

THE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON
CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

This initial GMT report is intended to give the Council, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and public, advanced notice on certain issues that we foresee arising during this first inseason agenda item of 2011 as a result of the most recent information from the Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN), the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP), and the status of ongoing fisheries. The GMT will provide additional considerations and specific recommendations for 2011 in a supplemental report.

COMMERCIAL

Shoreside Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Fishery

IFQ landings summary

As of Wednesday, March 2, 2011, there were 124 landings (receipts) recorded over 40 landing days (49 possible fishing days), counted against 31 vessel accounts at 8 ports in all three states, since the fishery began January 11, 2011. Landings have been made for 25 of the 29 IFQ species categories (species or species groups), and 2.4 percent of total available IFQ quota pounds have been landed (Table 1). Species with the highest landings (4 to 18 percent of their allocations) have been mainly Dover sole, thornyhead, and trawl-caught sablefish (DTS) complex species and petrale sole (Figure 1, Table 1). As of Wednesday, March 2, 2011, there was no WCGOP discard data available.

As a quick comparison, 18.4 percent (158 mt /860 mt) of the petrale sole allocation has been landed from January 11 through March 1 of 2011, compared with approximately 25.1 percent (286 mt /1140 mt) in all of January and February combined of 2010. The current average catch per day of petrale sole in 2011 is approximately 3.2 mt/day versus 4.7 mt/day in 2010. Several factors (in addition to trip limit versus IFQ management) including fishery start date and difference in available harvest level should be considered for this comparison.

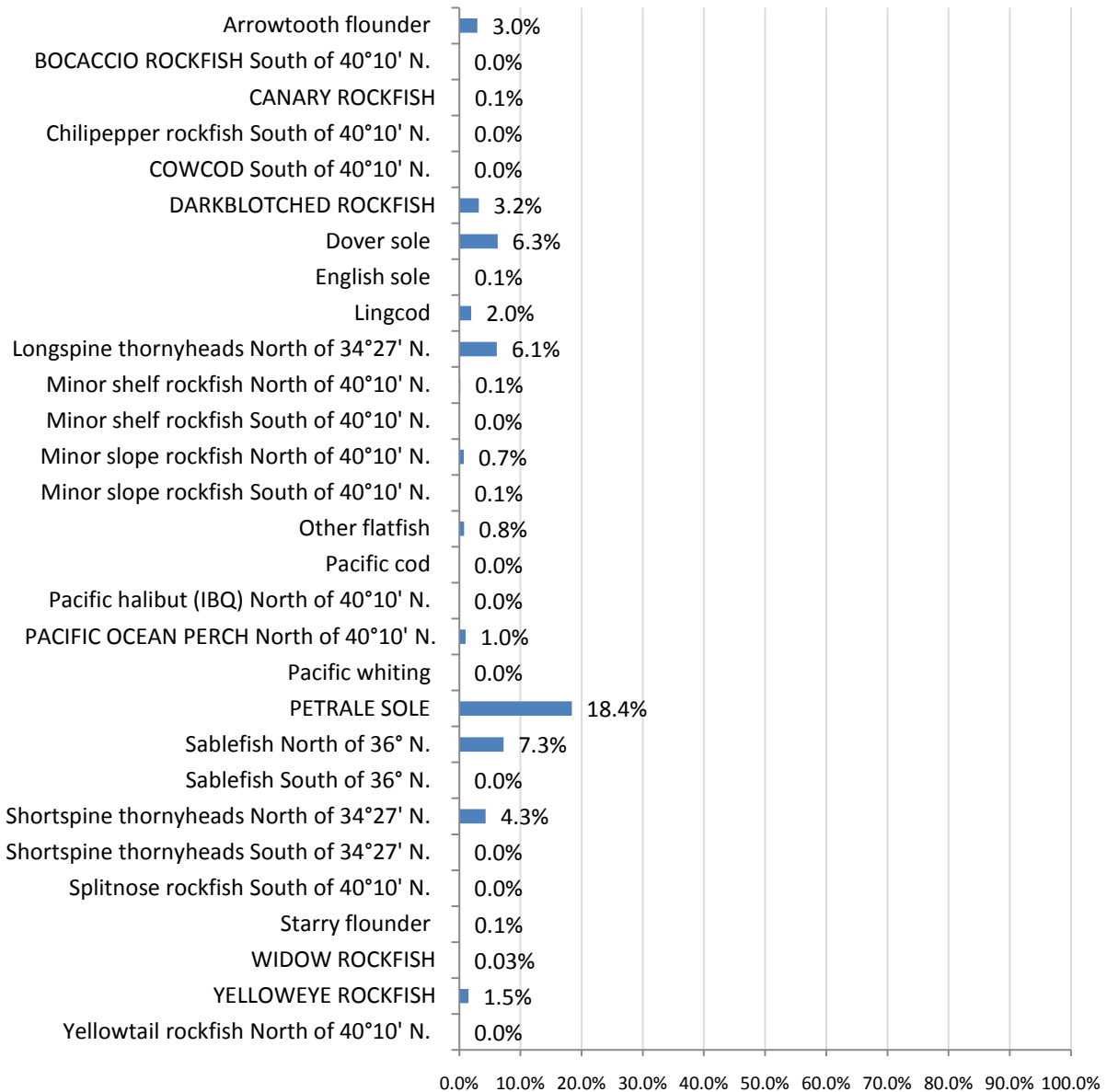


Figure 1. IFQ landings by species category and percentage of allocation, as of Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

As for other overfished species, 3.2 percent of the darkblotched rockfish allocation has been landed (7.98 mt, or 17,587 lbs.), as well as 0.1 percent of the canary rockfish allocation (65 lbs.), and 0.03 percent of the widow rockfish allocation (199 lbs.). Ten pounds of yelloweye rockfish have been landed (1.5 percent of the allocation). No bocaccio rockfish or cowcod have been landed at this time.

Seventy-four and two tenths percent of the total quota pounds debited have been landed in Oregon, followed by 15.4 percent in Washington, and 10.4 percent in California. Of the eight ports where landings have occurred so far, Astoria and Charleston (Coos Bay), Oregon have landed the largest percentage of catch.

Table 1. IFQ landings by species category, pounds, percentage of allocation, and metric tons (mt) as of March 2, 2011.

IFQ Species Category	Pounds Debited	Allocation	Percent	mt
Arrowtooth flounder	497,961	16,804,295	3.0%	225.87
BOCACCIO ROCKFISH South of 40°10' N.	0	132,277	0.0%	0.00
CANARY ROCKFISH	65	57,100	0.1%	0.03
Chilipepper rockfish South of 40°10' N.	53	3,252,370	0.0%	0.02
COWCOD South of 40°10' N.	0	2,976	0.0%	0.00
DARKBLOTCHED ROCKFISH	17,587	552,997	3.2%	7.98
Dover sole	1,952,850	31,216,354	6.3%	885.80
English sole	10,212	20,189,383	0.1%	4.63
Lingcod	80,213	4,107,873	2.0%	36.38
Longspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	265,777	4,334,839	6.1%	120.55
Minor shelf rockfish North of 40°10' N.	170	115,813	0.1%	0.08
Minor shelf rockfish South of 40°10' N.	1	189,958	0.0%	0.00
Minor slope rockfish North of 40°10' N.	13,164	1,828,779	0.7%	5.97
Minor slope rockfish South of 40°10' N.	465	831,958	0.1%	0.21
Other flatfish	72,913	9,253,683	0.8%	33.07
Pacific cod	837	2,502,247	0.0%	0.38
Pacific halibut (IBQ) North of 40°10' N.	14	257,524	0.0%	0.01
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH North of 40°10' N.	5,685	563,148	1.0%	2.58
Pacific whiting	2,827	40,712,766	0.0%	1.28
PETRALE SOLE	348,622	1,896,130	18.4%	158.13
Sablefish North of 36° N.	407,031	5,613,728	7.3%	184.63
Sablefish South of 36° N.	0	1,133,352	0.0%	0.00
Shortspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	149,080	3,456,138	4.3%	67.62
Shortspine thornyheads South of 34°27' N.	0	110,231	0.0%	0.00
Splitnose rockfish South of 40°10' N.	320	950,854	0.0%	0.15
Starry flounder	924	1,168,450	0.1%	0.42
WIDOW ROCKFISH	199	622,916	0.03%	0.09
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	10	661	1.5%	0.00
Yellowtail rockfish North of 40°10' N.	317	6,821,455	0.0%	0.14
Grand Total	3,827,297	158,680,255	2.4%	1736.03

IFQ data sources

Currently, the NMFS site <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/ifq/> is the best available public summary for IFQ debited quota pounds; it provides a current snapshot of poundage attainment by species category, and portion of allocation remaining. Efforts are underway by Pacific States Marine Fish Commission (PSMFC) to adapt the PacFIN Quota Species Management (QSM) system for IFQ. The current QSM best estimate reports are slower than electronic ticket data for IFQ, do not specifically differentiate IFQ landings from other sectors, and adjustments to soft data are made based on last year's fishery behavior, which was under trip limit management.

Fixed gear fisheries

PacFIN Limited Entry sablefish daily-trip-limit landings data and the QSM system

It was discovered in December 2010 that there has been error in the calculation of sablefish landings data since 2004, which has affected the queries supplying data for the QSM system, and the tables that inform the limited entry (LE) sablefish daily trip limit (DTL) catch projection models north of 36° N. lat. The GMT notes that this error only affects how total LE fixed gear sablefish landings are split between the LE primary and LE DTL portions, within the LE fixed gear sablefish fishery. This error has not resulted in any miscalculation of total LE sablefish fixed gear landings.

The net result of this data error has been overestimation of primary sablefish catch, and a coinciding underestimation of LE sablefish DTL catch. Subsequently, projection models have been underestimating LE DTL landings for a given set of cumulative trip limits. PacFIN discovered the problem when updating internal tables in order to provide more detailed catch data for the GMT. The apparent outcome of this problem is shown in Table 2, where WCGOP total mortality (TM) reports calculated 62.5 mt to 152.4 mt higher sablefish catches than calculated by QSM reports for 2007 – 2009. For example, the WCGOP TM report indicated that 302.4 mt of sablefish were caught by the LE DTL fishery during 2008, which exceeded the LE DTL allocation by 26.4 mt.

Table 2. Comparison of LE sablefish DTL landings reported by the WCGOP total mortality (TM) report and the QSM Best Estimate Report (BER) for 2007 – 2009.

LE DTL Landings	2009		2008		2007
Longline	296.8		287.1		175.9
Pot	8.2		15.3		2.6
TM total	305		302.4		178.5
BER updated	205		150		116
Allocation	351		276		277
TM - Allocation Difference	-46		26.4		-98.5
BER - TM Difference	-100		-152.4		-62.5

Currently, LE sablefish DTL landings in the QSM are calculated incorrectly as they have been for the past seven years. This will continue until the replacement algorithm has been finished and approved by PacFIN, NWR, and the GMT. A more detailed explanation of the PacFIN LE sablefish DTL landings issue, and potential solutions will be described in a future GMT statement.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear sablefish DTL, north of 36° N. lat

The most recent data from PacFIN, through Period 5 of 2010 became available Friday, January 28. Models were updated with these data to project 2011 landings using current trip limit tables (76 FR 11381, March 2, 2011). Model-derived projections show that sablefish landings may be less than allocations north of 36° N. lat. (92 percent of the allocation; Table 3). As noted above, however, the model-derived projections shown in Table 2 were based on PacFIN data (QSM-BER reports) that have historically under-reported LE sablefish DTL landings north of 36° N. lat. (see discussion above). Table 2 shows that PacFIN-reported landings for the LE sablefish DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. were 35, 50, and 33 percent lower than catches shown by WCGOP

total mortality reports during 2007, 2008, and 2009. Adjusted projections for this DTL fishery north of 36° N. lat. suggest that landings may have actually ranged from 345 – 389 mt during 2011, which would exceed the allocation by 63 – 107 mt (Table 3). Trip-limit reductions may therefore be considered north of 36° N. lat.

Table 3. Projected sablefish landings (2011) for the limited entry sablefish DTL fisheries north of 36° N. lat. Model derived projected landings (mt) were based on status quo trip limits. Higher projections are also provided to adjust for the PacFIN data problems described above in Table 2.

LE DTL sablefish fishery	2011 Allocation	Model-derived projected landings (mt)	Adjusted projections - 33% increase (mt)	Adjusted projections – 50% increase (mt)
North of 36°	282	259	345	389

PFMC
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