

2017-2018 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES RULEMAKING UPDATE AND CLARIFICATION

The Council adopted final 2017 and 2018 harvest specifications and management measures at their June 2016 meeting. Subsequent analysis of the Council's final decisions and the process for deeming the proposed rule for these specifications and management measures revealed the need to clarify the effect of the action (beyond what was revealed in the Council meeting record) and to solicit confirmation of Council intent on a limited set of these decisions as follows.

2018 Canary Rockfish Harvest Specifications

The Council's final decision on canary rockfish annual catch limits (ACLs) specified a harvest control rule where the ACL equals the acceptable biological catch (with a probability of overfishing (P^*) of 0.45). The Council's motion specified ACLs of 1,714 mt and 1,588 mt for 2017 and 2018, respectively. The Council also decided sector allocations with an intent to maintain a yield buffer in both years to cover unanticipated impacts. However, the actual 2018 ACL under the Council's preferred harvest control rule is 1,526 mt and there would be no buffer.

2018 Blackgill Rockfish Harvest Specifications

Under their Amendment 26 action in November 2015, the Council decided to remove blackgill rockfish from the southern Slope Rockfish complex with a consequent change in the Amendment 21 allocation. The Council's recommended timeline was to make this change in stock composition and allocation for the start of 2018. Documents provided to inform Council decision-making on the biennial harvest specifications for 2017-2018 presumed this change in the southern Slope Rockfish stock complex for 2018, presenting complex harvest specifications that did not include the contribution from blackgill rockfish. However, the Amendment 26 rulemaking would be implemented after the final rulemaking for the 2017-2018 specifications. The Council is being asked to confirm the intent of their 2018 final preferred harvest specifications for the southern Slope Rockfish complex and blackgill rockfish was to adopt the harvest specifications for the complex that included the contribution from blackgill rockfish (with a harvest guideline for southern blackgill rockfish) in the interim until Amendment 26 is implemented. In other words, the 2017-2018 harvest specifications and management measures action would not pull blackgill rockfish out of the southern Slope Rockfish complex.

Limited Entry and Open Access Trip Limits

The 2016 yellowtail rockfish limited entry and open access fixed gear trip limits north of 40°10' N lat. are combined with northern Shelf Rockfish, shortbelly rockfish, and widow rockfish (200 lbs/month). The Council proposed to increase the 2017-2018 yellowtail rockfish trip limits for the limited entry fixed gear sector to 1,000 lbs/month and the open access sector to 500 lbs/month. The Council is being asked to confirm if their intent is to manage yellowtail rockfish with stock-specific trip limits and maintain the existing 200 lbs/month limit for the remaining species.

Pacific Ocean Perch Harvest Specifications

The Council's final decision on 2017 and 2018 ACLs for Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N lat. affected the overfishing limits (OFLs) for this stock. The Council tasked the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) with evaluating the Council's ACL decision and determine the OFLs consistent with that decision. In its August 2 webinar, the SSC endorsed OFLs of 964 mt and 984 mt for 2017 and 2018, respectively. Minutes for the August 2 webinar are appended to the draft June SSC minutes in the September briefing book. These OFLs will be in the proposed rule.

Council Action:

Council Discussion and Guidance on Providing Comments on Blackgill Harvest Guidelines and Yellowtail Rockfish Landing Limits as Needed to Inform Analysis for Rulemaking

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- F.3 2017-2018 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures
Rulemaking Update and Clarification Kelly Ames and John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Council Discussion and Guidance on Rulemaking as Needed

PFMC
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