PRELIMINARY RANGE OF HARVEST LEVELS FOR 2004

Situation: Each year, the Council recommends harvest specifications for the upcoming year. This year, the task remains a two-meeting process that begins with the Council making preliminary recommendations at the June meeting and final recommendations at the September meeting. The fishery management plan (FMP) requires the Council to establish reference points for each major species or species complex: an acceptable biological catch (ABC), an optimum yield (OY), and overfishing threshold. In addition, OYs for some species are allocated between the open access, limited entry, tribal, and recreational fisheries.

Stock assessments were prepared in 2003 for Pacific ocean perch, widow rockfish, bocaccio, black rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, cowcod, and yellowtail rockfish (Exhibit B.3, Attachments 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 15, and 17, respectively). New rebuilding analysis have also been prepared for Pacific ocean perch, widow rockfish, bocaccio, and darkblotched rockfish (Exhibit B.3, Attachments 2, 5, 8, and 13, respectively). These new assessments and rebuilding analyses were considered by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) at their May 2003 meeting to develop a recommended range of harvest levels (Exhibit B.4, Attachment 1). At this meeting the GMT outlined many critical uncertainties in rebuilding analyses that require Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) resolution. Based on SSC advice and Council action under agenda B.3, the GMT may refine the range of harvest levels they recommend for 2004 groundfish management.

The Council task at this meeting is to adopt a range of 2004 harvest levels and specifications for public review and analysis. Council staff will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) this summer to analyze the effect of alternative harvest levels as well as alternative management measures for 2004 groundfish fishery management. A preliminary draft EIS containing relevant environmental analysis of alternatives will be available to aid the Council in deciding final harvest levels, specifications, and management measures at the September meeting.

The public comment period under this agenda also serves as a scoping meeting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as previously announced in the Federal Register. Pursuant to the NEPA, the Council, in cooperation with NMFS, seeks public comment on the scope of the EIS that will be prepared for the 2004 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures (see Exhibit B.14). The scope consists of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in the EIS. At the end of the public scoping period, Council and NMFS staff will prepare and make available a scoping summary describing the oral and written comments on the scope of the analysis, including those made at this meeting and, as appropriate, how they will be addressed in the EIS. Comments are most helpful if they bear directly on the range of alternatives that should be considered and the specific impacts to the natural and human environment that the commenter believes the proposed action will cause.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt a Preliminary Range of Harvest Levels for 2004 Management.**

Reference Materials:

1. **TABLE 2.1-1.** Acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yield (OY) alternatives (mt) for 2004 for the Washington, Oregon, and California region under the GMT-recommended alternatives. (Exhibit B.4, Attachment 1).

Agenda Order:

a. Agendum Overview  
   John DeVore
b. Preliminary Estimates of Acceptable Biological Catch and  
   Optimum Yield  
   Michele Robinson
c. Recommendation of the States, Tribes, and Federal Agencies
d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
e. Public Comment
f. **Council Action:** Adopt a Preliminary Range of Harvest Levels for 2004 Management

PFMC  
06/02/03
TABLE 2.1-1. Acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yield (OY) alternatives (mt) for 2004 for the Washington, Oregon, and California region under the GMT-recommended alternatives. (Overflushed stocks in CAPS).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>2003 ABCs/0Y</th>
<th>2004 ABCs and OY Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>OY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGCOD</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Cod</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACIFIC WHITING (Coastwide)</td>
<td>188,000</td>
<td>148,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saberfish</td>
<td>8,209</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North of Conception</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conception INPC area</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH (Pmax fixed)</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH (Tmax fixed)</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortbelly Rockfish</td>
<td>13,900</td>
<td>13,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIDOW ROCKFISH</td>
<td>3,871</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANARY ROCKFISH a/</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(50% Comm.-50% Rec.)</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(80% Comm.-20% Rec.)</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(20% Comm.-80% Rec.)</td>
<td>2700</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilipepper Rockfish</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCACOCIO</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splintnose Rockfish</td>
<td>3,116</td>
<td>3,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowtail Rockfish</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortspine Thornyhead</td>
<td>2,461</td>
<td>2,461</td>
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<tr>
<td>Longspine Thornyhead</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. of Pt. Conception</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COWCUD (S. Concep)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Concep &amp; Monterey</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARKBLOTCHED</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YELLOWEYE</td>
<td>1,115</td>
<td>835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neartshore Species</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black WA</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black OR-CA b/</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabezon WA</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabezon OR</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabezon CA</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Rockfish North</td>
<td>4,795</td>
<td>3,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining Rockfish North</td>
<td>2,727</td>
<td>2,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocaccio</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilipepper - Eureka</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redstripe</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpcin</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silvergrey</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splintnose</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowmouth</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Rockfish North</td>
<td>2,068</td>
<td>1,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Rockfish South</td>
<td>3,506</td>
<td>2,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining Rockfish South</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackgill</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpcin</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowtail</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Rockfish South</td>
<td>2,652</td>
<td>1,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dover Sole</td>
<td>8,510</td>
<td>7,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Sole</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>3,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petrale Sole</td>
<td>2,762</td>
<td>2,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrowtooth Flounder</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>5,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Flattish</td>
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<td>7,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fish</td>
<td>14,700</td>
<td>14,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a/ Updated the alternative OYs from the last rebuilding analysis. The high OY value ranged last year was at a Pmax of 50%. All other stocks with new rebuilding analyses have high OYs based on a Pmax of 60%. The canary stock was not assessed in 2003.

b/ The OR-CA harvest guideline options are: 1) 488 mt in OR and 287 mt in CA based on a 63:37 catch ratio in OR and CA from 1990-2002 catch history; 2) 480 mt in OR and 325 mt in CA based on a 1.4 OR-CA catch ratio from 1985-2002; and 3) 434 mt in OR and 341 mt in CA based on a nearshore area calculation (0-50 ftm) from San Fran, N to the CA-OR border and the OR nearshore area.