

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 the 2012/2013 fisheries and possible inseason adjustments. The GAP offers the following recommendations and comments on proposed inseason adjustments to ongoing groundfish fisheries.

2012 Inseason

The projected harvests for the 2012 fisheries are tracking within their landing targets, so no inseason action is required at this meeting.

2013 Open Access Fixed Gear North of 36° N. Latitude

Referencing Table 6 found in the GMT statement, the GAP recommends the following:

**Alternative 1**

**Periods 1 through 5: 300 lb. per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 700 lb., not to exceed 1,400 lb. per 2 months;**

**Period 6: 300 lb. per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 300 lb., not to exceed 600 lb. per 2 months.**

Industry representatives indicated a preference to start the season with larger trip limits than was suggested in the No Action alternative to increase economic viability for participants. Industry is well-aware that these earlier season increases may result in a reduced opportunity for period 6.

2013 Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 36° N. Latitude

The GAP appreciates the work Dr. Sean Matson did in modeling varying sablefish trip limits with corresponding low, medium, and high ex-vessel prices ranges. The GAP believes ex-vessel prices for sablefish will remain low in the short term through at least the middle of next year. With that in mind and looking at Table 2 of the GMT statement, the GAP recommends the following:

**Alternative 1, Low Price**

**1 landing per week of up to 950 lb., not to exceed 2,850 lb. per 2 months**

2013 Open Access Fixed Gear South of 36° N. Latitude

Referencing Table 4 of the GMT statement, the GAP supports the following:

### **Alternative 1**

**300 lb. per day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,500 lb., not to exceed 3,000 lb. per 2 months.**

Projected effort for the Conception area open access fishery is expected to increase slightly under this alternative, but this sector has been under-attaining its harvest guideline recently, and potential effort increases should pose no problems. Effort increases may be constrained by the poor market prices and lack of buyers in the Conception area.

### 2013 Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 36 N. Latitude

The GAP again references Table 4 of the GMT statement and recommends the following:

### **Alternative 1**

**1,800 lb. per week.**

This trip limit is the same as the current 2012 limit. Members of industry had requested maintaining the same trip limit for the 2013 season. Projected attainment under this alternative is 83 percent as opposed to the 93 percent No-Action limits that were analyzed in the 2013 harvest specifications package.

### 2013 Recreational Fisheries

The GAP discussed both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reports dealing with inseason recreational issues. The GAP supports the following WDFW recommendation for the 2013 fishing season as follows:

#### **Marine Areas 3 and 4**

**Restrict the recreational bottomfish fishery to the area shoreward of 20 fathoms from May 1 to September 30 except on days open to the halibut fishery. On days that the halibut fishery is open, no bottomfish except lingcod, Pacific cod, and sablefish can be retained seaward of 20 fathoms.**

PFMC

11/05/12