

FISHERIES IN 2015-2016 AND BEYOND: ADOPT BIENNIAL SPECIFICATIONS FINAL
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

In September and November 2013, the Council adopted overfishing limits (OFLs) and other harvest specifications for most of the actively-managed groundfish stocks and stock complexes. The Council further adopted Amendment 24 process alternatives and other 2015-2016 harvest specification and management measure alternatives for analysis. In March 2014, the Council adopted proposed OFLs for cowcod south of 40°10' N lat. and the Oregon substock of kelp greenling. The Council also requested a recalculation of OFLs for the Washington substock of cabezon based on the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) advice ([Agenda Item D.5.b, Supplemental SSC Report, March 2014](#)); a new estimate of OFLs for the Washington substock of kelp greenling assuming an overfishing probability (P*) of 0.4; and all the projected harvest specifications for brown, China, and copper rockfish that were not available at the March meeting. All the requested 2015 and 2016 harvest specifications are available at this meeting for review by the Council, the SSC, and other Council advisors. Pending the SSC review and their recommendations, the recommendations of other Council advisors, and public comment, the Council is scheduled to adopt final 2015 and 2016 harvest specifications. Materials informing this decision include the preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in consideration of decisions to be made for Amendment 24 and 2015-2016 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures (provided electronically with some parts excerpted and provided as attachments), the preliminary draft 2014 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document (provided electronically), and draft proposed Amendment 24 FMP language.

On Saturday, April 5 under Agenda Item C.2, Council staff will provide an overview of analyses informing Council action under this agenda item; under Agenda Item C.8: Fisheries in 2015-2016 and Beyond: Stock Complex Restructuring; and under Agenda Item C.9: Fisheries in 2015-2016 and Beyond: Adopt Management Measures Preliminary Preferred Alternatives. Many of the materials informing these decisions are provided under this agenda item (see the Reference Materials section below). Any decisions scheduled under this agenda item that the Council wishes to defer until later in the meeting can be made under Agenda Item C.9.

The Council is tasked with adopting a final preferred alternative for 2015 and 2016 harvest specifications (OFLs, acceptable biological catches, and annual catch limits) for groundfish stocks and stock complexes. The Council is also tasked with deciding a final Amendment 24 alternative, if possible, and providing guidance on the FMP language necessary for Amendment 24. The Council will receive advice from the SSC on any remaining proposed OFLs, as well as the science informing any of these decisions. The Council will also receive recommendations from other Council advisors and the public to aid in making these decisions.

Council Action:

- 1. Decide a final preferred alternative for 2015 and 2016 harvest specifications (OFLs, acceptable biological catches, and annual catch limits) for groundfish stocks and stock complexes.**

2. Decide a final preferred Amendment 24 alternative, if possible, and provide guidance on the FMP language necessary for Amendment 24.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 1: Action Item Checklist.
2. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 2: Proposed 2015 and 2016 Harvest Specifications and Select Management Measures for Groundfish Stocks and Stock Complexes.
3. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 3: Excerpted Portions of the preliminary DEIS concerning the Biological Risk Analysis for Select Stocks and Stock Complexes.
4. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 4: Proposed FMP Language under the Amendment 24 Alternatives.
5. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 5: Preliminary Draft of the 2014 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document (electronic only).
6. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 6: Preliminary Draft of, "Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures and Amendment 24: Draft Environmental Impact Statement" (electronic only).
7. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 7: Excel Workbook containing Historical Landings and Revenue Tables for the Groundfish Fishery (electronic only).
8. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 8: Adopted Schedule for Developing the 2015-2016 and Beyond Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures.
9. Agenda Item C.4.b, GMT Report: Appendix B to Proposed Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2015-2016 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and Amendment 24 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (electronic only).
10. Agenda Item C.4.b, ODFW Report: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Comments Regarding the Recent Model Development and OFL Determination for Kelp Greenling for 2015-2016 Harvest Specifications.
11. Agenda Item C.4.b, WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Report on Groundfish Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for 2015-2016 and Beyond.
12. Agenda Item C.4.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore and Kelly Ames
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Harvest Specifications for 2015-2016 Decide a Final Preferred Amendment 24 Alternative, if Possible, and Provide Guidance on the FMP Language Necessary for Amendment 24.

PFMC
03/21/14