

## SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON SPECIFICATIONS PROCESS FOR 2017-2018 MANAGEMENT

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed a draft table of 2017-2018 groundfish overfishing limits (OFLs) and category assignments presented by Mr. John DeVore (Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1, Table 1).

The 2017-2018 OFLs from the most recent assessments are based upon the assumption that, for most stocks, annual catch limits (ACLs) based on default harvest control rules will be taken. In a few cases (e.g., Dover sole), the assumption for annual total catch removals are based on recent year average catches. OFL projections from some of the older assessments have been updated using actual catches since the assessment was conducted; however, updated projections have not been made for all stocks. In this cycle, the SSC is recommending updated projections based on ACL removals or recent year average catches (e.g., arrowtooth flounder) to avoid unnecessary constraints to fisheries. Other OFL projections, such as those for longspine thornyhead, have not been updated since providing updates to older assessments is not a trivial workload.

The changes in projection methodology used to compute the OFLs have been endorsed to provide the most risk-neutral OFLs possible given the capacity of the science centers to provide these updates. Further, the assumption of ACL removals assuming default harvest control rules in projecting 2017 and 2018 OFLs is consistent with the new Amendment 24 framework. In cases where the Council decides to change the default harvest control rules for 2017 and 2018 and such a change results in a significantly different ACL removal assumption, the SSC will need to reconsider the 2018 OFL since that limit will be sensitive to the 2017 removal assumption. The SSC will need to deliberate which changes in harvest control rules will require a reconsideration of OFLs.

The SSC endorses the OFLs and accompanying category designations that are not highlighted in Table 1, and did not endorse further changes in sigma for any of those stocks. The OFLs for stocks highlighted in Table 1 will be addressed in November pending further investigation and/or provision of OFLs not available at this meeting. The reasons for some of these OFLs not being endorsed at this meeting are explained as follows.

- Black rockfish: 2017 and 2018 OFLs are unavailable pending endorsement of the new assessments at the “mop-up” panel review in September 2015 and SSC review in November 2015.
- Bocaccio: The apportionment of the OFL north and south of 40° 10' N. latitude needs further investigation.
- Cowcod: OFL projections are needed that assume ACL removals.
- Dover Sole: The SSC endorses the method of using the most recent 3-year average total catch to project OFLs because catches have been considerably lower than ACLs using default harvest control rules.
- Lingcod: New OFL projections are needed using actual catches since 2009 when the assessment was conducted.

- Stocks last assessed in 2005 that have not been updated: The 2005 assessments are out of date and 2017 and 2018 OFL projections are not available. The SSC anticipates the new OFLs will be based on DB-SRA and the stock category assignment will be changed to category 3. This affects California scorpionfish, gopher rockfish in California north of Pt. Conception, and starry flounder.
- Stocks assessed in 2013 using data-moderate methods: 10-year OFL projections were not provided in the 2013 data-moderate assessment document. This affects OFLs for brown rockfish, copper rockfish, English sole, rex sole, sharpchin rockfish, striptail rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. latitude.

Table 1. 2017 and 2018 overfishing limits and stock categories endorsed (if not highlighted) by the SSC assuming no changes to the default harvest control rules (OFLs for highlighted stocks will be addressed in November; overfished stocks in CAPS; stocks with new assessments in **bold**). Default sigmas for each category are: category 1 = 0.36, category 2 = 0.72, category 3 = 1.44 . Sigma for aurora rockfish is 0.39.

Stock	Category	2017 OFL	2018 OFL
<b>OVERFISHED STOCKS</b>			
<b>BOCACCIO S. of 40°10' N. lat.</b>			
COWCOD S. of 40°10' N. lat.			
<i>COWCOD (Conception)</i>			
<i>COWCOD (Monterey)</i>	3	11.6	12.0
<b>DARKBLOTCHED ROCKFISH</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>693</b>
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	1	948	972
<b>YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH</b>			
<b>NON-OVERFISHED STOCKS</b>			
Arrowtooth Flounder			
<b>Black Rockfish (CA)</b>			
<b>Black Rockfish (OR)</b>			
<b>Black Rockfish (WA)</b>			
Cabezon (CA)	1	157	156
Cabezon (OR)	1	49	49
California scorpionfish			
<b>Canary Rockfish</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>1,661</b>
<b>Chilipepper S. of 40°10' N. lat.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>2,623</b>
Dover Sole	1	89,702	90,282
English Sole			
Lingcod N. of 40°10' N. lat.			
Lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat.			
Longnose skate	1	2,556	2,526
Longspine Thornyhead (coastwide)	2	4,571	4,339
Pacific Cod	3	3,200	3,200
<b>Petrals Sole</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>3,152</b>
<b>Sablefish (coastwide)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8,050</b>	<b>8,329</b>
Shortbelly	2	6,950	6,950
Shortspine Thornyhead (coastwide)	2	3,144	3,116
Spiny dogfish	2	2,514	2,500
Splitnose S. of 40°10' N. lat.	1	1,841	1,842

Stock	Category	2017 OFL	2018 OFL
Starry Flounder			
<b>Widow Rockfish</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14,130</b>	<b>14,511</b>
Yellowtail N. of 40°10' N. lat.			
<b>STOCK COMPLEXES</b>			
Nearshore Rockfish North			
<i>Black and yellow</i>	3	0.01	0.01
<i>Blue (CA)</i>			
<i>Blue (OR &amp; WA)</i>	3	32.3	32.3
<i>Brown</i>			
<i>Calico</i>	3	-	-
<b>China</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>29.3</b>
<i>Copper</i>			
<i>Gopher</i>	3	-	-
<i>Grass</i>	3	0.7	0.7
<i>Kelp</i>	3	0.01	0.01
<i>Olive</i>	3	0.3	0.3
<i>Quillback</i>	3	7.4	7.4
<i>Treefish</i>	3	0.2	0.2
Shelf Rockfish North		2,303	2,301
<i>Bronzespotted</i>	3	-	-
<i>Bocaccio</i>	3	284.0	284.0
<i>Chameleon</i>	3	-	-
<b>Chilipepper</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>205.2</b>	<b>197.4</b>
<i>Cowcod</i>	3	0.4	0.4
<i>Flag</i>	3	0.1	0.1
<i>Freckled</i>	3	-	-
<i>Greenblotched</i>	3	1.3	1.3
<i>Greenspotted 40°10' to 42° N. lat.</i>	2	9.2	9.1
<i>Greenspotted N. of 42 N. lat. (OR &amp; WA)</i>	3	6.1	6.1
<i>Greenstriped</i>	2	1,299.6	1,306.4
<i>Halfbanded</i>	3	-	-
<i>Harlequin</i>	3	-	-
<i>Honeycomb</i>	3	-	-
<i>Mexican</i>	3	-	-
<i>Pink</i>	3	0.004	0.004
<i>Pinkrose</i>	3	-	-
<i>Puget Sound</i>	3	-	-
<i>Pygmy</i>	3	-	-
<i>Redstripe</i>	3	269.9	269.9
<i>Rosethorn</i>	3	12.9	12.9
<i>Rosy</i>	3	3.0	3.0
<i>Silvergray</i>	3	159.4	159.4
<i>Speckled</i>	3	0.2	0.2
<i>Squarespot</i>	3	0.2	0.2
<i>Starry</i>	3	0.004	0.004
<i>Stripetail</i>	3	40.4	40.4
<i>Swordspine</i>	3	0.0001	0.0001
<i>Tiger</i>	3	1.0	1.0
<i>Vermilion</i>	3	9.7	9.7

Stock	Category	2017 OFL	2018 OFL
<b>Slope Rockfish North</b>			
<i>Aurora</i>	1	17.5	17.5
<i>Bank</i>	3	17.2	17.2
<i>Blackgill</i>	3	4.7	4.7
<i>Redbanded</i>	3	45.3	45.3
<i>Rougheye/Blackspotted</i>	2	210.7	214.6
<i>Sharpchin</i>			
<i>Shortraker</i>	3	18.7	18.7
<i>Splitnose</i>	1	1,026.7	1,027.1
<i>Yellowmouth</i>	3	192.4	192.4
<b>Nearshore Rockfish South</b>			
<i>Shallow Nearshore Species</i>			
<i>Black and yellow</i>	3	27.5	27.5
<b>China</b>	2	13.3	13.8
<i>Gopher (N of Pt. Conception)</i>			
<i>Gopher (S of Pt. Conception)</i>	3	25.6	25.6
<i>Grass</i>	3	59.6	59.6
<i>Kelp</i>	3	27.7	27.7
<i>Deeper Nearshore Species</i>			
<i>Blue (assessed area)</i>			
<i>Blue (S of 34°27' N. lat.)</i>	3	72.9	72.9
<i>Brown</i>			
<i>Calico</i>	3	-	-
<i>Copper</i>			
<i>Olive</i>	3	224.6	224.6
<i>Quillback</i>	3	5.4	5.4
<i>Treefish</i>	3	13.2	13.2
<b>Shelf Rockfish South</b>			
<i>Bronzespotted</i>	3	3.6	3.6
<i>Chameleon</i>	3	-	-
<i>Flag</i>	3	23.4	23.4
<i>Freckled</i>	3	-	-
<i>Greenblotched</i>	3	23.1	23.1
<i>Greenspotted</i>	2	77.8	77.4
<i>Greenstriped</i>	2	238.4	239.6
<i>Halfbanded</i>	3	-	-
<i>Harlequin</i>	3	-	-
<i>Honeycomb</i>	3	9.9	9.9
<i>Mexican</i>	3	5.1	5.1
<i>Pink</i>	3	2.5	2.5
<i>Pinkrose</i>	3	-	-
<i>Pygmy</i>	3	-	-
<i>Redstripe</i>	3	0.5	0.5
<i>Rosethorn</i>	3	2.1	2.1
<i>Rosy</i>	3	44.5	44.5
<i>Silvergray</i>	3	0.5	0.5
<i>Speckled</i>	3	39.4	39.4
<i>Squarespot</i>	3	11.1	11.1
<i>Starry</i>	3	62.6	62.6
<i>Stripetail</i>	3	23.6	23.6
<i>Swordspine</i>	3	14.2	14.2

Stock	Category	2017 OFL	2018 OFL
<i>Tiger</i>	3	0.04	0.04
<i>Vermilion</i>	3	269.3	269.3
<i>Yellowtail</i>	3	1,064.4	1,064.4
Slope Rockfish South		736	739
<i>Aurora</i>	1	74.4	74.5
<i>Bank</i>	3	503.2	503.2
<i>Blackgill</i>	2	143.0	146.0
<i>Pacific ocean perch</i>	3	-	-
<i>Redbanded</i>	3	10.4	10.4
<i>Rougheye/Blackspotted</i>	2	4.3	4.4
<b><i>Sharpchin</i></b>			
<i>Shorthead</i>	3	0.1	0.1
<i>Yellowmouth</i>	3	0.8	0.8
<b>Other Flatfish</b>			
<i>Butter sole</i>	3	4.6	4.6
<i>Curlfin sole</i>	3	8.2	8.2
<i>Flathead sole</i>	3	35.0	35.0
<i>Pacific sanddab</i>	3	4,801.0	4,801.0
<b><i>Rex sole</i></b>			
<i>Rock sole</i>	3	66.7	66.7
<i>Sand sole</i>	3	773.2	773.2
<b>Other Fish a/</b>			
<i>Cabazon (WA)</i>	3	4.5	4.8
<i>Kelp greenling (CA)</i>	3	118.9	118.9
<b><i>Kelp greenling (OR)</i></b>			
<b><i>Kelp greenling (WA)</i></b>			
<i>Leopard shark</i>	3	167.1	167.1

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