Update on Recreational Groundfish

Marine Resources Committee
August 2012
Purpose

- Provide a preview of items for the October meeting - Department will be submitting an ISOR requesting conformance to federal actions taken for the recreational fishery for 2013-14

- Provide a briefing on Department’s work on barotrauma
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fish Type</th>
<th>2012 HG (mt)</th>
<th>2013-14 HG (mt)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yelloweye rockfish</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canary rockfish</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>~23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocaccio</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>~170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowcod</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes for 2013-14
Seasons and Depth Restrictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Area</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May 15 – Oct 31, &lt;20fm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mendocino</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May 15 – Sep 2, &lt;20fm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jun 1 – Dec 31, &lt;30fm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May 1 – Dec 31, &lt;40fm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 1 – Dec 31, &lt;50fm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Status quo seasons and depths except:

- Mendocino – extend season through Labor Day
- Southern – bring depth from 60 fm to 50 fm to reduce cowcod encounters
Changes for 2013-14 Management Measures

**Bocaccio**
- Bag Limit – Increase from 2 to 3 fish
- Size limit – remove
- Fillet length – remove

**Shelf Rockfish**
Allow retention in the Cowcod Conservation Area in depths shallower than 20 fm
Barotrauma – a killer from the deep
Catch-and-Release + Recompression Reduces Barotrauma in Deep Water Species

1. The fish is caught at normal depth and barometric pressure.
2. As the fish is pulled to the surface and barometric pressure reduced, gas expands the body.
3. At the surface the body is distended by gas, so it is too buoyant to swim back down.
4. If the fish is lowered with a recompression device the gases are reabsorbed into the body.
5. With recompression the fish may recover for a successful release.
Types of Descending Devices

- www.sheltonproducts.com
- www.ecoless.com
- www.git-r-down.com
- www.theseaquilizer.com
Since 2007, the Department has conducted an extensive outreach campaign on the use of descending devices to minimize mortality.

Although devices are not mandatory, many anglers use them.
Incorporating Survivorship Credit into Management

Research supports higher survivorship using descending devices, but this is not accounted for in management.

Giving credit will reduce overall mortality and could provide for more opportunities (e.g. longer seasons, deeper depths).
Data Collection

Data used to inform management is currently being collected by California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) samplers

- Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels - document use on board at each location
- Private/Rental boat modes – document use on each trip
Cowcod

Photo: M. Parker
Next Steps for Incorporating Survivorship Credits in Management

- Yelloweye & Cowcod
- Other overfished species
- Target species
- Other Fisheries
Summary

- We will be submitting an ISOR requesting conformance to federal actions taken for the recreational fishery.

- Barotrauma – incorporating survivorship credit in management may provide increased opportunities in the future.
Topics not covered but willing to entertain questions about….

- Trawl Rationalization Program
- Exempted Fishing Permits
- Others?
Questions