

lines until boundary coordinates have been developed and reviewed by the states and enforcement. NMFS estimates that these new boundary lines will be implemented in mid-May 2003. In the meantime, trawling inshore of 250 fm (457 m) is prohibited immediately to slow the incidental catch of canary rockfish inside of 100 fm (183 m).

*Limited Entry Trawl Gear Limits for DTS North of 40°10' N. lat.*

For May-December, the 2-month cumulative limits for the DTS trawl fishery occurring north of 40°10' N. lat. will be increased or reduced from the May-June period as follows: Dover sole will be increased from 25,000 lb (11,340 kg) to 31,000 lb (14,061 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 12,500 lb (5,670 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; shortspine thornyhead will be increased from 2,400 lb (1,089 kg) to 2,800 lb (1,270 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 0 lb (0 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; longspine thornyhead will be increased from 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) to 14,000 lb (6,350 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 0 lb (0 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; and sablefish will be increased from 7,000 lb (3,175 kg) to 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period.

*Limited Entry Trawl Gear Limits for Flatfish North of 40°10' N. lat.*

For May-October, the 2-month cumulative limits for the flatfish fishery occurring north of 40°10' N. lat. will either be increased or restricted from the May-June period as follows: Arrowtooth flounder will be increased from 60,000 lb (27,216 kg) to 200,000 lb (90,719 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 5,000 lb (2,268 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; the 'all other flatfish' category will remain at 100,000 lb (45,359 kg) provided only large footrope or midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or reduced to 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period; and the petrale sole sublimit of the 'all other flatfish' category remains at 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) provided only large footrope or

midwater trawl gear is used during the entire period or is further restricted from 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) to 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) if small footrope gear is used at any time during the entire period.

*Limited Entry Small Footrope Trawl Gear Limits for Yellowtail Rockfish Landed with Flatfish North of 40°10' N. lat.*

Because cumulative limits for flatfish fisheries north of 40°10' N. lat. will now include specific limits for flatfish caught with small footrope gear, the sublimit for yellowtail rockfish taken with small footrope gear by vessels targeting groundfish was increased slightly to allow retention of incidentally caught yellowtail rockfish. This slight increase in the yellowtail rockfish flatfish sublimit is intended to reduce the amount of yellowtail rockfish discarded while not encouraging targeting on the species. Thus, for May-October, the small footrope limits for yellowtail rockfish landed with flatfish north of 40°10' N. lat. will be increased from 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) per month to 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) per 2 months.

*Open Access Limits for Yellowtail Rockfish in the Salmon Troll Fishery North of 40°10' N. lat.*

In 2001, the Pacific Council's GMT analyzed the incidental catch of yellowtail and canary rockfish in the salmon troll fishery. Management measures aimed at protecting the overfished canary rockfish stock have reduced harvest opportunities for yellowtail rockfish, which is caught in association with canary rockfish and is considered to be a more abundant stock. However, an analysis in 2001 indicated that the amount of canary rockfish taken with salmon troll gear was not highly correlated to the amount of yellowtail rockfish taken with salmon troll gear. Following these findings in 2001, the Pacific Council adopted, and NMFS implemented, the GMT's recommendation for a yellowtail incidental catch limit specific to the salmon troll fishery. The intent of this small trip limit was to help reduce discard in the salmon troll fishery, without providing an incentive to target yellowtail rockfish or to increase the incidental catch of canary rockfish. This incidental catch allowance was in place from May through December 2002 and the Pacific Council has recommended that NMFS reinstate this same incidental yellowtail retention trip limit for the remainder of 2003.

For the May-December period, the general open access limit for yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N. lat. continues to be 200 lb per month for combined

minor shelf, widow and yellowtail rockfish. Participants in the salmon troll fishery in this area have a specific yellowtail rockfish limit of up to 1 lb (0.45 kg) of yellowtail rockfish per 2 lb (0.91 kg) of salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of up to 200 lb (136 kg) per month. This trip limit applies to vessels fishing for salmon both within and outside the RCA. This limit is within the 200 lb (136 kg) per month combined limit for minor shelf rockfish, widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish, and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species taken in the salmon troll fishery other than yellowtail rockfish are subject to the open access limits, seasons, and RCA restrictions listed in Table 5 (North). Additionally, a new section has been added to the end of the open access table, Table 5 (North), listing the limits for the salmon troll fishery.

*Retention of Incidental Halibut Catch in the Primary Sablefish Fishery North of Pt. Chehalis, WA*

The Pacific halibut CSP and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 300.63(a)(3) provide for retention of halibut landed incidentally in the limited entry, longline primary sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53'18" N. lat.) in years when the Area 2A TAC is above 900,000 lb (408.2 mt). The 2003 Area 2A TAC is 1,310,000 lb (594.2 mt).

According to IPHC and Federal regulations, Pacific halibut may not be taken by gear other than hook-and-line gear. Only vessels registered for use with sablefish-endorsed limited entry permits may participate in the primary fixed gear sablefish fishery specified for halibut retention in the CSP. Vessels must also carry IPHC commercial halibut licenses in order to retain and land halibut. Incidental halibut retention in the primary sablefish fishery is only available to vessels operating north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53'18" N. lat.). Under Pacific halibut regulations at 50 CFR 300.63, halibut taken and retained in the primary sablefish fishery may not be possessed or landed south of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53'18" N. lat.).

Similar to 2002, halibut caught incidentally in the primary sablefish fishery may be retained by appropriately licensed longline vessels. In 2003, the amount of incidental halibut retained in the primary sablefish fishery is capped at 70,000 lb (31.8 mt), to ensure that fishery is maintained as an incidental and not directed fishery. Beginning May 1, 2003, and continuing until the halibut quota (70,000 lbs or 31.8 mt) is taken: longliners participating in the primary