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State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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To whom it may concern:

The "Status of Yellowtail Rockfish Resource in 2000", report to the Pacific Fishery Management Council, published in the "Appendix to the Status of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery through 2000 and Recommended Acceptable Biological Catches for 2001 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation" contained an error in Section 1.6: Management performance, page 6. The error is in the last paragraph of this section and relates to the characterization of the Council's historic compliance with ABCs and HGs. Catch data from the Canadian portion of the S. Vancouver stock area were inadvertently included in the coast-wide WOC catch when contrasting ABC and HG with realized catch. This was a mistake. The revised record of management performance demonstrates a less severe departure from the planned harvest levels than previously indicated, with substantial compliance in recent years. Figure 3, page 83 of our report is amended accordingly. The authors apologize for this error.

Sincerely,

Jack V. Tagart, Ph.D.
Research Scientist.

Attachments: 1

1.6 Management performance

Stock assessments provide managers with an estimate of the acceptable biological catch (ABC). This represents the assessment author's evaluation of the sustainable productivity of the stock. The ABC is sometimes presented as a range reflecting uncertainty in the estimated abundance. Typically, the PFMC has selected an "official" ABC within the range of the assessment's upper and lower ABC estimate. In addition, from 1983 to 1998, the Council also designated a harvest guideline. The harvest guideline was a catch target level or "soft" quota. As landings neared the HG, more stringent management regulations were imposed, but landings in excess of the HG did not necessarily prompt closure of the fishery. Since 1998, the HG has been replaced with an optimum yield (OY) designation. The OY is treated much the same as the HG, except that OY can be no greater than the Council's designated ABC. The ABC is now treated as a hard quota, as landings approach the ABC managers are required to close fisheries expected to contribute to further catch.

Between 1985 and 1990, for assessed stocks north of Cape Mendocino, the Council set the yellowtail rockfish HGs equal to ABC and near the mid-point values for high and low ABC estimates reported in the most current assessment (Table 2). From 1991 to 1993, the Council set their ABC 10% higher than the assessment's lower ABC estimate (Tagart, 1991), and their HG was set at the lower estimate of ABC. Through 1993, HGs were set without regard to discarded catch.

Beginning in 1994, the in-season yellowtail rockfish catch monitoring included an estimated 16% discard rate. The 1994-1996 ABC was again set at the mid-point of the assessment estimated high and low ABC (Tagart, 1993). The 1994 HG was set equal to the Council ABC. In 1996, the HG was set below the estimated ABC after discounting for anticipated discards.

In 1997, the Council's official yellowtail rockfish ABC was based on a range derived from the 1996 assessment ABC estimates (Tagart and Wallace, 1996). Because this assessment was controversial, and pending an updated assessment the following year, the Council adjusted the HG toward the level recommended in the assessment but significantly above the assessment's ABC. The upper end of the 1997 HG was set approximately 50% higher than the assessment estimated high ABC. The stock assessment was updated in 1997. Based on 1997 assessment estimates, the Council set the 1998-2000 ABC equal to the high range estimate of ABC and they set HG/OY 10% below the ABC.

Over the last 17 years (1983-1999), yellowtail rockfish trip limits have been ineffective at constraining catch within the HG set for the US fishery. From 1983-1989, total catch (including estimated discard) averaged 66% greater than the HG, and ranged from 17% to 197% over the HG. During this time period estimated total catch averaged 66% greater than the HG. Compliance with the HG improved in more recent years. Between 1990 and 1994, the HG was exceeded 3 times, with catch averaging 19% above the recommended guideline. In the last 5 years (1995-1999) the HG was exceeded only once. Results are similar when contrasting catch to Council recommended ABC's (Figure 3).

Unmonitored discards represent an ongoing problem for catch accounting and evaluation of management performance; fishery compliance with harvest guidelines could vary substantially from our estimates dependent on actual discarded catch.

Table 2. Comparison of assessment estimated and PFMC selected ABC and HGs for yellowtail rockfish stocks in the U.S. portions of the Eureka to Vancouver areas only. [VUS is the U.S. portion of the Vancouver area, Cape Elizabeth to the US/Canada provisional boundary; EUR/COL is the combined Eureka and Columbia areas, Cape Mendocino to Cape Elizabeth].

YEAR	STOCK ASSESSMENT ABCs ¹						PFMC VALUES ¹					
	EUR/COL		VUS		TOTAL		ABC's ²			HG'S		
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	EUR/COL	VUS	TOTAL	LOW	HIGH	STAND. ³
1983	2,900	4,900	1,200	1,600	4,100	6,500	1,800	1,400	3,200	1,400	3,200	3,200
1984	2,900	4,900	1,200	1,600	4,100	6,500	1,800	1,400	3,200	1,400	3,200	3,200
1985	785	2,897	277	856	1,062	3,753	2,400	600	3,000	600	3,000	3,000
1986	2,227	3,154	854	1,812	3,081	4,966	2,900	1,100	4,000	1,100	4,000	4,000
1987	2,227	3,154	854	1,812	3,081	4,966	2,900	1,100	4,000	1,100	4,000	4,000
1988	2,227	3,154	854	1,812	3,081	4,966	2,900	1,100	4,000	1,100	4,000	4,000
1989	1,990	4,031	1,196	3,028	3,186	7,059	3,200	1,100	4,300	1,100	4,300	4,300
1990	1,990	4,031	1,196	3,028	3,186	7,059	3,200	1,100	4,300	1,100	4,300	4,300
1991	3,433	5,853	1,226	1,801	4,659	7,654	3,400	1,200	4,600	4,300	4,300	4,300
1992	3,433	5,853	1,226	1,801	4,659	7,654	3,400	1,200	4,600	4,300	4,300	4,300
1993	3,433	5,853	1,226	1,801	4,659	7,654	3,400	1,300	4,700	4,400	4,400	4,400
1994	5,466	6,049	131	2,239	5,597	8,288	5,550	1,190	6,740	6,740	6,740	6,740
1995	5,466	6,049	131	2,239	5,597	8,288	5,550	1,191	6,741	6,740	6,740	6,740
1996	5,466	6,049	131	2,239	5,597	8,288	5,550	1,192	6,742	6,170	6,170	6,740
1997	536	1,423	337	529	873	1,952	1,319	454	1,773	825	2,924	2,924
1998	839	1,582	380	1,957	1,218	3,539	1,770	1,770	3,539	2,619	2,911	3,539
1999	937	1,615	449	1,919	1,386	3,534	1,770	1,770	3,539	2,407	2,407	3,539
2000	1,072	1,680	540	1,864	1,613	3,544	1,770	1,770	3,539	2,980	2,980	3,539

1 ABC and HG reference the U.S. portion of the area specific stock estimates only.

2 For 1998 and beyond, this is the Council's upper range ABC, distributed to stock based on assessment estimates of area specific yield.

3 STAND., represents a standardize HG inclusive of estimated discard.

YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH: EUREKA TO U.S. VANCOUVER

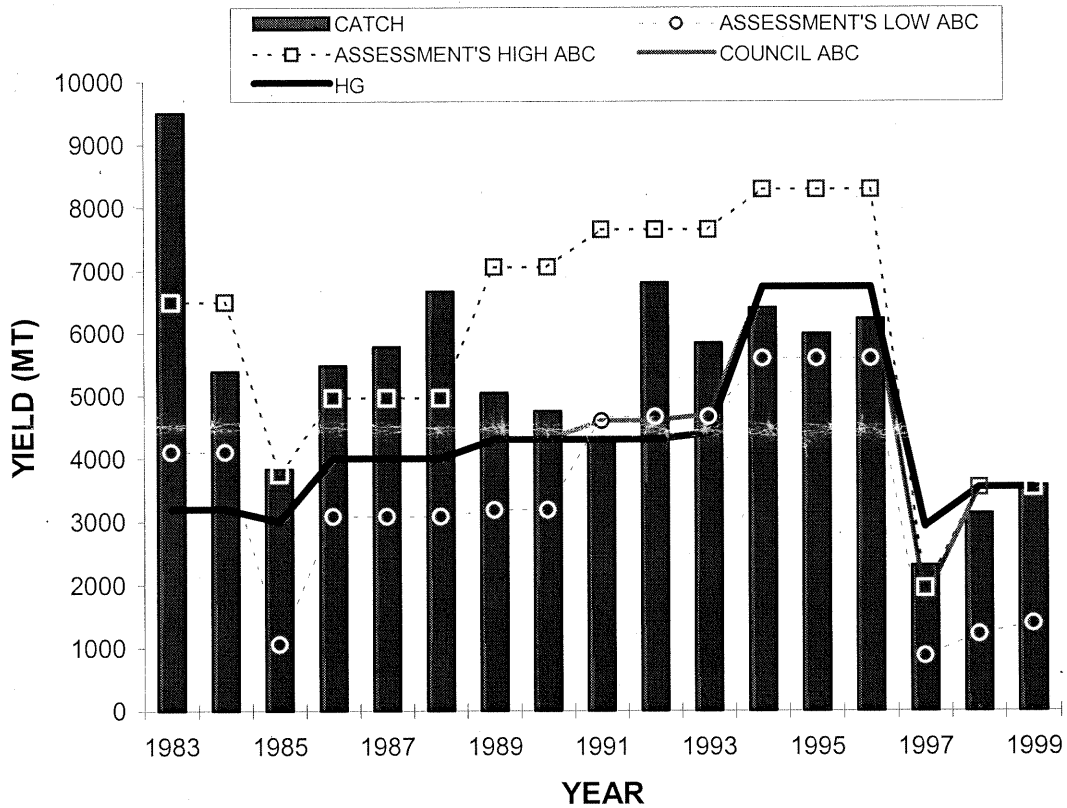


Figure 3. Comparison of stock assessment estimated and PFMC selected yellowtail rockfish ABCs and HGs for the U.S. portion of the Eureka to Vancouver stock assessment areas. [Low and High ABCs are from the stock assessment estimates, Council ABC is the "official" or designated ABC for the stock, in 1998 and 1999 the displayed HG is actually the Council's OY]

REBUILDING ANALYSES FOR OVERFISHED STOCKS

- ★ Bocaccio Rebuilding Analysis
- ★ Canary Rockfish Rebuilding Analysis
- ★ Cowcod Rebuilding Analysis
- ★ Darkblotched Rockfish Rebuilding Analysis
- ★ Lingcod Rebuilding Analysis
- ★ Pacific Ocean Perch Rebuilding Analysis
- ★ Widow Rockfish Rebuilding Analysis

