like to reiterate that the sablefish DTL North errors in the past several years were overwhelmingly due to faulty software (also previously referred to as an algorithm) within the PacFIN database, which has been corrected. Specifically, the error was due to incorrectly attributing DTL catch during the primary season to primary, and thus underestimating the catch by DTL.

To achieve further improvements in accuracy of DTL catch data, discussions will be needed among representatives from different agencies, including state fishery data managers, PacFIN, state and federal enforcement. Through these discussions, some agreement may be reached to develop a tractable solution given the capabilities of existing state data systems, capacity of PacFIN, and needs of enforcement.

Table 4. Total catch in the IFQ groundfish fishery through March 5, 2012.

IFQ Species	Allocation	Catch to Date	Remaining	Attainment
Arrowtooth flounder	20,861,131	515,847	20,345,284	2.5%
Bocaccio rockfish South of 40°10' N.	132,277	1,407	130,870	1.1%
Canary rockfish	57,761	358	57,403	0.6%
Chilipepper rockfish South of 40°10' N.	2,934,904	2,687	2,932,217	0.1%
Cowcod South of 40°10' N.	3,968	0	3,968	0.0%
Darkblotched rockfish	548,808	31,621	517,187	5.8%
Dover sole	49,018,682	1,643,220	47,375,462	3.4%
English sole	21,037,611	10,584	21,027,027	0.1%
Lingcod	3,991,800	52,584	3,939,216	1.3%
Longspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	4,219,648	151,748	4,067,900	3.6%
Minor shelf rockfish North of 40°10' N.	1,150,813	2,679	1,148,134	0.2%
Minor shelf rockfish South of 40°10' N.	189,598	13	189,585	0.0%
Minor slope rockfish North of 40°10' N.	1,828,779	21,478	1,807,301	1.2%
Minor slope rockfish South of 40°10' N.	831,958	11,800	820,158	1.4%
Other flatfish	9,253,683	73,500	9,180,183	0.8%
Pacific cod	2,502,247	198	2,502,049	0.0%
Pacific halibut (IBQ) North of 40°10' N.	232,856	7,807	225,049	3.4%
Pacific ocean perch North of 40°10' N.	263,441	7,687	255,754	2.9%
Pacific whiting	25,055,977	30,119	25,025,858	0.1%
Petrale sole	2,324,995	582,400	1,742,595	25.0%
Sablefish North of 36° N.	5,438,797	355,530	5,083,267	6.5%
Sablefish South of 36° N.	1,133,352	6,055	1,127,297	0.5%
Shortspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	3,120,533	180,659	2,939,874	5.8%
Shortspine thornyheads South of 34°27' N.	110,231	0	110,231	0.0%
Splitnose rockfish South of 40°10' N.	3,206,513	11,871	3,194,642	0.4%
Starry flounder	1,480,404	1,304	1,479,100	0.1%
Widow rockfish	755,352	823	754,529	0.1%
Yelloweye rockfish	1,323	2	1,321	0.2%

## SCORECARD UPDATE

In the March 2012 scorecard (Table 5), projected impacts have been updated to reflect petrale research based on Agenda Item E.9.b. from the November 2011 Council meeting. At the start of the year, projected impacts for research are equal to the allocation, and will be updated as we get information.

### **Recommendations:**

- **The GMT recommends the Council consider changes to the shoreward boundary of the trawl RCA during periods 3 and 5 (May, June, September and October) of 2012, from the 75 fm line to the 100 fm line (Table 2.) for the area between 40°10' N. lat. and 48°10' N. lat. (Cape Alava).**
- **The GMT recommends continuing the dialogue between representatives from different agencies, including state fishery data managers, PacFIN, state and federal enforcement necessary to improve accuracy of sablefish DTL landings data in PacFIN.**

PFMC  
03/05/12

Table 5. Scorecard for the beginning of 2012. Allocations<sup>a</sup> and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2012.

Fishery	Bocaccio b/		Canary		Cowcod b/		Dkbl		Petrale		POP		Widow		Yelloweye	
	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts	Allocation a/	Projected Impacts
<i>Date: 5 March 2012</i>																
<b>Off the Top Deductions</b>	13.4	2.4	20.0	18.7	0.3	0.1	18.7	17.2	65.4	87.1	12.8	12.8	61.0	64.9	5.9	5.8
EFPc/	11.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.5	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Research d/	1.7	1.7	7.2	7.2	0.1	0.1	2.1	2.1	17.0	17.0	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	3.3	3.3
Incidental OA e/	0.7	0.7	2.0	2.0	--	--	15.0	15.0	1.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.3	3.3	0.2	0.2
Tribal f/			9.5	9.5			0.1	0.1	45.4	70.0	10.9	10.9	45.0	60.0	2.3	2.3
<b>Trawl Allocations</b>	60.0	60.0	34.8	34.8	1.8	1.8	263.0	263.0	1,060.0	1,060.0	137.0	137.0	491.0	491.0	0.6	0.6
--SB Trawl	60.0	60.0	26.2	26.2	1.8	1.8	248.9	248.9	1,054.6	1,054.6	119.6	119.6	342.1	342.1	0.6	0.6
--At-Sea Trawl			8.6	8.6			14.5	14.5	5.0	5.0	17.4	17.4	147.9	147.9		
a) At-sea whiting MS			3.6	3.4			6.0	6.0			7.2	7.2	61.2	61.2		
b) At-sea whiting CP			5.0	4.8			8.5	8.5			10.2	10.2	86.7	86.7		
<b>Non-Trawl Allocation</b>	189.6	55.9	29.8	19.2	0.9	0.2	14.0	5.8	35.0	0.0	7.0	0.4	49.0	10.0	10.5	9.9
Non-Nearshore	57.9		2.3												1.3	
LEFG				1.4				4.8				0.3		0.1		0.8
OA FG				0.2				0.8				0.1		0.0		0.1
Directed OA: Nearshore	0.7	0.5	4.0	3.3		0.0		0.2						0.2	1.1	1.1
Recreational Groundfish																
WA			2.0	1.0				--		--		--		--	2.6	2.5
OR			7.0	4.0				--		--		--		1.0	2.4	2.3
CA	131.0	55.4	14.5	9.3		0.2		--		--		--		8.7	3.1	3.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>263.0</b>	<b>118.3</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>295.7</b>	<b>286.0</b>	<b>1,160.4</b>	<b>1,147.1</b>	<b>156.8</b>	<b>150.2</b>	<b>601.0</b>	<b>565.9</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>16.3</b>
2012 Harvest Specification g/	274	274	107	107	3.0	3.0	296	296	1,160	1,160	157	157	600	600	17	17
<b>Difference</b>	11.0	155.7	22.4	34.3	0.0	0.9	0.3	10.0	-0.4	12.9	0.2	6.8	-1.0	34.1	0.0	0.7
<b>Percent of OY</b>	96.0%	43.2%	79.1%	67.9%	100.0%	70.0%	99.9%	96.6%	100.0%	98.9%	99.9%	95.7%	100.2%	94.3%	100.0%	95.9%
Key																

a/ Formal allocations are represented in the black shaded cells and are specified in regulation in Tables 1b and 1e. The other values in the allocation columns are 1) off the top deductions, 2) set asides from the trawl allocation (at-sea petrale only) 3) ad-hoc allocations recommended in the 2011-12 EIS process, 4) HG for the recreational fisheries for canary and YE.

b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.

c/ EFPs are amounts set aside to accommodate anticipated applications. Values in this table represent the estimates from the 11-12 biennial cycle, which are currently specified in regulation.

d/ Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.

e/ The GMT's best estimate of impacts as analyzed in the 2011-2012 Environmental Impact Statement (Appendix B), which are currently specified in regulation.

f/ Tribal values in the allocation column represent the values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.

g/ The POP ACL is 183 mt, while the HG is 157 mt