

BIENNIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2017-2018 GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT INCLUDING FINAL OVERFISHING LIMITS AND ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL CATCHES

In June, the Council adopted a process and schedule for deciding harvest specifications and management measures for 2017-2018 groundfish fisheries (see [Agenda Item D.5, Attachment 1, June 2015](#)). Based on this schedule, the Council began deciding groundfish harvest specifications and providing input on new management measures for 2017-2018 groundfish fisheries at the September meeting. At this meeting, the Council is tasked with adopting final overfishing limits (OFLs), final acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and a preliminary range of annual catch limits (ACLs) to be further analyzed if there is a desire to depart from default harvest control rules (HCRs); and under Agenda Item I.9, adopting a preliminary range of new management measures for 2017-2018 fisheries. The Council should also adopt preliminary preferred ACLs, if possible, at this meeting. The draft Purpose and Need for the proposed action under this agenda item (and Agenda Item 1.9) is provided under Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1. Refinements to the draft Purpose and Need are anticipated by April 2016 based on Council decisions at this meeting.

Amendment 24 established default HCRs that are applied to the best available scientific information to determine the 2017 and 2018 OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs. No action is needed if the Council intends to implement the remaining harvest specifications based on the default HCRs described in Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 2. In the event the Council would like to change the default HCR, the Council should adopt a range of ABCs based on their P* choice, and any additional ACL HCRs, for more detailed analysis under this agenda item. Selection of preliminary preferred ACLs is scheduled for this meeting and final preferred ACLs in April 2016, for those stocks where the Council departs from the HCR.

Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 2 contains the proposed 2017 and 2018 OFLs, a range of 2017 and 2018 ABCs based on the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) estimated sigmas for each stock category and overfishing probabilities (P*s), ACLs that comport with the Council's default HCRs, a description of the HCRs, and the alternative ACLs for those species with a specified range adopted for detailed analysis by the Council in September. The highlighted stocks in the tables under Attachment 2 are those with harvest specifications that were not adopted in September or were slightly changed from those adopted in September. A supplemental revised version of Attachment 2 will likely be available at the meeting that comports with the SSC decisions for 2017-2018 OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values under a presumption that some of the values in Attachment 2 will change. Attachments 3-7 provide the background information (e.g., updated catch-only projections) for harvest specifications for select stocks.

The SSC will review the proposed OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values, and make their recommendations to the Council. The Council should review and adopt the OFL values recommended by the SSC and adopt a range of HCRs to analyze for those stocks the Council is contemplating a departure from current HCRs. Also, the Council should adopt preliminary preferred 2017 and 2018 ACLs for all actively managed stocks and stock complexes.

Council Action:

1. **Review and Provide Guidance on the Draft Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action.**
2. **Adopt those final preferred 2017-2018 OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values recommended by the SSC.**
3. **Adopt final preferred 2017-2018 ABCs consistent with the OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values recommended by the SSC.**
4. **In the event the Council chooses to depart from the default HCR, adopt a range of 2017-2018 P*s/ABCs and ACLs for more detailed analysis.**
5. **Adopt preliminary preferred ACLs for all actively managed stocks and stock complexes.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1: Draft Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action.
2. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 2: 2017 and 2018 Groundfish Harvest Specifications.
3. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 3: Catch-only Projections for Arrowtooth Flounder, Yelloweye Rockfish, Blue Rockfish, and California Scorpionfish Models.
4. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 4: Harvest Projections for Select West Coast Groundfish Species Used to Inform Harvest Specifications for 2017 and Beyond.
5. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 5: Projections from the 2015 Kelp Greenling Assessment in Oregon Waters using Alternative Sigma and P* Values.
6. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 6: West Coast Lingcod Projections with Actual Catch Number in 2009-2014, and Distributed ACLs in 2015 and 2016.
7. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 7: West Coast Pacific Ocean Perch Projections from the 2011 Rebuilding Analysis with Actual Catch Number in 2011-2014, and ACLs in 2015 and 2016.
8. Agenda Item I.4.a, WDFW Report.

Agenda Order:

- I.4. Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2017-2018 Groundfish Management Including Final Overfishing Limits and Acceptable Biological Catches John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Overfishing Limits, Final P*/Acceptable Biological Catches; Preliminary Preferred Annual Catch Limits for Each Stock and Stock Complex; Receive Updates on Harvest Specification Projections for Select Groundfish Species, and; Consider Associated Issues Other Than Management Measures

PFMC
10/21/15