

FINAL HARVEST LEVELS FOR 2004

Situation: Each year the Council recommends groundfish harvest specifications for the upcoming year. The fishery management plan (FMP) requires the Council to establish reference points for each major species or species complex: an acceptable biological catch (ABC), a total catch optimum yield (OY), and an overfishing threshold. Additionally, OYs for some species are allocated between the open access, limited entry, tribal, and recreational fisheries. The Council adopted a preliminary range of groundfish harvest levels (OYs) for consideration and analysis at the June meeting (Exhibit C.3, Attachment 1). The *Draft Proposed Acceptable Biological Catch and Optimum Yield Specifications and Management Measures For The 2004 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery* (Annual Specifications EIS; Exhibit C.6, Attachment 1) provides analyses of the potential consequences of management measures estimated to conform to this range of harvest levels. These harvest levels will determine the types of management measures available for Council consideration in 2004. The Council is tasked with adopting final recommendations for 2004 groundfish harvest levels at this September meeting.

The Council reviewed and adopted new stock assessments for Pacific ocean perch, widow rockfish, bocaccio, black rockfish, cowcod (rebuilding review), darkblotched rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish; and rebuilding analyses for Pacific ocean perch, widow rockfish, bocaccio, and darkblotched rockfish at the June 2003 meeting. These analyses provided the scientific basis for the range of harvest levels considered for these species and adopted in June.

A range of sablefish harvest levels has been proposed by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) because of the importance of that stock in the West Coast groundfish fishery. However, an error was recently discovered in the range of sablefish harvest levels adopted by the Council in June. The magnitude of the error amounts to about a 5% reduction from the values adopted at the June Council meeting. The basis of the error is as follows:

Past sablefish assessments assessed only the portion of the stock occurring north of Pt. Conception at 34°27' N latitude. A separate sablefish allocation was made for Conception area fishers since the trawl/non-trawl/tribal sablefish allocation is specified in the FMP only for the Monterey area north (north of 36° N latitude). Therefore, the GMT had made an adjustment to sablefish specifications in the past to calculate the OY for the portion of the stock in the assessed area between 34°27' N latitude and 36° N latitude (the "Conception wedge"). This amount of available harvest was then added to the rest of the Conception area (south of Pt. Conception) ABC and OY, which was based on the proportion of recent coastwide landings made south of Pt. Conception. The north of Conception OY was reduced accordingly to represent the OY for the Monterey, Eureka, Columbia, and U.S.-Vancouver International North Pacific Fishery Commission areas. This adjustment was made to the 2003 sablefish specifications without realizing that the most recent assessment (Schirripa 2002) determined coastwide stock status and ABCs/OYs.

The 2003 and 2004 coastwide ABCs and OYs depicted in Table 2.1.1-1 are the correct specifications projected in the most recent assessment. As per the normal protocol, the 2004 specifications were stratified for the Conception and north of Conception areas by apportioning the coastwide ABCs and OYs based on average sablefish landings north and south of 36° N latitude during 1998-2002.

Another noteworthy update regarding the harvest levels adopted at the June Council meeting involves darkblotched rockfish. At the June meeting, only alternative 2004 OYs were shown for consideration. Subsequent calculations of the ABCs shows that the darkblotched rockfish OY is greater than the ABC under the *Medium OY* and *High OY* alternatives. Rebuilding results were sensitive to the high 2000 and 2001 recruitment estimates and including them allowed much greater 2004 OYs, because those recruits enter the fishery and help rebuild the stock before the maximum allowable year (2028). The ABCs, on the other hand, were calculated by applying the proxy $F_{50\%}$ harvest rate to the estimated exploitable biomass which is not yet affected by the strong 2000 and 2001 recruitments. This led to 2004 OY estimates which were higher than the ABC. This effectively limits the available darkblotched rockfish harvest to the ABC for these two alternatives since the ABC cannot be exceeded in federal regulations.

The canary rockfish OY varies dependent on commercial and recreational catch sharing due to differences in size selectivity in these fisheries. The Council may want to defer choosing a final canary rockfish OY until initial adoption of management measures, including the commercial:recreational catch shares, occurs under agendum C.6, scheduled for Wednesday afternoon..

Council Action:

1. Adopt final 2004 groundfish harvest specifications.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit C.3, Attachment 1, TABLE 2.1.1-1. Pacific Fishery Management Council-recommended alternatives for ABCs and total catch OYs (mt) for 2004.
2. Exhibit C.6, Attachment 1, The Draft Proposed ABC and OY Specifications and Management Measures For The 2004 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Groundfish Management Team (GMT) Report on Estimates of Acceptable Biological Catch and Optimum Yield
- c. Recommendations of the States, Tribes, and Federal Agencies
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Harvest Levels for 2004 Management

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TABLE 2.1.1-1. Pacific Fishery Management Council-recommended alternatives for acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yields (OYs) (mt) for 2004. (Overfished stocks in CAPS).

Stock	2003 ABCs/OYs		2004 ABC and OY Alternatives							
			Low OY		Med OY		High OY		Council OY a/	
	ABC	OY	ABC	OY	ABC	OY	ABC	OY	ABC	OY
LINGCOD	841	651			1,385	735			1,385	735
Pacific Cod	3,200	3,200			3,200	3,200			3,200	3,200
PACIFIC WHITING (Coastwide)	188,000	148,200	94,000	74,100	188,000	148,200	282,000	222,300		
Sablefish (Coastwide) b/	8,460	6,794	8,487	4,812	8,487	7,786	8,487	8,423		
North of Conception			8,185	4,641	8,185	7,510	8,185	8,124		
Conception area			302	171	302	276	302	299		
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	689	377	980	318	980	444	980	555	980	444
Shortbelly Rockfish	13,900	13,900			13,900	13,900			13,900	13,900
WIDOW ROCKFISH	3,871	832	3076	181	3,460	284	3,908	501	3,460	284
CANARY ROCKFISH c/	256	44	256	42	256	46	256	46	256	46
Chilipepper Rockfish	2,700	2,000			2,700	2,000			2,700	2,000
BOCACCIO	198	≤20		199	586	306		526	586	306
Splitnose Rockfish	615	461			615	461			615	461
Yellowtail Rockfish	3,146	3,146			4,320	4,320			4,320	4,320
Shortspine Thornyhead	1,004	955			1,030	983			1,030	983
Longspine Thornyhead	2,461	2,461			2,461	2,461			2,461	2,461
S. of Pt. Conception	390	195			390	195			390	195
COWCOD (S. Concep)	5	2.4			5	2.4			5	2.4
N. Concep & Monterey	19	2.4			19	2.4			19	2.4
DARKBLOTCHED	205	172	217	172	240	272	247	364	240	272
YELLOWEYE	52	22			53	22			53	22
Nearshore Species										
Black WA	1,115	835			540	540			540	540
Black OR-CA			729	729	775	775	861	861		
Minor Rockfish North	4,795	3,115			4,795	3,115			4,795	3,115
Remaining Rockfish North	2,727	2,081			1,612	1,216			1,612	1,216
Bocaccio	318	239			318	239			318	239
Chilipepper - Eureka	32	32			32	32			32	32
Redstripe	576	432			576	432			576	432
Sharpchin	307	230			307	230			307	230
Silvergrey	38	29			38	29			38	29
Splitnose	242	182			242	182			242	182
Yellowmouth	99	74			99	74			99	74
Other Rockfish North	2,068	1,034			2,068	1,034			2,068	1,034
Minor Rockfish South	3,506	2,015			3,506	2,015			3,506	2,015
Remaining Rockfish South	854	689			854	689			854	689
Bank	350	263			350	263			350	263
Blackgill	343	306			343	306			343	306
Sharpchin	45	34			45	34			45	34
Yellowtail	116	87			116	87			116	87
Other Rockfish South	2,652	1,326			2,558	1,279			2,558	1,279
Dover Sole	8,510	7,440			8,510	7,440			8,510	7,440
English Sole	3,100	3,100			3,100	3,100			3,100	3,100
Petrale Sole	2,762	2,762			2,762	2,762			2,762	2,762
Arrowtooth Flounder	5,800	5,800			5,800	5,800			5,800	5,800
Other Flatfish	7,700	7,700			7,700	7,700			7,700	7,700
Other Fish	14,700	14,700			14,700	14,700			14,700	14,700

a/ Council OY is the Council's preferred harvest alternative for 2004. Those stocks without a specified Council OY will be so specified in September when the Council decides final harvest levels.

b/ The coastwide sablefish ABCs and OYs are projected from the most recent assessment (Schirripa 2002). A mistake was discovered in the specifications adopted in the last two years. The 2003 coastwide ABC and OY depicted in this table are corrected from those adopted in federal regulations (see section 2.1.1.8). The alternative 2004 coastwide specifications were apportioned to the north of Conception and Conception areas by applying the average proportion of landings north and south of the Conception-Monterey INPFC area boundary during 1998-2002 (see section 2.1.2.5).

c/ The canary rockfish ABC and OY are based on the Council's adopted rebuilding strategy that has a P_{MAX} (probability of successful rebuilding within the maximum allowable time period) of 60%. The OY varies by the commercial:recreational catch share due to the fact that the recreational fishery takes smaller fish and therefore has a greater "per ton" impact than the commercial fishery. The canary stock was not assessed in 2003.