

MID-TERM OPTIMUM YIELD (OY) ADJUSTMENTS POLICY

The Council adopted Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 17 in November 2002 which put in place a new biennial groundfish management process. As part of this action, the Council adopted the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) advice to include a mid-term “best available science” check of harvest specifications. The mid-term check would be responsive to new stock assessments and other scientific information that might compel the Council to consider adjusting optimum yields (OYs) before the second year of the biennial management cycle. For instance, new groundfish stock assessments adopted by the Council in November 2005 might compel the Council to change OYs before the start of the 2006 fishing year.

In September 2004, the Council clarified their original intent during final Council action on Amendment 17 to develop a mid-term OY adjustments policy that enabled consideration of both increases and decreases of an OY for any FMP species of concern, regardless of whether the species was in an overfished condition or not. This was different than the FMP amendatory language approved by the Secretary of Commerce when Amendment 17 was approved, since that language only considered downward adjustments to OYs and only for overfished stocks (Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1). The Council tasked the Groundfish Information Policy Committee (GIPC) to initiate development of a mid-term OY adjustment policy that comports with the Council’s original intent.

The GIPC met on January 25 and 26, 2005 to discuss, among other matters, a mid-term OY adjustments policy. NOAA General Counsel and NMFS described a process by which the current FMP language could be corrected without a formal amendment (page 2 in the draft summary minutes of the January 2005 GIPC meeting, Agenda Item F.1.b, GIPC Minutes). After a lengthy discussion detailed in the GIPC meeting minutes, the GIPC recommended a policy to consider only downward mid-term OY adjustments for overfished groundfish species if, absent an OY adjustment, there would be a significant impact to the rebuilding plan. The GIPC rationale centered around a concern that allowing a more flexible policy that considered increases and decreases of OY for any species of concern would subvert the intended stability of the multi-year management process.

The Council action under this agenda item is to consider the advice of the GIPC and other advisors before adopting a mid-term OY adjustments policy for public review. The Council should also determine the next steps in developing a mid-term OY adjustment policy.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt a Mid-Term Optimum Yield Adjustment Policy For Public Review.**
- 2. Determine the Next Steps in Developing a Mid-Term OY Adjustment Policy.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1: FMP Amendment 17 amendatory language (Section 5.7.1 as amended).
2. Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 2: Tables summarizing the recent history of West Coast groundfish stock assessments, rebuilding analyses, and management responses.
3. Agenda Item F.1.b, GIPC Minutes: Draft Summary Minutes of the January 25-26, 2005 Groundfish Information Policy Committee Meeting.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
- b. GIPC Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt a Mid-Term Optimum Yield Adjustment Policy For Public Review

PFMC
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5.7 Inseason Procedures for Establishing or Adjusting Specifications and Apportionments (previously 5.9)

5.7.1 Inseason Adjustments to ABCs, OYs, HGs, and Quotas

Under the biennial specifications and management measures process, stock assessments for most species will become available every other year, prior to the November Council meeting that begins the three-meeting process for setting specifications and management measures. The November Council meeting that begins that three-meeting process will be the November of the first fishing year in a biennial fishing period. **If the Council determines that any of the ABCs or OYs set in the prior management process are not adequately conservative to meet rebuilding plan goals for an overfished species, harvest specifications for that overfished species and/or for co-occurring species may be revised for the second fishing year of the then current biennial management period.** ~~Occasionally, new stock assessment information may become available inseason that supports a determination that an ABC no longer accurately describes the status of a particular species or species group. However, adjustments will only be made during the annual specifications process and a revised ABC announced at the beginning of the next fishing year.~~

~~The only exception is in the case where the ABC announced at the beginning of the fishing year~~ **Beyond this process, ABCs, OYs, HGs, and quotas may only be modified in cases where a harvest specification announced at the beginning of the fishing period** is found to have resulted from incorrect data or from computational errors. If the Council finds that such an error has occurred, it may recommend the Secretary publish a notice in the *Federal Register* revising the **ABC incorrect harvest specification** at the earliest possible date.

NOTE: Gray highlight added for emphasis.

Recent history of stock assessments and rebuilding analyses for overfished West Coast groundfish species.

Stock	Year declared overfished	Assessments	Rebuilding Analyses ^a	Management Response		Depletion (Percent of B ₀)	Resolving Tmin	Resolving Tmax
				Resulting ABC, DY ₁ or HG (mt) ^b	Year			
Eucabio	1999	Bevce and Hightower 1990	NA	1,100	1991	NA	NA	NA
		Bence and Rogers 1992	NA	1,540	1993	NA	NA	NA
		Helson et al. 1995	NA	265	1997	NA	NA	NA
		MacCall et al. 1999	NA	100	2000	2.1%	NA	NA
Canary	2000	MacCall and Ho 2002	MacCall and Ho 2002	45-20	2003	4.8%	2055	2108
		MacCall 2003	MacCall 2003	250	2004	7.4%	2018	2032
		Golden and Demery 1994	NA	2,700	1985	NA	NA	NA
		Golden and Wood 1990	NA	2,900	1991	NA	NA	NA
Canary	2000	Sampson and Steward 1994	NA	1,250	1995	NA	NA	NA
		Sampson 1996	NA	1,000	1997	NA	NA	NA
		Southern stock: Williams et al. 1994;	NA	93	2000	6.6%	2041	2058
		Northern stock: Crook et al. 1990	NA					
Cowcod	2000	Methel and Piner 2002	Methel and Piner 2002	44	2003	7.9%	2057	2070
		Huller et al. 1999	Butler and Barnes 2000	5	2000	7.0%	2051	2098
Darkblotched	2000	Lenarz 1993	NA	NA	1994	NA	NA	NA
		Rogers et al. 1996	NA	260	1997	NA	NA	NA
		Rogers et al. 2000	NA	130	2001	22.0%	NA	NA
		Methel and Rogers 2001	Methel and Rogers 2001	168	2002	14.0%	2014	2047
Lingcod	1999	Rogers 2003	Rogers 2003	240	2004	11.0%	2011	2044
		Adams 1986	NA	7,000	1987	NA	NA	NA
		Jagielo 1994	NA	2,400	1995	NA	NA	NA
		Northern stock: Jagielo et al. 1997	NA	836	1998	NA	NA	NA
Lingcod	1999	Southern stock: Adams et al. 1999	NA	730	2000	NA	NA	NA
		Jagielo et al. 2000	Jagielo et al. 2000	611	2001	Northern stock: 11%; Southern stock: 14%	NA	2009
		Jagielo et al. 2004	Jagielo et al. 2004	577	2007	Northern stock: 17%; Southern stock: 15%	Northern stock: 2003; Southern stock: 2004	2009
		Jagielo et al. 2004	Jagielo et al. 2004	2,414	2005-2006	Northern stock: >40%; Southern stock: 31%	Northern stock: rebuilt; Southern stock: 2006	2009

Recent history of stock assessments and rebuilding analyses for overfished West Coast groundfish species (continued).

Stock	Year declared overfished	Assessments	Rebuilding Analyses ^a	Management Response Resulting ABC, OY, or HG (mt) ^b	Year	Depletion (Percent of B ₀)	Resulting T _{min}	Resulting T _{max}		
PO??	1993	Westhuen et al. 1972	NA		1973	NA	NA	NA		
		Gunderson et al. 1977	NA		1978	NA	NA	NA		
		Lindorburg et al. 1978	NA		1979	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		Gunderson 1979	NA		1980	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		Gunderson and Sample 1980	NA		1981	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		Gunderson 1981	NA		1982	NA	NA	NA	NA	
		Wilkins and Golden 1983	NA		1984	1,550	NA	NA	NA	
		Ito et al. 1986	NA		1987	0	NA	NA	NA	
		Ito et al. 1987	NA		1988	0	NA	NA	NA	
		Iannelli et al. 1992	NA		1993	1,550	NA	NA	NA	
		Iannelli et al. 1995	NA		1996	750	NA	NA	NA	
		Iannelli and Zimmerman 1998	NA		1999	595	13.0%	NA	NA	
		Iannelli et al. 2000	NA	Punt and Lercoll 2001	350	2002	21.7%	2012	2042	
		Hamel et al. 2003	Punt et al. 2003	444	2004	2004	28.0%	2014	2042	
		Widow	2001	Leratz and Hightower 1985	NA		1986	NA	NA	NA
Hightower and Lercoll 1986	NA				1987	12,500	NA	NA	NA	
Hightower and Lercoll 1987	NA				1988	12,100	NA	NA	NA	
Leratz and Hightower 1988	NA				1989	12,400	NA	NA	NA	
Hightower and Lercoll 1989	NA				1990	8,900	NA	NA	NA	
Hightower and Lercoll 1990	NA				1991	7,000	NA	NA	NA	
Rogers and Lercoll 1993	NA				1994	6,600	NA	NA	NA	
Rogers 1994	NA				1995	7,700	NA	NA	NA	
Ralston and Peterson 1997	NA				1998	5,090	NA	NA	NA	
Wilkins et al. 2000	NA				2001	2,300	23.0%	2006	NA	
	MacCall and Punt 2001			656	2002	2002	24.8%	2022	2038	
	Punt and MacCall 2002			832	2003	2003	24.8%	2024	2040	
	Ito et al. 2003a			285	2005	2005	22.4%	2028	2042	
Yelloweye	2002			Wallace 2001	NA		2002	2% in N CA, 13% in OR	NA	NA
				Melhat et al. 2003	Melhat and Piner 2003	22	2004	24.0%	2027	2071

^a Formal rebuilding analyses did not exist prior to the development of the SSC Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses in April 2001. The one exception is the cowcod rebuilding analysis done in 2000 by Butler and Barnes

^b This represents the harvest specification that was the management target, which would typically limit fishing opportunities.

Recent history of stock assessments for non-overfished West Coast groundfish species.

Stock	Assessments	Management Response		Depletion (Percent of B_0)	Fishery Constraint? ^a
		Resulting ABC, OY, or HG (mt) ^b	Year		
Arrowtooth Flounder	Rickey 1993	5,830	1994	NA	No
Bank Rockfish	Pearson 1994	NA	NA	NA	No
	Rogers et al. 1996	81	1997	NA	
	Piner et al. 2000	81	2001	25% - 31%	
Black Rockfish	Stewart 1993	NA	NA	NA	No
	Wallace and Tagart 1994	NA	NA	NA	
	Wallace et al. 1999	700	2000	45.0%	
	Ralston and Dick 2003	775	2004	48.9%	
Blackgill Rockfish	Butler et al. 1998	365	1999	40% - 54%	Possibly
Canyon	Cope et al. 2004	69	2005-2006	34.7%	Possibly
Chilepepper Rockfish	Henry 1985	2,300	1986	NA	No
	Henry 1986	3,600	1987	NA	
	Rogers and Bence 1992	3,600	1993	NA	
	Rogers and Bence 1993	4,000	1994	NA	
	Ralston et al. 1998	3,724	1999	46% - 61%	
Dover Sole	Demery et al. 1984	27,900	1985	NA	Yes
	Methot et al. 1990	22,300	1991	NA	
	Turnock and Methot 1991	19,400	1992	NA	
	Turnock and Methot 1992	17,900	1993	NA	
	Turnock et al. 1994	14,300	1995	NA	
	Brodziak et al. 1997	9,425	1999	NA	
	Sampson and Wood 2002	7,440	2003	29.0%	
English Sole	Jow and Gerbel 1985	1,500	1986	NA	No
	Golden 1986	1,900	1987	NA	
	Sampson 1993	3,100	1994	NA	
Longspine Thornyhead	Jacobson 1990	7,900 (for LST and SST combined)	1991	NA	No
	Jacobson 1991	7,000 (for LST and SST combined)	1992	NA	
	Ianeli et al. 1994	7,000	1995	NA	
	Rogers et al. 1997	4,132	1998	NA	
Pacific Whiting	Francis et al. 1982	175,000	1983	NA	Yes
	Francis and Hollowed 1984	175,000	1985	NA	
	Francis 1985	300,000	1986	NA	
	Hollowed and Francis 1986	195,000	1987	NA	
	Hollowed et al. 1987	261,500	1988	NA	
	Hollowed et al. 1988	300,000	1989	NA	
	Dorn and Methot 1989	245,000	1990	NA	
	Dorn et al. 1990	228,000	1991	NA	
	Dorn and Methot 1991	208,800	1992	NA	
	Dorn and Methot 1992	142,000	1993	NA	
	Dorn et al. 1993	260,000	1994	NA	
	Dorn 1994	178,400	1995	NA	
	Dorn 1995	212,000	1996	NA	
	Dorn 1996	232,000	1997	NA	
	Dorn and Saunders 1997	232,000	1998	NA	
Dorn et al. 1999	232,000	1999	37.0%		
Heiser et al. 2002a	190,400	2001	37.0%		
Heiser et al. 2002b	129,600	2002	20.0%		
Heiser et al. 2004	250,000	2004	47.0%		

Recent history of stock assessments for non-overfished West Coast groundfish species (continued).

Stock	Assessments	Management Response		Depletion (Percent of B ₀)	Fishery Constraint? ^{a/}
		Resulting ABC, OY, or HG (mt) ^{b/}	Year		
Petrale Sole	Demery 1984	3,200	1985	NA	Yes
	Demery 1987	3,200	1988	NA	
	Turnock et al. 1993	2,700	1994	NA	
	Simpson and Lee 2000	2,950	2000	42.0%	
Sablefish	Francis 1984	12,300	1985	NA	Yes
	Francis 1985	10,600	1986	NA	
	Demery and Golder 1986	12,000	1987	NA	
	McDevitt 1987	10,000	1988	NA	
	Methot and Hightower 1988	9,500	1989	NA	
	Methot and Hightower 1989	8,500	1990	NA	
	Methot and Hightower 1990	8,500	1991	NA	
	Methot 1992	7,000	1993	NA	
	Methot et al. 1994	9,100	1995	NA	
	Crone et al. 1997	5,300	1998	NA	
	Methot et al. 1998	10,160	1999	23% - 41%	
	Hilborn et al. 1998			25% - 44%	
	Hilborn et al. 2001	4,596	2002	31% - 38%	
	Schirripa and Methot 2001			27% - 37%	
Schirripa 2002	7,786	2003	31% - 39%		
Sebastes Complex	Rogers et al. 1996				Yes
Shortbelly Rockfish	Pearson et al. 1989	13,000	1990	NA	No
Shortspine Thornyhead	Jacobson 1991	7,900 (for LST and SST combined)	1991	NA	Yes
	Jacobson 1991	7,000 (for LST and SST combined)	1992	NA	
	Iarvoli and Lauh 1994	1,500	1995	NA	
	Rogers et al. 1997	1,000	1998	NA	
	Rogers et al. 1998	1,325	1999	26.0%	
	Hilborn et al. 1998			41.0%	
Piner and Methot 2002	955	2003	25% - 50%		
Spinynose Rockfish	Rogers 1994	NA	NA	NA	No
Yellowtail Rockfish	Weinberg et al. 1984	3,000	1985	NA	Sometimes
	Coleman 1986	4,000	1987	NA	
	Tagart 1988	4,300	1989	NA	
	Tagart 1993	6,740	1994	NA	
	Tagart and Wallace 1996	2,762	1997	NA	
	Tagart et al. 1997	3,118	1998	NA	
	Tagart et al. 2000	3,146	2001	60.5%	
Lai et al. 2003	4,320	2004	46.0%		

a/ This represents the harvest specification that was the management target, which would typically limit fishing opportunities.

b/ The stock is only considered to constrain a fishery if it is a primary target species or if incidental catch and resulting mortality could