

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2010 PART 1

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) considered the most recent information on the status of ongoing fisheries and requests from industry and provides the following recommendations for 2010 inseason adjustments. Last week, the GMT also received the 2009 Total Mortality Report from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP). The GMT received guidance from NMFS Northwest Region (NWR) regarding timing of implementation of inseason recommendations from this meeting. NMFS anticipates working to get any adjustments recommended by the Council as quickly as possible. Therefore, the GMT modeled for adjustments to fishery management measures beginning on December 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

Scorecard Updates

The GMT received an update from The Nature Conservancy (Agenda Item H.4.a., Attachments 2 and 3) on the Morro Bay/Port San Luis Exempted Fishing Permit and note that the total darkblotched take (1.0 mt) was less than the set aside of 1.5 mt. In our review of the scorecard we also discovered that, within the fixed gear rows in the scorecard, the "Other Fixed Gear" row was a holdover from a previous modeling configuration and is redundant. That row is no longer included in the scorecard.

Treaty Tribal Fisheries

The GMT received an update that the Makah Tribe is requesting an increase in their take of yellowtail rockfish in the directed midwater fishery beyond what is currently in regulations. The regulations currently state, "Yellowtail rockfish taken in the directed tribal mid-water trawl fisheries are subject to a cumulative limit of 180,000 lb (81,647 kg) per 2-month period for the entire fleet. Landings of widow rockfish must not exceed 10 percent of the weight of yellowtail rockfish landed, for a given vessel, throughout the year. These limits may be adjusted by the tribe inseason to minimize the incidental catch of canary rockfish and widow rockfish, provided the average 2-month cumulative yellowtail rockfish limit does not exceed 180,000-lb (81,647 kg) for the fleet." This allows the flexibility to catch fish as they are available by pooling the limits across periods for a total fleet limit of 1,080,000 lbs (490 mt). The fishery to date has exceeded this total fleet limit due to high availability of yellowtail with relatively low associated bycatch of canary. Likewise, widow rockfish catch, which is capped at 10 percent of landings of yellowtail by weight, is higher than what is in the scorecard. Catch is currently at 1,119,879 lbs (508 mt) for yellowtail, 45.5 mt for widow, and 2.8 mt for canary.

The Tribe is proposing to test the use of electric jig machines in the midwater fishery to minimize bycatch. The jigs will be used to look for bycatch species of concern (i.e. widow and canary rockfish) prior to setting the trawl net. Trip limits will be 40,000 lbs/trip for yellowtail, 150 lbs/trip for canary, and widow will remain at 10 percent of yellowtail landings by weight each trip. Makah Fisheries Management estimates that an additional 169 mt of yellowtail, 15.2

mt of widow, and 0.2 mt of canary will be needed to prosecute the fishery (Table 1). Given bycatch rates from this season in both the yellowtail and whiting fisheries, the total additional impact toward OYs will be for yellowtail and widow rockfish (i.e. given lower than expected bycatch of canary in the whiting fishery, there is no impact to the residual in the scorecard). All trips and tows will be observed and the data reported for use by the non-treaty trawl fleet through the Council. Assuming the fishery is successful, information on the use of jigs to test for potential bycatch may provide greater access to yellowtail for some in the rationalized trawl fleet.

Table 1. Estimated additional impacts from Makah fisheries on widow and canary rockfish from both the yellowtail midwater trawl and whiting fisheries and associated scorecard values.

<u>Yellowtail Midwater Trawl Fishery</u>	<u>Yellowtail</u>	<u>Widow</u>	<u>Canary</u>
Preseason estimates	490	40.0	3.6
Current impacts	508	45.5	2.8
MW with test	677	60.6	3.8
Total additional OFS		20.6	0.2
<u>Whiting Fishery</u>			
Preseason estimates		5	4.3
Current impacts		8.8	1.3
Total additional OFS		3.8	-3.0
<u>Total additional scorecard impacts</u> (i.e. impacts to the residual)		24.4	0.0

The GMT notes that yellowtail is currently under its optimum yield (OY) by a considerable amount. Catch in the latest Quota Species Monitoring (QSM) Best Estimate Report (BER) is estimated to be 877 mt out of an OY of 4,562 mt (19 percent). Both the midwater directed fishery and the tribal whiting fishery are over their estimates of widow in the scorecard for the year. However, similar to yellowtail, there is a considerable amount of widow in the scorecard that is unlikely to be harvested. There is a residual of 142.4 mt of widow in the scorecard. Also, the majority of impacts come from the limited entry (LE) whiting trawl sectors in addition to the Makah fisheries. Currently, they are estimated to have taken only 45.3 mt for the shorebased fleet and 37.2 mt for the at-sea sectors (92 mt total). The scorecard has bycatch limits of 67 mt for the motherships, 95 mt for the catcher-processors, and 117 mt for the shorebased fishery (279 mt total). As such, the residual in the scorecard is likely a very conservative estimate of available widow compared to the OY.

Commercial Fisheries

Limited Entry Trawl Fishery

Fishing impacts through the end of 2010 were projected for target and overfished species of the LE non-whiting trawl sector using the Trawl Bycatch Model (Hastie 2003). The model was run using historical landings, depth and geographic area information from fish tickets and logbook

data from 2005 through April 2009, as well as bycatch and discard rate estimates from WCGOP over the same time period. The model was updated from the Pacific Fishery Information Network (PacFIN) QSM BER through Period 5, on November 1, 2010.

The 2009 total mortality report was just released, and it reveals that darkblotched rockfish exceeded the OY by 15 mt last year. Moreover, LE non-whiting trawl exceeded its 2009 projection by 72 mt. According to current projections, action would need to be taken to prevent exceeding the darkblotched OY for 2010 as well.

The trawl model is under-projecting darkblotched rockfish impacts. The current QSM BER shows 129 mt of darkblotched has already been landed through Period 5, while trawl model is projecting only 78 mt landed through Period 5. A contributing factor to this is that the bycatch and discard data in the model, by necessity, lags one year behind, thus the most recent fishing behavior cannot be taken into account. More specifically, the amount of fishing effort as shallow as 150 fm (where darkblotched encounters are more frequent) is likely underrepresented, especially in times where trip limits were very low, which produces increased discards relative to landings.

In light of this information, trawl model projections for 2010 were adjusted to increase accuracy. This was accomplished by expanding the projected landings from the model up to that of the QSM best estimate, and applying an average discard rate (50% of total darkblotched mortality) from recent total mortality reports. The fact that the reduction will likely go into effect mid-way through Period 6 was accounted for in the adjustment. Projected impacts under the no-action alternative (A1) are presented in Table 2, and corresponding management measures are presented in Table 3.

With an additional expected 38 mt of darkblotched landings projected for Period 6, this places the adjusted projection for trawl impacts in 2010 at 335.2 mt. The current OY is 330 mt. If no action is taken, darkblotched could go over the OY by 52.7 mt for 2010.

We estimate an 11 percent reduction in total darkblotched impacts, down to 298mt by moving the RCA deep line out to 250 fm and closing the slope rockfish and darkblotched trawl fishery in the North during Period 6. The most influential factor over darkblotched total mortality has been fishing depth; however, under this action alternative (A2), closing slope rockfish in the North during Period 6 is included to reduce 2010 darkblotched impacts as well. Projected impacts under A2 are presented in Table 4, and the corresponding management measures are in Table 5.

Table 2. **Alternative 1, No Action** projected LE trawl impacts for 2010 (**petrale cutouts open in Period 6, status quo limits**) for management areas north and south of 40°10' N. latitude.

A1NA group	Species/Mgmt.	North	South	Total	OY/HG/Al.	Total-HG	Total/HG
	Canary	8.0	0.9	8.9			
	POP	95.5	0.1	95.6			
	Darkblotched	310.4	24.8	335.2			
	Widow	7.8	5.3	13.1			
	Bocaccio	1.4	21	22.4			
	Yelloweye	0.2	0.0	0.2			
	Cowcod	0.0	0.2	0.2			
	Sablefish N of 36° N. lat.	2,276.0	335.7	2,611.6	2,955	-343	88%
	Longspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,280.5	241.4	1,521.9	2,129	-607	71%
	Shortspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,069.1	138.5	1,207.6	1,567	-359	77%
	Dover	10,215.1	1,034.0	11,249.1	16,093	-4,844	70%
	Arrowtooth	5,076.6	7.1	5,083.7	9,755	-4,671	52%
	Petrale	711.3	150.9	862.3	1,140	-277	76%
	Other flatfish	839.8	114.4	954.2	4,685	-3,731	20%
	Slope rockfish	322.1	164.6	486.7	1160/626		

Table 3. **Alternative 1, No Action** cumulative LE groundfish trawl trip limits and RCA boundaries, as adopted at the September, 2010 Council meeting (petrale cutouts are open in Period 6).

2-month period	RCA lines (fm)		2-month cumulative-poundage limits							
	shallow	deep	sable-fish	long-spine	short-spine	Dover sole	petrale sole	arrow-tooth	other flatfish	slope rockfish
N. of 40°10' N lat.										
Large/small footrope limits										
1	75	150	20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	6,000
2	75	200	20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	6,000
3	75	150/200	24,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	2,000
4	100	150/200	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	150,000	100,000	2,000
5	75	200	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	180,000	110,000	4,000
6	75	200-pco	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	180,000	110,000	4,000
Selective gear limits										
1	75	150	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	90,000	
2	75	200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	60,000	
3	75	150/200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	60,000	
4	100	150/200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	6,300	90,000	60,000	
5	75	200	10,000	5,500	5,500	70,000	6,300	100,000	70,000	
6	75	200-pco	10,000	5,500	5,500	70,000	6,300	100,000	70,000	
38° - 40°10' N lat.										
1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
4	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	15,000
5	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	15,000
6	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	15,000
S. of 38° N lat.										
1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
4	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	55,000
5	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	55,000
6	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	55,000

Note: “**200-pco**” denotes the modified 200 fm seaward RCA with **petrale cutouts open**. Chilipepper rockfish trip limit = 17,000 pounds/2 months.

Table 4. **Alternative 2**, projected LE trawl impacts for 2010, under the potential inseason action, with deep RCA boundaries in the North at 250 fathoms for Period 6, and slope rockfish in the North closed.

A2 Species/Mgmt. group	North	South	Total	OY/HG/Al.	Total-HG	Total/HG
Canary	8.0	0.9	8.9			
POP	86.8	0.1	86.9			
Darkblotched	272.9	25.4	298.3			
Widow	7.0	5.3	12.3			
Bocaccio	1.4	21	22.4			
Yelloweye	0.2	0.0	0.2			
Cowcod	0.0	0.2	0.2			
Sablefish N of 36° N. lat.	2,254.8	335.7	2,590.4	2,955	-365	88%
Longspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,279.4	241.4	1,520.8	2,129	-608	71%
Shortspine N. of 34° 27' N. lat.	1,056.3	138.5	1,194.7	1,567	-372	76%
Dover	10,066.2	1,034.0	11,100.2	16,093	-4,993	69%
Arrowtooth	4,963.5	7.1	4,970.6	9,755	-4,784	51%
Petrale	673.5	150.9	824.4	1,140	-315	72%
Other flatfish	830.4	114.4	944.7	4,685	-3,740	20%
Slope rockfish	317.7	164.6	482.3	1160/626		

Table 5. **Alternative 2**, potential LE management measures for 2010 after inseason adjustment, with deep RCA boundaries in the North at 250 fathoms for Period 6, and slope rockfish in the North closed.

2-month period	RCA lines (fm)		2-month cumulative-poundage limits							
	shallow	deep	sable-fish	long-spine	short-spine	Dover sole	petrale sole	arrow-tooth	other flatfish	slope rockfish
N. of 40°10' N lat.										
Large/small footrope limits										
1	75	150	20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	6,000
2	75	200	20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	6,000
3	75	150/200	24,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	110,000	2,000
4	100	150/200	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	150,000	100,000	2,000
5	75	200	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	180,000	110,000	4,000
6	75	250	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	180,000	110,000	0
Selective gear limits										
1	75	150	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	90,000	
2	75	200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	60,000	
3	75	150/200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	9,500	90,000	60,000	
4	100	150/200	9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	6,300	90,000	60,000	
5	75	200	10,000	5,500	5,500	70,000	6,300	100,000	70,000	
6	75	250	10,000	5,500	5,500	70,000	6,300	100,000	70,000	
38° - 40°10' N lat.										
1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	15,000
4	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	15,000
5	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	15,000
6	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	15,000
S. of 38° N lat.										
1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	110,000	55,000
4	100	150	21,000	24,000	18,000	100,000	6,300	10,000	100,000	55,000
5	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	55,000
6	100	150	24,000	26,000	20,000	110,000	6,300	12,000	110,000	55,000

After updating the scorecard with the best estimates of darkblotched impacts for all fisheries, it appears that the only fisheries where darkblotched savings could be achieved are the limited entry whiting trawl fishery and the sablefish fixed-gear fishery. Sablefish have a projected 4.5 mt impact assuming full utilization of available sablefish; however, any savings from inseason action in the last month of the year is not quantifiable and would likely be relatively small. In other words, there is no way to quantify with existing models how much of the 4.5 mt of darkblotched are caught in a given region based on available limits and Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries. For the whiting fishery, NMFS NWR issued an inseason notice on November 4 showing that to date the shorebased fishery has taken 54,767 mt out of 65,938 mt (83 percent of their whiting after reallocation). They have taken 3.9 mt of the 10.5 mt darkblotched limit. The mothership fishery has taken 35,714 mt out of 37,679 mt (95 percent after reallocation) and 5.5 mt out of the 6 mt darkblotched limit. The catcher-processor fishery has taken 44,392 mt out of 53,379 mt (83 percent after reallocation) and 2.3 mt of the 8.5 mt darkblotched limit. This means that approximately 13.3 mt of darkblotched savings could be achieved by closing all limited entry whiting fishery sectors immediately.

This closure combined with the proposed inseason changes for LE non-whiting trawl the OY would be projected to be exceeded by 2.5 mt in the scorecard.

Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL) Fisheries North of 36° N. lat.

LIMITED ENTRY

The Council considered changes to the limited entry fixed gear sablefish DTL fishery trip limits in September, but did not recommend changes because increases to the trip limits in this fishery had recently increased, and new landings data were not available determine the effect on landings of those trip limit increases.

Landings data through September 30, 2010 indicate that catches in this limited entry DTL fishery are higher than previous years (Figure 1). This is a result of recent attempts to better predict landings for this fishery using a trip-limit based model (see Agenda Item G.4.b, Supplemental GMT Report, November 2009). Nonetheless, modeling efforts indicate that if trip limits remain at Status Quo (i.e., bimonthly trip limits of 8,000 lbs / 2 months), 88 percent of the allocation, or 281 mt, may be landed by December 31, 2010.

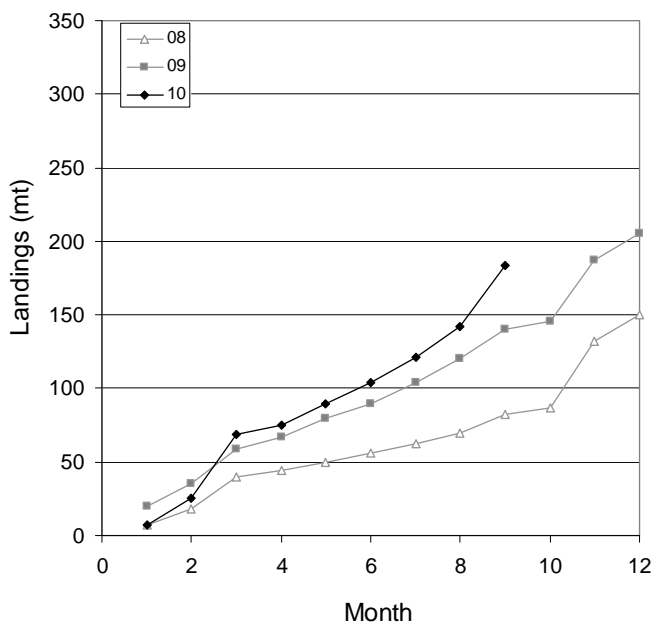


Figure 1. Monthly landings (mt) of sablefish for the Limited Entry Sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N. latitude for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Data shown for 2010 are only through September 30 (= 184 mt). Allocations for this fishery were 276 mt for 2008, 351 mt for 2009 and 321 mt for 2010.

The GMT recently updated a model to help predict landings of sablefish for this limited entry sablefish DTL fishery (see Appendix A, Description of Projection Models, 2011-2012 Groundfish Harvest Specifications, Draft Environmental Impact Statement). This model was

used to predict landings for the remainder of 2010. We projected that landings through October 31, 2010 may total 206 mt. The limited entry sablefish model was then used to develop trip limits for the remainder of the year (Period 6) that may result in 88 percent (based on Status Quo trip limits) and 100 percent of the annual allocation (Table 6). Hence, the GMT provides the Council with two trip-limit options for this fishery, which are shown in Table 5.

Table 6. Trip limit options for the Limited Entry Fixed Gear sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N. latitude. Projected landings and the percent of the allocation taken are shown.

Option	Weekly trip limit (lbs)	Bimonthly trip limit (lbs)	Projected landings (mt)	Percent of allocation landed
1 (Status Quo)	1,750	8,000	281	88%
2	2,250	10,300	321	100%

Although the projection model only uses bimonthly trip limits to predict landings, weekly trip limits for status quo (1,750 lbs/week) and option 2 (2,250 lbs/week, expanded by proportion) are included in Table 6.

There is uncertainty in this model that is used for projecting landings. This model represents an average projection of landings, given certain levels of bimonthly trip limits. Therefore, actual landings are likely equal to or higher than projected landings half of the time, and conversely, equal to or lower than projections half of the time.

The GMT discussed the pros and cons of modeling projected landings to hit the allocation (100 percent) or modeling to come close to the allocation (i.e., within 90 percent). The GMT concluded that at this point in the season, it may be best to set trip limits using some buffer (i.e., Option 1). This conclusion was made because, without a buffer, there is a 50 percent likelihood of equalling or exceeding the allocation for 2010, and there would be no opportunity for further adjustments. The GMT concluded that it may be most appropriate to model landings to hit the allocation (100 percent) earlier in the season, however, because there would be subsequent opportunities to make proper adjustments for remaining below the allocation. Based on this logic, the GMT recommends the bimonthly trip limits shown in Option 1 (Status Quo), that is, retaining the current 8,000 lbs/month trip limit. **The GMT also recommends increasing the limited entry fixed gear sablefish weekly trip limit from 1,750 lbs/wk to 2,000 lbs/wk north of 36° N. latitude; as pointed out in the DEIS analysis, the weekly trip limit has no impact on model output whereas increasing this limit provides an economic and potential safety benefit to the fishermen (e.g., provides the potential of obtaining the bimonthly limit in four trips rather than four plus a small fifth trip).**

OPEN ACCESS

The Council also considered changes to the open access fixed gear sablefish DTL fishery trip limits in September, but did not recommend changes because the impacts of planned reductions to the trip limits south of 36° N. latitude were uncertain. It was anticipated that those reductions may have resulted in a shift of effort from the south to the north. This anticipated effort shift did

not occur, and as a result, landings data through September 30, 2010 indicate that the landings rate (per month) for the open access DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. is too low to reach the 2010 allocation of 529 mt for 2010 (Figure 2). Modeling efforts indicate that if trip limits remain at Status Quo (i.e., bimonthly trip limits of 2,750 lbs / 2 months), only 81 percent of the allocation, or 435 mt, may be landed by December 31, 2010 (see below).

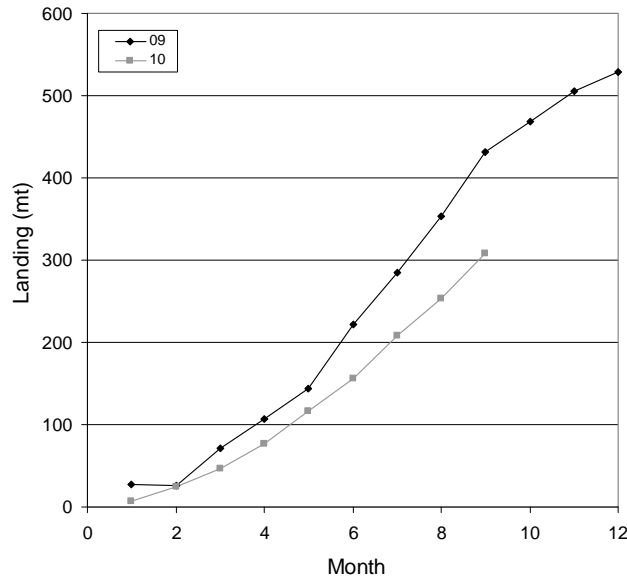


Figure 2. Monthly landings (mt) of sablefish for the Open Access Sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N latitude for 2009 and 2010. Data shown for 2010 are only through September 30 (= 308 mt). Allocations for this fishery were 578 mt for 2009 and 529 mt for 2010.

The GMT recently updated a model to help predict landings of sablefish for this open access sablefish fishery (see Appendix A, Description of Projection Models, 2011-2012 Groundfish Harvest Specifications, Draft Environmental Impact Statement). This model was used to predict landings for the remainder of 2010. We projected that landings through October 31, 2010 may total 338 mt. The open access sablefish model was then used to develop trip limits for the remainder of the year (Period 6) that are estimated to result in 81 percent (based on Status Quo trip limits), 90 percent and 100 percent of the annual allocation (Table 6). Hence, the GMT provides the Council with three trip-limit options for this fishery, which are shown in Table 6.

Table 7. Trip limit options for the open access fixed gear sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N. latitude. Projected landings and the percent of the allocation taken are shown.

Option	Daily trip limit (lbs)	or One landing per week (lbs)	Bimonthly trip limit (lbs)	Projected landings (mt)	Percent of allocation landed
1 (Status Quo)	300	950	2,750	435	82%
2	400	1,500	4,500	474	90%
3	500	2,500	7,000	529	100%

Although the model only uses bimonthly trip limits to predict landings, we included daily, monthly, and bimonthly trip limits in Table 2 for status quo (300 lbs/day, or one landing per week not to exceed 950 lbs, and cumulative bimonthly limit of 2,750 lbs/2 months) and for options 2 and 3 (see Table 6).

As described above, for the LE model, projections represent the most likely average response; some bimonthly landings will be higher than projections whereas others will be lower. In addition, increasing the trip limit for this open access fishery can be risky, because potential effort (number of boats fishing) is not capped. The unpredictable nature of this fishery is made apparent by comparing annual landings with annual allocations. Landings have exceeded the annual allocation for this open access sablefish fishery north of 36° N. lat. for three of the past six years. Finally, if trip limits are severely reduced south of 36° N. lat. (see below), there is the possibility of effort shifting from the south to the north. It is important to note, however, that this effort shift may not be as extreme as one might expect, because vessels will be required to adhere to the most restrictive trip limits for the two month period for which they began fishing, and it is likely that trip limits will become most restrictive south of 36° N. lat. during Period 6 after vessels begin fishing (see below).

As described above for the limited entry sablefish DTL fishery, the GMT discussed the pros and cons of modeling projected landings to hit the allocation (100 percent) or modeling to come close to the allocation (i.e., within 90 percent). Since this is the final Council meeting for 2010, the GMT concluded that it may be best to set trip limits using some buffer because we will have no further opportunity to reduce limits if landings exceed expectations. However, since we don't anticipate a large increase in effort (see above), and because this regulation will not go into effect until approximately the middle of the sixth Period, the GMT suggests that some increase may be accommodated with low likelihood of exceeding the allocation. **Hence, the GMT recommends increasing the open access sablefish trip limits north of 36° N. latitude for Period 6 from Status Quo to those trip limits shown for Option 2 in Table 7 (400 lbs/day or one landing not to exceed 1,500 lbs/week, and a bimonthly cumulative limit of 4,500 lbs/2 months).**

Sablefish Daily Trip Limit (DTL) Fisheries South of 36° N. lat.

The Council at their September meeting recommended and NMFS implemented considerable reductions to the Open Access sablefish trip limits in the DTL fishery south of 36° N. lat. on

October 1, 2010. Also on October 1, 2010 modest reductions were made to the limited entry fixed gear sablefish DTL fishery trip limits. With these changes, combined with projected catch from EFP fisheries, the GMT anticipated that the catch of sablefish south of 36° N. lat. would be kept within the 1,258 mt OY for sablefish south of 36° N. lat.

Landings data through October 29, 2010 indicate that LE and OA (Open Access) removals were higher for the month of July than previously modeled back in September. The increase in landings is most likely due to late landing receipts. California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) staff indicates that the normal 6-8 week time lag for data entering PacFIN has increased to almost 12 weeks and as a result, it has been difficult to monitor this fishery.

The GMT updated its September analysis with the most recent PacFIN data for the month of July and further refined the analysis to remove all EFP data from projections (to avoid any double counting). The analysis the GMT conducted in September was based on calculating catches through October (based on state landings receipts and projected catches), adding in the EFP catches for the year, and constructing trip limits for the remaining amount for each sector based on proportions of historical catch (40 percent LE:60 percent OA). Based on the updated analysis and assuming 100% attainment of the OY concurrent with previous methodology, the Conception area OY is expected to be exceeded by 61 mt without inseason action. The OA sector alone is expected to exceed their allotment by 57.4 mt.

The GMT examined the following options for Council consideration to keep catches within the 2010 OY.

Option 1 – close both LE and OA effective December 1, 2010.

In their September analysis, the GMT emphasized that the estimated number of landings and vessel participation for the months of August and September are considerably uncertain (Agenda Item I.2.b, Supplemental GMT Report, September 2010). At this time the GMT cannot verify those projections because very few data are available for those months. The GMT also estimated that fewer OA vessels would remain in this area based on the lower trip limits that were implemented on October 1, 2010. To date, very few vessels have left the area. If the Council chose to close both LE and OA effective December 1, 2010, the GMT estimates a buffer of 20.1 mt buffer would be left available resulting in approximately 98 percent attainment of the OY (Table 8).

Table 8. Conception area sablefish landings assuming a December 1, 2010 closure for both sectors

2010 landings, Jan-July	419.0
EFP cap for 2010	300.0
sub total	719.0
2010 OY	1258
SABL remaining for Aug-Dec	539.0
40% LE	215.6
LE landings Aug-Nov	166.8
LE available for Dec	48.8
60% OA	323.4
OA landings Aug-Nov	352.1
OA available for Dec	-28.7
Total Residual	20.1

Option 2 – some opportunity for LE, close OA effective Dec 1, 2010.

Under Option 2, the GMT examined providing an opportunity for the LE fishery while maintaining a closure of the OA fishery effective December 1, 2010. Industry indicates that shortspine thornyhead are an important target strategy at this time of the year and need sablefish to prosecute this fishery. It is the GMT's understanding that many of the participants in the OA fishery may have left by December 1, 2010 to prosecute other fisheries such as lobster and crab. Under a trip limit of 1,800 lb/week, the LE fishery is projected to take 18.7 mt, leaving a 1.4 mt residual (Table 9).

Table 9. Conception area sablefish landings assuming a reduced trip limit for LE and closure of the OA fishery effective December 1, 2010.

2010 landings, Jan-July	419.0
EFP cap for 2010	300.0
sub total	719.0
2010 OY	1258
SABL remaining for Aug-Dec	539.0
40% LE	215.6
LE landings Aug-Nov	166.8
LE for Dec	18.7
60% OA	323.4
OA landings Aug-Nov	352.1
OA for Dec	0
Total Residual	1.4

Option 3 – minimal opportunities for both sectors.

The Council may choose to maintain a minimal opportunity for both sectors through the end of the year and share the remaining residual equally (10 mt each) as shown in Table 10. This would result in trip limits for the LE sector of 1,300 lb/week and 300 lb/month for open access for the month of December only.

Table 10. Conception area sablefish landings assuming a minimal trip limit for both sectors effective December 1, 2010.

2010 landings, Jan-July	419.0
EFP cap for 2010	300.0
sub total	719.0
2010 OY	1258
SABL remaining for Aug-Dec	539.0
40% LE	215.6
LE landings Aug-Nov	166.8
LE for Dec	10
60% OA	323.4
OA landings Aug-Nov	352.1
OA for Dec	10
Total Residual	0.1

GMT Recommendations:

1. Consider the Makah request to increase impacts to yellowtail and widow while testing jig machines to reduce bycatch in the rockfish directed midwater trawl.
2. For LE non-whiting trawl, adjust seaward trawl RCA boundary to 250 fm and close minor slope rockfish limit beginning December 1, and request voluntary slope rockfish avoidance by the fleet in the meantime to stay within the darkblotched OY.
3. For LE whiting trawl consider adjustments to sector-specific darkblotched bycatch limits and/or closure as needed to stay within the darkblotched OY.
4. For LE DTL north of 36° N lat. consider increasing the weekly trip limit from 1,750 lbs/wk to 2,000 lbs/wk.
5. For OA DTL north of 36° N lat. consider increasing trip limits for Period 6 from Status Quo (Table 6) to 400 lbs/day or one landing not to exceed 1, 500 lbs/week, and a bimonthly cumulative limit of 4,500 lbs/2 months.
6. For OA and LE sablefish south of 36° N lat. consider limit changes and/or closures as to stay within the OY.

Projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2010 updated based on updated tribal impacts, bottom trawl, Pacific whiting trawl, and EFPs under No Action.

Fishery	Bocaccio b/	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl g/	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
Limited Entry Trawl - Non-whiting	22.4	8.9	0.2	335.2	95.6	13.1	0.2
Limited Entry Trawl - Whiting							
At-sea whiting motherships a/		3.3		6.0	13.6	67.0	0.0
At-sea whiting cat-proc a/		4.8		8.5	2.4	95.0	0.0
Shoreside whiting a/		5.9		10.5	15.7	117.0	0.0
Tribal whiting		1.3		0.0	7.2	8.8	0.0
Tribal							
Midwater Trawl		2.8		0.0	0.0	45.5	0.0
Bottom Trawl		0.8		0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Troll		0.5		0.0	0.0		0.0
Fixed gear		0.3		0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
Fixed Gear Sablefish	0.0	2.5	0.0	4.5	0.4	0.0	0.9
Fixed Gear Nearshore	0.3	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1
Open Access: Incidental Groundfish	0.8	1.7	0.0	15.0	0.0	3.3	0.3
Recreational Groundfish e/							
WA		20.9					5.4
OR						1.0	
CA	67.3	22.9	0.3			6.2	2.7
EFPs	11.0	1.3	0.2	1.0	0.1	11.0	0.2
Research: Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.							
	2.0	4.5	0.2	2.0	2.0	5.7	0.5
TOTAL	103.8	85.9	0.9	382.7	140.7	373.9	13.6
2010 OY f/	288	105	4.0	330	200	509	14
Difference	184.2	19.1	3.1	-52.7	59.3	135.1	0.4
Percent of OY	36.0%	81.8%	22.5%	116.0%	70.4%	73.5%	97.1%
Key		= either not applicable; trace amount (<0.01 mt); or not reported in available data sources.					
<p>a/ Non-tribal whiting values for canary, darkblotched, and widow reflect bycatch limits for the non-tribal whiting sectors. All other species' impacts are projected from the GMT's whiting impact projection model. The Council may elect to change these bycatch limits when setting final whiting management measures in March 2010 or under any inseason action at any of their future meetings.</p> <p>b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.</p> <p>e/ For California, values in scorecard represent projected impacts for all species except canary and yelloweye rockfish, which are the prescribed harvest guidelines. For Washington and Oregon, the canary value represents the HG. For yelloweye, the value represents projected impacts for the Oregon fishery (2.8 mt) through the end of the year and the Washington share of the HG (2.6 mt).</p> <p>f/ 2009 and 2010 OYs are the same except for darkblotched (291 mt in 2010), POP (200 mt in 2010), and widow (509 mt in 2010).</p> <p>g/ Regulations specify a commercial harvest guideline of 288 mt (see 75FR39178)</p>							

Projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2010 updated based on updated tribal impacts, bottom trawl, Pacific whiting trawl with GMT-recommended inseason action.

Fishery	Bocaccio b/	Canary	Cowcod	Dkbl g/	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
Limited Entry Trawl - Non-whiting	22.4	8.9	0.2	298.3	95.6	13.1	0.2
Limited Entry Trawl - Whiting							
At-sea whiting motherships a/		3.3		5.5	13.6	67.0	0.0
At-sea whiting cat-proc a/		4.8		2.3	2.4	95.0	0.0
Shoreside whiting a/		5.9		3.9	15.7	117.0	0.0
Tribal whiting		1.3		0.0	7.2	8.8	0.0
Tribal							
Midwater Trawl		3.8		0.0	0.0	60.6	0.0
Bottom Trawl		0.8		0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0
Troll		0.5		0.0	0.0		0.0
Fixed gear		0.3		0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
Fixed Gear Sablefish	0.0	2.5	0.0	4.5	0.4	0.0	0.9
Fixed Gear Nearshore	0.3	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1
Open Access: Incidental Groundfish	0.8	1.7	0.0	15.0	0.0	3.3	0.3
Recreational Groundfish e/							
WA		20.9					5.4
OR						1.0	
CA	67.3	22.9	0.3			6.2	2.7
EFPs	11.0	1.3	0.2	1.0	0.1	11.0	0.2
Research: Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.							
	2.0	4.5	0.2	2.0	2.0	5.7	0.5
TOTAL	103.8	86.9	0.9	332.5	140.7	389.0	13.6
2010 OY f/	288	105	4.0	330	200	509	14
Difference	184.2	18.1	3.1	-2.5	59.3	120.0	0.4
Percent of OY	36.0%	82.8%	22.5%	100.8%	70.4%	76.4%	97.1%
Key		= either not applicable; trace amount (<0.01 mt); or not reported in available data sources.					
<p>a/ Non-tribal whiting values for canary, darkblotched, and widow reflect bycatch limits for the non-tribal whiting sectors. All other species' impacts are projected from the GMT's whiting impact projection model. The Council may elect to change these bycatch limits when setting final whiting management measures in March 2010 or under any inseason action at any of their future meetings.</p> <p>b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.</p> <p>e/ For California, values in scorecard represent projected impacts for all species except canary and yelloweye rockfish, which are the prescribed harvest guidelines. For Washington and Oregon, the canary value represents the HG. For yelloweye, the value represents projected impacts for the Oregon fishery (2.8 mt) through the end of the year and the Washington share of the HG (2.6 mt).</p> <p>f/ 2009 and 2010 OYs are the same except for darkblotched (291 mt in 2010), POP (200 mt in 2010), and widow (509 mt in 2010).</p> <p>g/ Regulations specify a commercial harvest guideline of 288 mt (see 75FR39178)</p>							

PFMC
11/6/10