

## MID-BIENNIUM HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS ADJUSTMENTS, FINAL ACTION

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is considering a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment to allow an increase in groundfish harvest specifications (i.e., overfishing limits [OFLs], acceptable biological catches [ABCs], annual catch limits [ACLs], and optimum yields [OYs]) in the second year of a biennial management cycle when a new assessment indicates a substantial increase in the available harvest of a stock.

The Council initiated scoping on an FMP framework that would allow a mid-biennium harvest specifications adjustment in November 2016. The Council indicated they preferred a framework where any newly-assessed stock could be subject to a mid-biennium increase in harvest specifications in cases where a significant increase in available yield would provide substantial benefits to fisheries and fishery-dependent communities. The Council also directed staff to develop a draft process and schedule for future implementation of potential adjustments. Attachment 1 provides some considerations for this framework, including a change in the process for prioritizing stock assessments; presents a draft process and schedule for future implementation of potential adjustments to harvest specifications; and proposes FMP amendment language for this framework.

The Council should consider the briefing book materials, as well as advisory body and public comments before deciding a final policy on mid-biennium harvest specifications adjustments.

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt a Final Policy Alternative for Mid-Biennium Harvest Specifications Adjustments.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 1: Considerations for Frameworking a Mid-Biennium Harvest Specifications Adjustments Process.

### **Agenda Order:**

- F.5 Mid-Biennium Harvest Specifications Adjustments, Final Action John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Policy Alternative for Mid-Biennium Harvest Specifications Adjustments