

Preliminary Council acceptable biological catch (ABC) and optimum yield (OY) recommendations for 2001 for the Washington, Oregon, and California region by management area (metric tons). Page 1 of 3. (Species marked with \* are overfished).

ROUNDFISH	Preliminary Council ABC Recommendations					Total for Areas Noted	Proposed 2001 OYs	2000 OYs
	Vancouver a/	Columbia	Eureka	Monterey	Conception		Total Catch	
LINGCOD* b/	610			509		1,119 b/	611	378
Pacific cod	3,200			c/		3,200	NA c/	
Whiting d/			232,000 d/			232,000 d/	232,000	232,000
Sablefish e/		7,661 e/				7,661 e/	6,895 e/	7,919
Conception area f/					472	472	472	
<b>ROCKFISH</b>							Total Catch	
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH*		1,541 g/			c/	1,541 g/	626 g/	294
Shortbelly			13,900 h/			13,900	13,900 h/	13,900
WIDOW			3,727 i/			3,727 i/	1,775-2,864 i/	4,333
CANARY* j/			228 j/			228 j/	60 j/	200
Chilipepper				2,700 k/		2,700 k/	2,000 k/	2,000
BOCACCI* l/		c/			122	122 l/	100 l/	100
Splitnose m/				615		615	461 m/	615
Yellowtail n/		3,146			c/	3,146 n/	3,146 n/	3,539
Thornyheads								
Shortspine o/		757 o/				757 o/	689 o/	970
Conception area					175	175	175	
Longspine p/		2,461 p/				2,461 p/	2,461	4,102
Conception area					429	429	429	
COWCOD*				19	5	24	2.4 q/	<5
DARKBLOTCHED* r/		302 - 349				302-349	95-130	(256)
Minor Rockfish N s/		5,456 j/				5,456 s/	3,636 s/	3814
Minor Rockfish S t/				3,731		3,731 t/	2,053	1899
Remaining rockfish u/		3,625		680 u/				
bank		c/		350		350 v/	NA	
black w/		1,200				1,200	NA	
blackgill x/		c/		440		440 x/	NA	
bocaccio		420				420	NA	
redstripe		768		c/		768	NA	
sharpchin		409		60		469	NA	
silvergrey		51		c/		51	NA	
splitnose		322		c/		322	NA	
yelloweye		39		c/		39	NA	
yellowmouth		132		c/		132	NA	
yellowtail				155		155	NA	
Other rockfish y/		2,068 y/		2,777 y/			NA	

FLATFISH	Preliminary Council ABC Recommendations						Proposed 2001 OYs	2000 OYs
	Vancouver	Columbia	Eureka	Monterey	Conception	Total for areas noted	Total Catch	
Dover sole z/	7,151				526	7,677 z/	7,677	9,426
English sole	2,000	1,100				2,693 aa/	NA	
Petrale sole aa/	1,450	500	800	200	2,567 aa/	NA		
Arrowtooth flounder	5,800					5,046 aa/	NA	
Other flatfish	700	3,000	1,700	1,800	500	6,699 aa/	NA	
<b>OTHER FISH</b> bb/	2,500	7,000	1,200	2,000	2,000	14,700	NA	

- a/ ABC applies to the U.S. portion of the Vancouver area, except as noted. For lingcod, the U.S. ABC is set at 44% of the total for the area.
- b/ Lingcod - designated as overfished in 1999; the new coastwide assessment calculates separate ABCs for the northern (Vancouver-Columbia) and southern (Eureka-Monterey-Conception) stocks based on  $F_{45\%}$ . The OY (611 mt) is the sum of the yields (307 mt plus 304 mt) from the two new assessments associated with a constant exploitation rate where 60% of the simulated runs rebuilt in 9 years.
- c/ These species are neither common nor important to commercial and recreational fisheries in the areas footnoted. Accordingly, for convenience, Pacific cod in the areas footnoted is included in the non-numerical OY for "other fish." Rockfish species are included in either the "other rockfish" or "remaining rockfish" category for the areas footnoted only.
- d/ An update of the previous whiting assessment is expected in November. If the results are similar (within about 10%), the current ABC and OY values (232,000 mt, U.S. only) will be carried over to 2001. If the results are different, the Council will delay its decision on the final 2001 ABC and OY until the March 2001 meeting.
- e/ Sablefish - ABC (7,661 mt) is based on  $F_{45\%}$ , and the preliminary total catch OY (6,895 mt) is based on application of the 40-10 adjustment for stocks below 40% of unfished biomass. The stock is estimated to be at 37% of its unfished level, but there is substantial uncertainty in the biomass estimate; incoming recruitment appears poor. The Council is considering alternative methods of applying bycatch adjustments, which will affect the landed catch targets for the various commercial fishing sectors. As in the past, this OY applies north of 36°N latitude.
- f/ The ABC and OY for the Conception area (south of 36°N latitude), which are based on historical landings, remain the same as 2000. There are no limited entry and open access allocations for the Conception area at this time.
- g/ Pacific Ocean perch - the ABC for this overfished stock is based on the 2000 assessment for Vancouver and Columbia (1,523 mt, at  $F_{MSY}$ ), plus 18 mt for Eureka. The preliminary OY for the Vancouver-Columbia-Eureka area is 626 mt (which is based on  $F_{50\%}$  and the 40-10).
- h/ Shortbelly rockfish remains an unexploited stock and is difficult to assess quantitatively. NMFS recruitment surveys indicate poor recruitment in most years since 1989, indicating low recent productivity and a naturally declining population. The GMT recommends ABC and OY remain at 13,900 mt.
- i/ Widow rockfish - the 2000 assessment indicates the stock has declined to about 24% of its unfished reproductive potential and is overfished; a draft rebuilding analysis indicates the stock is above 50% of its MSY level (which is an alternative overfished threshold) meaning the stock is not overfished. The 3,727 mt preliminary ABC is based on the  $F_{50\%}$  harvest rate. One OY option (2,864 mt) is based on  $F_{50\%}$  and the 40-10 policy; the second OY option (1,775 mt) is based on  $F_{65\%}$  and the 40-10 policy, which is calculated to rebuild the stock in 10 years.
- j/ Two canary rockfish assessments in 1999 addressed the northern and southern portions of the stock and estimated current abundance to be between about 7% of unfished in the south to 20% of unfished in the north. The coastwide ABC (228 mt) is based on  $F_{50\%}$ . The preliminary OY range (60 mt) is based on the initial rebuilding analysis, the sum of 40 mt in the north and 20 mt in the south.
- k/ Chilipepper rockfish - The ABC (2,700 mt) for the Monterey and Conception areas is based on the 1998 assessment and application of the  $F_{50\%}$  harvest rate. The stock is estimated to be above the 40% precautionary threshold so the default OY would equal ABC. The Council recommends OY remain at 2,000 mt, in part to avoid increased bycatch of bocaccio. (The northern remaining rockfish ABC in 2000 includes 43 mt of chilipepper for the Eureka area.)
- l/ Bocaccio in the south is overfished; the preliminary ABC (122 mt) is based on  $F_{50\%}$ . The proposed OY is unchanged from 2000, which was set based on the rebuilding plan.
- m/ Splitnose rockfish (often called "rosefish") - ABC (615 mt) is a reduction from 2000 based on the revised  $F_{MSY}$  harvest rate policy. Consistent with the Council's precautionary policy, the preliminary OY recommendation (461 mt) reflects a 25% reduction from ABC, because of the less-rigorous assessment method used for this stock.
- n/ Yellowtail rockfish - the preliminary ABC recommendation (3,146 mt) applies to the Eureka, Columbia, and U.S. portion of the Vancouver areas. The stock is estimated to be at 63% of its pristine level. OY would equal ABC due to current stock abundance. However, the stock is expected to continue declining in the near future due to poor recruitment in recent years. Discard of yellowtail rockfish in the at-sea fisheries for Pacific whiting will be taken into account when setting the landed catch equivalent.

- o/ Shortspine thornyhead - the ABC recommendation (757 mt) is based on a synthesis of two stock assessments prepared in 1998 and application of the  $F_{50\%}$  harvest rate. The assessment addressed the area north of  $36^\circ$  N latitude, which is the northern boundary of the Conception area. Therefore, this ABC and OY apply only to that area. The stock size was estimated to be 32% of the unfished abundance in 1999. The OY (689 mt) is based on  $F_{50\%}$  and the 40-10 policy. The landed catch equivalent will reflect a reduction for discard. A separate ABC and OY (based on historical catch) apply to the part of the Conception area north of Point Conception; there is no ABC or OY for the southern Conception area.
- p/ Longspine thornyhead - the ABC (2,461 mt) north of the Conception area is the same as in 2000, based on the average of the 3 year individual ABCs at  $F_{50\%}$ . The stock is estimated to be above the 40% precautionary threshold. If the Council chooses to apply the  $F_{50\%}$  harvest rate and the revised discard adjustment, the total and landed catch OYs would be 2,461 mt and 2,067 mt, respectively. The ABC and OY for the Conception area apply north of Point Conception. The southern Conception area has neither an ABC or OY.
- q/ Cowcod - the 1999 assessment of the Conception area indicates this stock is overfished, with abundance below 10% of the unfished level. The Council recommends ABC in the Conception area be 5 mt (based on the assessment) and 19 mt in the Monterey area (based on average landings from 1983-1997). The preliminary OY is 2.4 mt.
- r/ Darkblotched rockfish - The 2000 assessment indicates the stock is overfished, with current biomass about 22% of the initial biomass. The lower ABC (302 mt) is based on 10% catch in the Russian fishery; the upper ABC (349 mt) assumes 0%. The lower OY (95 mt) is the constant annual catch that would rebuild the stock in 10 years, based on the 10% assumption; the upper OY (130 mt) is the constant catch to rebuild in 10 years, assuming a smaller percentage.
- s/ Minor rockfish (north) - this category includes the "Remaining Rockfish" and "Other Rockfish" categories in the U.S., Vancouver, Columbia, and Eureka areas combined. The final ABCs will be adjusted to comply with the revised harvest rate policy. The total catch OY is the sum of 75% of the "remaining rockfish" total plus 50% of the "other rockfish" ABCs in these three areas. The reduction in the contribution of remaining and other rockfish is intended to reflect the new default harvest rate and an additional 25% reduction is made to address uncertainty in stock status due to limited information. The expected commercial landed catch target in 2001 will reflect recreational harvest and may also reflect a 16% discard adjustment for the limited entry fishery.
- t/ Minor rockfish (south) - this category includes the "Remaining Rockfish" and "Other Rockfish" categories in the Monterey and Conception areas combined. The final ABCs will be adjusted to comply with the revised harvest rate policy. The ABC is the sum of all those individual species ABCs in these areas. The reduction in the contribution of remaining and other rockfish is intended to reflect the new default harvest rate, and an additional 25% reduction is made to address uncertainty in stock status due to limited information. The expected commercial landed catch target in 2001 will reflect recreational harvest and may also reflect a 16% discard adjustment for the limited entry fishery.
- u/ Remaining rockfish includes all rockfish species below in the table except the "Other Rockfish" category.
- v/ Bank rockfish - the preliminary ABC is 350 mt. This species will contribute 200 mt (75% of ABC, minus 25% as a precautionary adjustment) to the 2001 minor rockfish OY in the south.
- w/ Black rockfish - this 1,200 mt is the sum of the ABC calculated for the assessment area (700 mt) plus the average catch in the unassessed area (500 mt). This stock contributes 950 mt towards the minor rockfish OY in the north: 700 mt for the assessed area and 50% of the unassessed area. The 50% reduction is a precautionary adjustment.
- x/ Blackgill rockfish - the 1998 stock assessment estimates the Conception area stock to be at about 51% of pristine levels. The 365 mt ABC is based on  $F_{40\%}$ ; 75 mt was added for the Monterey area. Upon completion of the assessment in 1998, this stock was moved from the "Other Rockfish" category to the "Remaining Rockfish" category. The GMT will continue to monitor landings, if landings reach 300 mt, the GMT will alert the Council to the possible need for management action or a stock assessment.
- y/ Other rockfish includes rockfish species of the genus *Sebastes* not identified above in this table. The ABC recommendation is the same as 2000; it is based on the 1996 *Sebastes* complex review of commercial landings and includes an estimate of recreational landings. These species have never been formally assessed.
- z/ The 1997 Dover sole assessment evaluated the resource north of  $36^\circ$  N latitude as a unit and provided ABCs for landed catch based on the both the  $F_{35\%}$  and  $F_{40\%}$  harvest rates. The preliminary ABC is based on  $F_{40\%}$  ABC. The Conception area Dover sole ABC was at the level established in the original FMP, which was based on average landings. This is reduced by 50%, consistent with the new harvest policy. The ABCs represent total catch, and were converted by estimating that 5% of the total catch is discarded. Therefore, the coastwide ABC and OY range of 7,677 mt are for total catch with a landed catch equivalent of 7,293 mt.
- aa/ English and petrale soles, arrowtooth flounder, and other flatfish - the 1998 petrale sole assessment provided ABC values based on both  $F_{35\%}$  and  $F_{40\%}$ . The same ratio (.87) was used to calculate total ABCs at  $F_{40\%}$  for the other species of flatfish.
- bb/ Includes sharks, skates, rays, ratfish, morids, grenadiers, and other groundfish species noted above in c/.