

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED SEASON
STRUCTURES AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES, AN EXCERPT FROM THE
PRELIMINARY DEIS

Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

This document provides information about, and analyses of, setting groundfish harvest specifications and establishing related management measures for 2015 and subsequent years for fisheries covered by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (hereafter, Groundfish FMP or FMP), which are developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in collaboration with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Groundfish harvest specifications are set every 2 years for a 2-year period. In addition to harvest specifications and management measures for the 2015-16 biennial period, this document evaluates the impacts of setting harvest specifications and management measures over the long term. These actions must conform to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the principal legal basis for fishery management within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which extends from the outer boundary of the territorial sea to a distance of 200 nautical miles from shore. The states manage their fisheries, including nearshore rockfish fisheries in the territorial sea, in a manner consistent with, or more restrictive than, the Groundfish FMP and Federal implementing regulations.

THE PROPOSED ACTIONS

The proposed action has three components: 1) Establishing harvest specifications and management measures for the 2015-2016 biennial management period, 2) changing groundfish stock complexes and designating ecosystem component species, and 3) amending the Groundfish FMP to describe how the Council would use default harvest control rules (HCRs) in their decision-making process in future biennial cycles and to clarify what are considered new and routine management measures during the biennial process. In all cases the alternative of No Action is also considered. This EIS includes an analysis of the long-term impacts of biennial harvest specifications and foreseeable adjustments to routine management measures to support decision-making in future biennial periods.

ALTERNATIVES

Table ES-1 summarizes the alternatives and options evaluated in this EIS.

Establishing Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2015-2016 Biennial Management Period

Harvest specifications are established for each managed stock or stock complex in the Groundfish FMP. Specifications include the overfishing limit (OFL), the allowable biological catch (ABC), and the annual catch limit (ACL). Catch above the OFL constitutes overfishing. The ABC is a precautionary reduction from the OFL to account for scientific uncertainty in the OFL specification and management error. Section 4.4 in the Groundfish FMP describes the method usually used to determine this precautionary reduction. It involves two quantities, sigma (σ) and P*. Sigma represents variability in stock assessment results and P* represents the probability of catch at the ABC resulting in overfishing. A formula incorporating these two values produces a percentage value representing the precautionary reduction. Sigma is determined by the SSC while the Council chooses P*, which according to the Groundfish FMP, cannot exceed 0.45.

Overall catch is managed to the ACL. For most stocks the ACL is set equal to the ABC but the ACL may be set below the ABC for a variety of reasons. The Council may also set an annual catch target (ACT) to

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establish a higher level of precaution, particularly if there is greater uncertainty about the true level of catch due to estimation error.

Management measures include adjustments to and allocations of ACLs, adjustments to existing management measures including those designated as routine, and adoption of new management measures. During the biennial cycle existing, routine measures may be adjusted and new measures established. These management measures are mainly intended to control groundfish catch and improve monitoring of the fishery. Allocations establish overall limits for different groundfish fishery sectors (segments of the overall fishery distinguished by gear type, permit programs, target species, and other factors) as a basis for controlling catch. Many allocations have been included in the FMP and the same proportions are applied from period to period; others may be modified biennially based on conditions in the fishery. Harvest guidelines may also be used to aid the implementation of management measures that takes into account fishing opportunity in different fishery sectors. Catch control tools for the commercial groundfish fishery include individual fishing quota (IFQ), vessel allocations of sablefish catch opportunity to certain fixed gear, cumulative landing (or trip) limits, and closed areas to reduce bycatch of species of concern, predominantly overfished species. Recreational catch control tools include time and area closures and bag limits. Catch monitoring is accomplished by at-sea observers and dockside accounting for commercial catch and landings, and sampling and observation of recreational fisheries. Management measure alternatives are structured to provide sufficient fishing opportunity to achieve but not exceed ACLs. The alternatives are:

The Council considered four alternatives for 2015-2016 harvest specifications and management measures.

No Action

Harvest specifications values in place on January 1, 2014, would remain in effect for the 2015-2016 period (see Table 2-3 for the numerical values and basis for these harvest specifications). Management measures in place on December 31, 2014 would remain in place during the 2015-2016 biennial period. However, the Council may take inseason action to adjust routine management measures during the biennium.

The Preferred Alternative

Annual catch limits (ACLs) for most species are determined based on the ACLs being set equal to the ABCs with a P* value of 0.45. The ACLs for arrowtooth, lingcod south of 40°10' N. lat., longspine thornyhead north and south of 34°27' N. lat., sablefish north and south of 36° N. lat., shortspine thornyhead north and south of 34°27' N. lat., spiny dogfish, and starry flounder would be determined based on the ACLs being set equal to the ABCs with a P* value of 0.40. For some stocks ACLs are set below the ABC, in which case the P* value does not necessarily determine the ACL. Overfished species ACLs are set based on rebuilding plans except for cowcod south of 40°10' N. lat., for which a new stock assessment is available. The ACL is increased from 3 mt to 10 mt and an annual catch target (ACT) of 4 mt is established. For this stock Constant catch ACLs for Dover sole and widow rockfish are increased from their 2014 values. Table 2-4 contains the preferred 2015 and 2016 harvest specifications.

Under the Preferred Alternative enhanced accountability measures to control mortality of rougheye rockfish and a sorting requirement for rougheye and blackspotted rockfish are implemented. These measures allow catch to be more accurately and responsively tracked while the rougheye rockfish/blackspotted rockfish stock remains within the current slope rockfish complexes. Stocks are removed from the Other Fish complex; most are designated ecosystem component species while spiny dogfish is managed separately with its own harvest specifications. The Washington, Oregon, and California kelp greenling stocks, the Washington cabezon stock, and leopard shark remain in the Other

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Fish complex. Some species currently not in the Groundfish FMP are designated EC species.¹ The EC classification is described in National Standard 1 Guidelines. EC species are monitored but not actively managed. They are species that are caught incidentally in relatively small amounts. If monitoring indicates an increasing trend in catch for an EC species, reclassification and/or appropriate management measures may be considered. In addition to moving many of the species in the Other Fish complex to the EC species designation, the Council designated several species not currently in the Groundfish FMP as EC species.

Catch control measures are established and adjusted in order to attain but not exceed the Preferred Alternative ACLs.

Alternative 1

Where applicable, ABCs are determined based on a P* value of 0.45, and the ACL is set equal to the ABC. For several stocks the ACL is set below the ABC and so the P* value does not necessarily determine the ACL. Instances where the ACL is below the ACL include specification of a fixed or constant catch level, precautionary adjustments using the 40-10 and 25-5 rules, and the use of the harvest rate specified in a rebuilding plan. Table 2-5 shows the harvest specifications for each stock under Alternative 1.

Catch control measures are established and adjusted in order to attain but not exceed the Alternative 1 ACLs.

Alternative 2

Where applicable, ACLs are determined based on the ACLs being set equal to the ABCs with a P* value of 0.25. As described above for Alternative 1, ACLs may be set below the ABC, in which case the P* value does not necessarily determine the ACL. Table 2-6 contains the harvest specifications under Alternative 2.

Catch control measures are established and adjusted in order to attain but not exceed the Alternative 2 ACLs.

Amendment 24

This amendment would incorporate a description of the default harvest control rule (HCR) concept into the Groundfish FMP, which is intended to make clear that if the Council does not take action to modify an HCR, the default HCR is used, applying the best available scientific information, to calculate harvest specification numerical values. This approach helps make clear that most of the time the Council is either reapplying existing harvest policies or making modest changes within the framework set out in the Groundfish FMP and consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action also provides an opportunity to evaluate the long-term impacts of biennial harvest specifications and management measures process in this EIS. This is intended to allow more focused analyses of future biennial actions. The description of the types of management measures that are established and adjusted during the biennial process would also be clarified as part of Amendment 24. As part of the biennial process new management measures may be implemented and existing, “routine” management measures adjusted; for example, existing catch control tools are usually changed in response to changes in ACLs. Routine measures are already part of the regulations and the effects of using these measures were previously

¹ Designating EC species requires amending in Groundfish FMP to change the classification of currently managed species and incorporate species not currently included in the FMP. These changes would be part of Amendment 24, described below.

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analyzed. This allows National Marine Fisheries Service to use a simpler process to implement these regulatory changes under applicable law. Four alternatives are evaluated.

No Action

The Groundfish FMP is not amended.

Alternative 1

The default HCRs would use a P* value of **0.45** to determine the ABC, where applicable, using the best available scientific information. During the biennial harvest specifications process the Council can take action to modify the HCR and harvest specifications for the next biennial period would be based on the new HCR. FMP language describing the types of management measures developed and implemented as part of the biennial process is revised for clarification.

Alternative 2

The default HCRs would use a P* value of **0.25** to determine the ABC, where applicable, using the best available scientific information. During the biennial harvest specifications process the Council can take action to modify the HCR and harvest specifications for the next biennial period would be based on the new HCR. FMP language describing the types of management measures developed and implemented as part of the biennial process is revised for clarification.

Alternative 3

The default HCRs are the HCRs used during the previous biennial cycle. Harvest specifications are computed using the best available scientific information (such as the most recent stock assessment). During the biennial harvest specifications process the Council can take action to modify the HCR and harvest specifications for the next biennial period would be based on the new HCR. FMP language describing the types of management measures developed and implemented as part of the biennial process is revised for clarification.

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Table ES-1. Schematic of the elements of the alternatives.

| Element | No Action | Preferred Alternative | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| 2015-16 harvest specifications and management measures | Rollover 2014 harvest specifications and management measures | Council preferred harvest specifications; adjust management measures as necessary | Harvest specifications based on $p^*=0.45$; adjust management measures as necessary | Harvest specifications based on $p^*=0.25$; adjust management measures as necessary |
| | No Action | The Preferred Option | | Option 1 |
| Stock complex reorganization and designation of Ecosystem Component Species | Slope Rockfish and Other Fish complexes not reorganized; EC species not designated | Slope Rockfish complex not reorganized; measures to monitor and manage rougheye and blackspotted rockfish catch implemented; spiny dogfish removed from Other Fish complex and managed; other species removed and designated EC species; some species not already in the FMP added as EC species | | Rougheye rockfish (including blackspotted rockfish) and shorttraker rockfish removed from the slope rockfish complexes and managed as a new coastwide rougheye-blackspotted-shorttraker (RBS) complex |
| | No Action | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | Alternative 3 |
| Amendment 24 (default HCRs and management measure process) | No Amendment | Default HCR with ABC based on $P^*=0.45$; amend Section 6.2 to clarify "new" vs. "routine" measures | Default HCR with ABC based on $P^*=0.25$; amend Section 6.2 to clarify "new" vs. "routine" measures | Default HCR with ABC based on current P^* ; amend Section 6.2 to clarify "new" vs. "routine" measures |

IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIONS

Groundfish

Table 2-2 through Table 2-5 show 2015-2016 harvest specifications under each of the alternatives including No Action. Under the Preferred Alternative harvest control rules change for seven of the 40 stocks or stock complexes (not including Pacific whiting) for which ACLs are established. These changes are:

- The Dover sole constant catch ACL is increased from 25,000 mt to 50,000 mt
- The ACLs for shortspine thornyhead stocks north and south of 34°27' N. lat. are proportions of the coastwide ABC; the ABC is determined using a P^* value of 0.4 rather than 0.45
- Spiny dogfish is removed from the Other Fish complex and managed with its own ACL, which is set equal to the ABC using a P^* value of 0.4
- The constant catch ACL for widow rockfish is increased from 1,500 mt to 2,000 mt

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- For the Nearshore Rockfish North complex the 40-10 precautionary adjustment is applied to determine the China rockfish contribution to the stock complex ACL (which is determined as the sum of constituent species' ACL contributions)
- The Other Fish complex ACL is equal to the complex ABC set equal 0.45 consistent with the removal of many species from the complex, including spiny dogfish

Based on a new stock assessment, harvest specifications for cowcod, an overfished species, are changed. The Council will choose a new target rebuilding year for the stock at its June 2014 meeting. The Council chose a 10 mt ACL for this stock, which is consistent with the current rebuilding plan SPR-based harvest rate of 82.7%. The Council also established an annual catch target (ACT) of 4 mt as an additional precautionary measure. Catch will be managed to stay below the ACT.

ACLs for 14 of the stocks or stock complexes would increase in 2015 compared to 2014 ACLs (No Action).

Section 4.1 evaluates the biological impacts of preferred 2015-2016 harvest specifications on a select list of groundfish stocks focusing on 1) overfished stocks currently managed under rebuilding plans, 2) stocks where the Council chose a range of alternative ACLs for analysis, 3) stocks and stock complexes where total catches in recent years have been at least 80 percent of specified ACLs, and 4) stocks preferred to be removed from a status quo stock complex and managed with stock-specific harvest specifications.

Section 4.2 evaluates deductions from and allocations of the ACLs and modifications to routine management measures to control catch so that the ACLs established under the alternatives are not exceeded. Commercial fishery management measures subject to modification include catch control tools including individual fishing quota (IFQ) annual quota pound issuance, establishing tier limits for the limited entry sablefish primary season, modifying cumulative landing limits for other fisheries and species, and changes to the boundaries of time area closures to control bycatch of overfished species and other species where there is a conservation concern. Recreational management measures subject to modification include bag limits and time/area closures (seasons). At its June meeting the Council will also consider adopting several new management measures related to harvest specifications.

Section 4.8 evaluates the long-term biological impacts of setting harvest specifications and Section 4.9 describes the impacts of the range of potential modifications to routine management measures that may be made in the foreseeable future.

Socioeconomic Environment (Fishing Communities)

Under the Preferred Alternative coastwide non-whiting ex-vessel revenue is projected to increase by \$16 million in 2015 compared to No Action 2014 ACLs and management measures. This represents a \$19.3 million increase from annual average inflation-adjusted ex-vessel revenue, 2003-2012. Recreational angler trips are expected to increase between 167,000 and 3.9 million marine angler trips depending on the management option chosen under the Preferred Alternative. Resulting commercial and recreational income accruing to fishing communities under the Preferred Alternative would increase by between \$27.3 million and \$49.3 million depending on the option chosen.

For the foreseeable future changes in ex-vessel revenue, net revenue (a proxy for commercial fishery profits), recreational angler trips, and personal income will be partly a function of fishing opportunity determined by stock yield and management measures. Based on assumptions about yield and potential policies for setting harvest specifications (as described in the Amendment 24 alternatives) catches are expected to increase under most model scenarios, assuming management succeeds in achieving management objectives for stock biomass size and related fishing mortality levels. Fishing opportunity could decline if stock yields are below the most likely conditions and more conservation management

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policies, such as using a P^* value of 0.25 to determine the ABC, were used for all stocks. Recent average catch is in most cases lower than projected ACLs under scenarios combining different assumptions about potential yield and policies for determining ABCs. These scenarios suggest that revenue and personal income is likely to increase over the long term. However, historically there has been a lot of inter-annual volatility in ex-vessel revenue in both a positive and negative direction. Declines in revenue can occur because of unaccounted for changes in yield and changing market conditions affecting prices.

Essential Fish Habitat

Over both the short and long term the adverse impacts of fishing on groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) is expected to be similar to adverse impacts experienced in the past. These adverse impacts result from fishing gear coming in contact with the seafloor, disrupting both physical characteristics and biogenic habitat such as corals and sponges. The Council has implemented a variety of mitigation measures to address adverse impacts, and other management measures, such as Groundfish Closed Areas to control bycatch, have mitigated adverse impacts as an ancillary effect. The Council is currently reviewing the groundfish EFH designation and mitigation measures established by Amendment 19 and could establish additional mitigation measures as part of the review process. The review process will not be completed before the 2015-2016 biennial period begins.

California Current Ecosystem

The Atlantis California Current Ecosystem Model was used to simulate the effects of the range of harvest policies that may be implemented in the foreseeable future. Since ecosystem effects take a long time to be manifested, it is not possible to distinguish between short- and long-term policy choices. The alternatives considered for the 2015-2016 biennial harvest specifications parallel those considered under Amendment 24 so in general the alternatives with a more conservative policy (2015-2016 Alternative 2 and Amendment 24 Alternative 2, $P^*=0.25$) can be equated as can the alternatives with the most risk prone policy (2015-2016 Alternative 1, Amendment 24 Alternative 1, $P^*=0.45$). Scenarios bracketing the range of harvest policies and ecosystem productivity regimes were modeled. Scenarios with very high harvest levels and low ecosystem productivity had the most pronounced effects, resulting in significant direct effects (effects of fishing on harvested stocks) and detectable indirect effects (effects on other ecosystem components in response to changes in the abundance of harvested stocks). It is important to note that these scenarios are deterministic, in other words there is no provision for a management response to new information about stock status. In the real world, the Council and NMFS would respond to new information showing that substantial adverse effects are occurring by reducing catch limits.

Total system biomass, a general measure of indirect effects, ranged from a decline of 8% from the benchmark scenario (recent average catch, most likely ecosystem productivity state) for the low productivity-high catch scenario to an increase of 5% under high productivity-low catch scenario. For most stocks low catch was represented by recent average catch streams. Thus if catch does not change substantially from recent levels few if any indirect effects would be predicted.

One important caveat to these simulations is that catch levels for Pacific whiting were not varied, since the alternatives evaluated within this EIS do not include varying whiting harvest. However, this species has an important structuring role in the California Current Ecosystem both as forage during early life stages and a piscivore (fish eater) when adult. Pacific whiting stock size is highly variable in response to conditions affecting recruitment of juveniles into the fishable, adult population. Though the model does not include these episodic recruitment events, the high and low ecosystem productivity states considered here may bracket the productivity of Pacific whiting, as well as the other groundfish stocks evaluated within this EIS. For Pacific whiting, by years 25-30, the high productivity scenarios (under recent average catches) yields abundance that is 1.16 times higher than base productivity, and low productivity

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yields abundance that is 0.78 times that of base productivity. Therefore, the model results address alternative levels of whiting productivity, though not alternative whiting harvest levels.

Protected Species

Protected species include those listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). NMFS has also agreed to consider the effects of actions on seabirds not listed under the ESA. ESA-listed species of concern include several kinds of fish (eulachon, green sturgeon, salmon), the humpback whale, leatherback sea turtle, and the short-tailed albatross.

Similar to other environmental components, the impacts of the proposed action on protected species during the 2015-2016 biennial period, measured in terms of take and resulting mortality, is only relevant within a long-term context considering the effect of such take on population size and viability. For ESA-listed species NMFS Protected Resources Division and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have consulted on the effects of the groundfish fishery. Information on effects is provided in Biological Opinions, which contain Incidental Take Statements (ITSS). The ITSSs include estimates of the number of listed species likely to be taken, a determination of whether take levels jeopardize the continued existence of the species and measures that NMFS must implement to mitigate estimated levels of take. If these take levels are exceeded consultations may be reinitiated and new mandatory measures identified.

All marine mammals are protected under the MMPA. The objective of the Act is to allow marine mammals to reach their optimum sustainable population level and to reduce human caused serious injury and mortality to the maximum extent practicable. Through periodic stock assessments the potential biological removal level of a stock is estimated. A marine mammal population can meet or sustain the optimum population when human caused mortality is below this level. Takes for all segments of the groundfish fishery, except for the sablefish pot fishery, have been determined to have a remote likelihood of or no known serious injuries or mortalities. The sablefish pot fishery has been determined to cause occasional serious injury or mortality.

At-sea observer coverage allows total marine mammal interactions to be estimated. Non-ESA listed species taken in the groundfish fishery include

- California sea lion: Shoreside groundfish trawl, California halibut trawl, non-nearshore fixed gear sablefish, nearshore fixed gear, at-sea hake (Pacific whiting)²
- Harbor seal: California halibut trawl, non-nearshore fixed gear sablefish, nearshore fixed gear, at-sea hake (Pacific whiting)
- Northern elephant seal: Shoreside groundfish trawl, California halibut trawl, non-nearshore fixed gear sablefish, at-sea hake (Pacific whiting)
- Harbor porpoise: California halibut trawl
- Dall's porpoise: At-sea hake (Pacific whiting)
- Pacific white-sided dolphin: Shoreside groundfish trawl
- Risso's dolphin: Shoreside groundfish trawl
- Common bottlenose dolphin: Non-nearshore fixed gear

If estimated takes substantially increase such that overall human caused serious injury or mortality exceeded potential biological removal remedial actions would be taken.

² California halibut trawl is a state managed fishery and only subject to the proposed action with respect to catch accounting to ensure that ACLs are not exceeded.

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Non-ESA listed seabirds are also taken in the groundfish fishery. The only species with more than negligible observed takes is the black-footed albatross. Mitigation measures in the process of being implemented to reduce the risk of takes of ESA-listed short-tailed albatross will likely have a mitigating effect for this species as well.

There is no information to conclude that under any of the alternatives the level of take of protected species will change substantially from historical baseline levels in either the short or long term.

Non-Groundfish Species

Groundfish fisheries catch a range of non-groundfish species in small amounts proportional to catch of groundfish. Some of these species—such as Pacific halibut, Dungeness crab, and salmon—are commercially valuable and have directed fisheries. Commercially valuable species are managed under other Council FMPs, other Federal authority, or by the states. Fishing mortality in the groundfish fishery is taken into account when managing such directed fisheries. Catch of non-groundfish species as a percent of total catch during 2003-2011 varied between 1.4% (3,801 mt) and 5.9% (8,551 mt). Non-groundfish catch amounts did not correlate with total catch so it is not possible to predict how changes in target species fishing opportunity would affect non-groundfish catch. There is no information to conclude that non-groundfish catch is likely to exceed the historical range of catch over either the short or long term. Fishery observer data allows catch levels to be estimated so that if a substantial change in catch is detected, such that a conservation concern arises, mitigation measures could be implemented.

Chapter 4

4.2 *Impacts of 2015-2016 Management Measures to Groundfish Stocks*

This section describes how management measures function so that groundfish catch may achieve, but not exceed, ACLs. This constitutes the impact mechanism linking harvest specifications to the direct and indirect biological impacts on groundfish stocks. The principal impact is the level of fishing mortality and secondarily changes in stock structure due to age-specific mortality patterns. Harvest specifications are determined based on the Groundfish FMP framework to achieve optimum yield.

The section is organized by alternative and within each alternative by fishery sector. The first management measure step is to determine set asides deducted from ACLs to account for various fishing activities and allocate the resulting fishery HGs. Management measures are then developed based on catch projections so that fishing mortality does not exceed allocations and the overall ACLs. Subsequent sections evaluate how management measures applied to groundfish fishery sectors are projected to prevent allocations and the overall ACLs from being exceeded.

4.2.1 No Action (see Agenda Item F.7.a, Attachment 4, Electronic Version of the DEIS)

4.2.2 Preferred Alternative

Table 4-1 through Table 4-6 contains the harvest specifications and allocations analyzed under the Preferred Alternative. A description of the harvest control rules used to calculate the ACLs can be found in Chapter 2, Section XXX.

4.2.2.1 Deductions from the ACL and Allocations

Under all action alternatives, off-the-top deductions from the ACL were updated based on the most recent information on fishery performance and need. The deductions from the ACL are held constant across all action alternatives. Amounts deducted that are from the ACL to accommodate groundfish mortality from scientific research, incidental open access fisheries, and EFPs can be modified based on inseason projections (see Section XXX). A description of the calculations are provided below.

Tribal Fishery: Tribal fisheries consist of trawl (bottom, mid-water, and whiting), fixed gear, and troll. The tribal amounts in the April 17, 2014 regulations were updated with the most recent tribal requests (see [Agenda Item H.10.b, Supplemental Tribal Report, November 2013](#) and [Agenda Item H.10.b, Supplemental Tribal Report 2, November 2013](#)).

Research: Research activities include the NMFS trawl survey, International Pacific Halibut Commission longline survey, and other Federal and state research. The Council approach is that off-the-top deductions from the ACL should be equal to the maximum historical scientific research catch from 2005-2012, except for canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish. The Council policy for canary and yelloweye rockfish

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was not based on the maximum historical value. The Council considered the high canary rockfish catch of 7.2 mt in 2006 from the NMFS trawl survey a rare event since surveys in later years encountered substantially less canary. The Council adopted a 4.5 mt canary rockfish set-aside, which is higher than the average research catch from 2005-2012. For yelloweye rockfish, the Council adopted a 3.3 mt research set-aside based on anticipated research needs of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (1.1 mt), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (1 mt), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (1 mt), and other projects (0.2 mt).

Incidental Open Access: Deductions from ACLs are made to account for groundfish mortality in the incidental open access fisheries. The off-the-top deductions from the ACL for all species, except longnose skate, were derived from the maximum historical values in the 2007-2012 WCGOP Groundfish Mortality reports (see <http://tinyurl.com/nv3pddm>). The recommended set-aside for longnose skate was based on data from the 2009-2012 Total Mortality reports, the years in which longnose skate were reported separately from the Other Fish category.

Exempted Fishing Permits: The Council adopted one EFP and associated off-the-top deductions from the ACL for 2015-2016 for public review. The EFP seeks to test the effectiveness of vertical hook-and-line gear to selectively harvest midwater species such as yellowtail rockfish ([Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 4, November 2013](#)).¹

Recreational (Sablefish north of 36° N. latitude only): The allocation framework for sablefish north of 36° N. latitude specifies that the anticipated recreational catches of sablefish be deducted from the ACL prior to the commercial limited entry and open access allocations. The set-aside is the maximum historical value from recreational fisheries from 2004-2012 (Table 4-5).

¹ The Council is considering EFPs for participants in the catch share program. See Section XXX (Cumm affects) for more details.

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Table 4-1. Preferred Alternative. 2015 ACLs and estimates of tribal, EFP, research, and incidental open access (OA) mortality (in mt), used to calculate the fishery harvest guideline (HG).

| Stock | Area | ACL | Tribal | EFP | Research | OA | Fishery HG |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------|--------|---------------|----------|-------|------------|
| BOCACIO | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 349 | | 3 | 4.6 | 0.7 | 340.7 |
| CANARY | Coastwide | 122 | 7.7 | 1 | 4.5 | 2 | 106.8 |
| COWCOD | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 10 | | 0.015 | 2 | | 7.98 |
| DARKBLOTCHED | Coastwide | 338 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 18.4 | 317.2 |
| POP | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 158 | 9.2 | | 5.2 | 0.6 | 143.0 |
| PETRALE SOLE | Coastwide | 2,816 | 220 | | 14.2 | 2.4 | 2,579.4 |
| YELLOWEYE | Coastwide | 18 | 2.3 | 0.03 | 3.3 | 0.2 | 12.2 |
| Arrowtooth flounder | Coastwide | 5,497 | 2,041 | | 16.39 | 30 | 3,409.6 |
| Black | WA | 402 | 14 | | | | 388.0 |
| Black | OR and CA | 1,000 | | 1 | | | 999.0 |
| Cabezon | OR | 47 | | | | | 47.0 |
| Cabezon | CA | 154 | | | | | 154.0 |
| California scorpionfish | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 114 | | | | 2 | 112.0 |
| Chilipepper | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,628 | | 10 | 9 | 5 | 1,604.0 |
| Dover sole | Coastwide | 50,000 | 1,497 | | 41.9 | 55 | 48,406.1 |
| English sole | Coastwide | 11,040 | 91 | | 5.8 | 7 | 10,936.2 |
| Lingcod | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 2,830 | 250 | 0.5 | 11.67 | 16 | 2,551.8 |
| Lingcod | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,004 | | 1.0 | 1.1 | 7 | 994.9 |
| Longnose skate | Coastwide | 2,000 | 56 | | 13.18 | 3.8 | 1,927.0 |
| Longspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 3,170 | 30 | | 13.5 | 3 | 3,123.5 |
| Longspine thornyhead | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 1,001 | | | 1 | 2 | 998.0 |
| Pacific cod | Coastwide | 1,600 | 400 | | 7.04 | 2 | 1,191.0 |
| Pacific whiting a/ | Coastwide | 269,745 | 63,205 | 1 | 2,500 | | 204,040 |
| Sablefish | N of 36° N. lat. | 4,793 | | See Table 4-5 | | | |
| Sablefish | S of 36° N. lat. | 1,719 | | | 3 | 2 | 1,714.0 |
| Shortbelly | Coastwide | 50 | | | 2 | | 48.0 |
| Shortspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 1,745 | 50 | | 7.22 | 2 | 1,685.8 |
| Shortspine thornyhead | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 923 | | | 1 | 41 | 881.0 |
| Spiny Dogfish | Coastwide | 2,101 | 111.8 | 1 | 12.5 | 49.53 | 1926.2 |
| Splitnose | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,715 | | 1.5 | 9 | | 1,704.5 |
| Starry flounder | Coastwide | 1,534 | 2 | | | 8.3 | 1,523.7 |
| Widow | Coastwide | 2,000 | 60 | 9 | 7.9 | 3.3 | 1,919.8 |
| Yellowtail | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 11,213 | 677 | 10 | 16.6 | 3 | 10,506.4 |
| Nearshore rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 69 | | | | | 69.0 |
| Nearshore rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,114 | | | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1,110.0 |
| Shelf rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,944 | 30 | 3 | 13.4 | 26 | 1,871.6 |
| Shelf rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,624 | | 30 | 9.6 | 9 | 1,575.4 |
| Slope rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,669 | 36 | 1 | 8.1 | 19 | 1,604.9 |
| Slope rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 687 | | 1 | 2 | 17 | 667.0 |
| Other Flatfish | Coastwide | 8,620 | 60 | | 19 | 125 | 8,416.0 |
| Other Fish | Coastwide | 242 | | | | | 242.0 |

a/ Pacific whiting TAC forecasts for 2015-2016 were unavailable during the preparation of the EIS, therefore the 2013 values were used.

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Table 4-2. Preferred Alternative. Stock specific fishery harvest guidelines (HG) or annual catch targets (ACT) and allocations for 2015 (in mt).

| Stock | Area | Fishery HG or ACT | Allocation Type | Trawl | | Non-trawl | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------|----------|-----------|---------|
| | | | | % | Mt | % | Mt |
| BOCACCIO | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 340.7 | Biennial | N/A | 81.9 | N/A | 258.8 |
| CANARY | Coastwide | 106.8 | Biennial | N/A | 56.9 | N/A | 49.9 |
| COWCOD a/ | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 4.0 | Biennial | N/A | 1.4 | N/A | 2.6 |
| DARKBLOTCHED | Coastwide | 317.2 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 301.3 | 5% | 15.9 |
| POP | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 143.0 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 135.9 | 5% | 7.2 |
| PETRALE SOLE | Coastwide | 2,579.4 | Biennial | N/A | 2,544.4 | N/A | 35.0 |
| YELLOWEYE | Coastwide | 12.2 | Biennial | N/A | 1.0 | N/A | 11.2 |
| Arrowtooth flounder | Coastwide | 3,409.6 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 3,239.1 | 5% | 170.5 |
| Black | WA | 388.0 | None | | | | |
| Black | OR and CA | 999.0 | None | | | | |
| Cabazon | OR | 47.0 | None | | | | |
| Cabazon | CA | 154.0 | None | | | | |
| California scorpionfish | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 112.0 | None | | | | |
| Chilipepper | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,604.0 | Amendment 21 | 75% | 1,203.0 | 25% | 401.0 |
| Dover sole | Coastwide | 48,406.1 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 45,985.8 | 5% | 2,420.3 |
| English sole | Coastwide | 10,936.2 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 10,389.4 | 5% | 546.8 |
| Lingcod | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 2,551.8 | Amendment 21 | 45% | 1,148.3 | 55% | 1,403.5 |
| Lingcod | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 994.9 | Amendment 21 | 45% | 447.7 | 55% | 547.2 |
| Longnose skate | Coastwide | 1,927.0 | Biennial | 90% | 1,734.3 | 10% | 192.7 |
| Longspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 3,123.5 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 2,967.3 | 5% | 156.2 |
| Longspine thornyhead | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 998.0 | None | | | | |
| Pacific cod | Coastwide | 1,191.0 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 1,131.4 | 5% | 59.5 |
| Pacific whiting b/ | Coastwide | 0.0 | Amendment 21 | 100% | 0.0 | 0% | 0.0 |
| Sablefish | N of 36° N. lat. | | See Table 1 c | | | | |
| Sablefish | S of 36° N. lat. | 1,714.0 | Amendment 21 | 42% | 719.9 | 58% | 994.1 |
| Shortbelly | Coastwide | 48.0 | None | | | | 0.0 |
| Shortspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 1,685.8 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 1,601.5 | 5% | 84.3 |
| Shortspine thornyhead | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 881.0 | Amendment 21 | NA | 50.0 | NA | 831.0 |
| Spiny Dogfish | Coastwide | 1,926.2 | None | | | | |
| Splitnose | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,704.5 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 1,619.3 | 5% | 85.2 |
| Starry flounder | Coastwide | 1,523.7 | Amendment 21 | 50% | 761.9 | 50% | 761.9 |
| Widow | Coastwide | 1,919.8 | Amendment 21 | 91% | 1,747.0 | 9% | 172.8 |
| Yellowtail | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 10,506.4 | Amendment 21 | 88% | 9,245.6 | 12% | 1,260.8 |
| Nearshore rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 69.0 | None | | | | |
| Nearshore rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,110.0 | None | | | | |
| Shelf rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,871.6 | Biennial | 60.2% | 1,126.7 | 39.8% | 744.9 |
| Shelf rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,575.4 | Biennial | 12.2% | 192.2 | 87.8% | 1,383.2 |
| Slope rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,604.9 | Amendment 21 | 81% | 1,300.0 | 19% | 304.9 |
| Slope rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 678.0 | Amendment 21 | 63% | 427.1 | 37% | 250.9 |
| Other flatfish | Coastwide | 8,416.0 | Amendment 21 | 90% | 7,574.4 | 10% | 841.6 |
| Other Fish | Coastwide | 242.0 | None | | | | |

a/ The cowcod fishery harvest guideline is further reduced to an ACT of 4 mt.

b/ Pacific whiting TAC forecasts for 2015-2016 were unavailable during the preparation of the EIS, therefore the 2013 values were used.

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Table 4-3. Preferred Alternative. 2016 ACLs and estimates of tribal, EFP, research, and incidental open access (OA) mortality (in mt), used to calculate the fishery harvest guideline (HG).

| Stock | Area | ACL | Tribal | EFP | Research | OA | Fishery HG |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------|--------|---------------|----------|-------|------------|
| BOCACIO | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 362 | | 3 | 4.6 | 0.7 | 353.7 |
| CANARY | Coastwide | 125 | 7.7 | 1 | 4.5 | 2 | 109.8 |
| COWCOD | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 10 | | 0.015 | 2 | | 7.98 |
| DARKBLOTCHED | Coastwide | 346 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 18.4 | 325.2 |
| POP | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 164 | 9.2 | | 5.2 | 0.6 | 149.0 |
| PETRALE SOLE | Coastwide | 2,910 | 220 | | 14.2 | 2.4 | 2,673.4 |
| YELLOWEYE | Coastwide | 19 | 2.3 | 0.03 | 3.3 | 0.2 | 13.2 |
| Arrowtooth flounder | Coastwide | 5,328 | 2,041 | | 16.39 | 30 | 3,240.6 |
| Black | WA | 404 | 14 | | | | 390.0 |
| Black | OR and CA | 1,000 | | 1 | | | 999.0 |
| Cabazon | OR | 47 | | | | | 47.0 |
| Cabazon | CA | 151 | | | | | 151.0 |
| California scorpionfish | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 111 | | | | 2 | 109.0 |
| Chilipepper | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,619 | | 10 | 9 | 5 | 1,595.0 |
| Dover sole | Coastwide | 50,000 | 1,497 | | 41.9 | 55 | 48,406.1 |
| English sole | Coastwide | 7,754 | 91 | | 5.8 | 7 | 7,650.2 |
| Lingcod | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 2,719 | 250 | 0.5 | 11.67 | 16 | 2,440.8 |
| Lingcod | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 946 | | 1.0 | 1.1 | 7 | 936.9 |
| Longnose skate | Coastwide | 2,000 | 56 | | 13.18 | 3.8 | 1,927.0 |
| Longspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 3,015 | 30 | | 13.5 | 3 | 2,968.5 |
| Longspine thornyhead | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 952 | | | 1 | 2 | 949.0 |
| Pacific cod | Coastwide | 1,600 | 400 | | 7.04 | 2 | 1,191.0 |
| Pacific whiting a/ | Coastwide | 269,745 | 63,205 | | 2,500 | | 204,040 |
| Sablefish | N of 36° N. lat. | 5,241 | | See Table 4-5 | | | |
| Sablefish | S of 36° N. lat. | 1,880 | | | 3 | 2 | 1,875.0 |
| Shortbelly | Coastwide | 50 | | | 2 | | 48.0 |
| Shortspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 1,726 | 50 | | 7.22 | 2 | 1,666.8 |
| Shortspine thornyhead | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 913 | | | 1 | 41 | 871.0 |
| Spiny Dogfish | Coastwide | 2,085 | 111.8 | 1 | 12.5 | 49.53 | 1,910.2 |
| Splitnose | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,746 | | 1.5 | 9 | | 1,735.5 |
| Starry flounder | Coastwide | 1,539 | 2 | | | 8.3 | 1,528.7 |
| Widow | Coastwide | 2,000 | 60 | 9 | 7.9 | 3.3 | 1,919.8 |
| Yellowtail | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 10,634 | 677 | 10 | 16.6 | 3 | 9,927.4 |
| Nearshore rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 69 | | | | | 69.0 |
| Nearshore rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,006 | | | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1,002.0 |
| Shelf rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,952 | 30 | 3 | 13.4 | 26 | 1,879.6 |
| Shelf rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,625 | | 30 | 9.6 | 9 | 1,576.4 |
| Slope rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,683 | 36 | 1 | 8.1 | 19 | 1,618.9 |
| Slope rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 689 | | 1 | 2 | 17 | 669.0 |
| Other Flatfish | Coastwide | 7,496 | 60 | | 19 | 125 | 7,292.0 |
| Other Fish | Coastwide | 243 | | | | | 243.0 |

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a/ Pacific whiting TAC forecasts for 2015-2016 were unavailable during the preparation of the EIS, therefore the 2013 values were used.

Table 4-4. Preferred Alternative. Stock specific fishery harvest guidelines (HG) or annual catch targets (ACT) and allocations for 2016 (in mt).

| Stock | Area | Fishery HG or ACT | Allocation Type | Trawl | | Non-trawl | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------|-----------|---------|
| | | | | % | Mt | % | Mt |
| BOCACCIO | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 353.7 | Biennial | N/A | 85.0 | N/A | 268.7 |
| CANARY | Coastwide | 109.8 | Biennial | N/A | 58.5 | N/A | 51.3 |
| COWCOD a/ | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 4.0 | Biennial | N/A | 1.4 | N/A | 2.6 |
| DARKBLOTCHED | Coastwide | 325.2 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 308.9 | 5% | 16.3 |
| POP | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 149.0 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 141.6 | 5% | 7.5 |
| PETRALE SOLE | Coastwide | 2,673.4 | Biennial | N/A | 2,638.4 | N/A | 35.0 |
| YELLOWEYE | Coastwide | 13.2 | Biennial | N/A | 1.1 | N/A | 12.1 |
| Arrowtooth flounder | Coastwide | 3,240.6 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 3,078.6 | 5% | 162.0 |
| Black | WA | 390.0 | None | | | | |
| Black | OR and CA | 999.0 | None | | | | |
| Cabazon | OR | 47.0 | None | | | | |
| Cabazon | CA | 151.0 | None | | | | |
| California scorpionfish | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 109.0 | None | | | | |
| Chilipepper | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,595.0 | Amendment 21 | 75% | 1,196.3 | 25% | 398.8 |
| Dover sole | Coastwide | 48,406.1 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 45,985.8 | 5% | 2,420.3 |
| English sole | Coastwide | 7,650.2 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 7,267.7 | 5% | 382.5 |
| Lingcod | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 2,440.8 | Amendment 21 | 45% | 1,098.4 | 55% | 1,342.5 |
| Lingcod | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 936.9 | Amendment 21 | 45% | 421.6 | 55% | 515.3 |
| Longnose skate | Coastwide | 1,927.0 | Biennial | 90% | 1,734.3 | 10% | 192.7 |
| Longspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 2,968.5 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 2,820.1 | 5% | 148.4 |
| Longspine thornyhead | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 949.0 | None | | | | |
| Pacific cod | Coastwide | 1,191.0 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 1,131.4 | 5% | 59.5 |
| Pacific whiting b/ | Coastwide | 0.0 | Amendment 21 | 100% | 0.0 | 0% | 0.0 |
| Sablefish | N of 36° N. lat. | 0.0 | See Table 1 c | | | | |
| Sablefish | S of 36° N. lat. | 1,875.0 | Amendment 21 | 42% | 787.5 | 58% | 1,087.5 |
| Shortbelly | Coastwide | 48.0 | None | | | | 0.0 |
| Shortspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 1,666.8 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 1,583.4 | 5% | 83.3 |
| Shortspine thornyhead | S of 34°27' N. lat. | 871.0 | Amendment 21 | NA | 50.0 | NA | 821.0 |
| Spiny Dogfish | Coastwide | 1,910.0 | None | | | | |
| Splitnose | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,735.5 | Amendment 21 | 95% | 1,648.7 | 5% | 86.8 |
| Starry flounder | Coastwide | 1,528.7 | Amendment 21 | 50% | 764.4 | 50% | 764.4 |
| Widow | Coastwide | 1,919.8 | Amendment 21 | 91% | 1,747.0 | 9% | 172.8 |
| Yellowtail | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 9,927.4 | Amendment 21 | 88% | 8,736.1 | 12% | 1,191.3 |
| Nearshore rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 69.0 | None | | | | |
| Nearshore rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,002 | None | | | | |
| Shelf rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,879.6 | Biennial | 60.2% | 1,131.5 | 39.8% | 748.1 |
| Shelf rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,576.4 | Biennial | 12.2% | 192.3 | 87.8% | 1,384.1 |
| Slope rockfish N. | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 1,618.9 | Amendment 21 | 81% | 1,311.3 | 19% | 307.6 |
| Slope rockfish S. | S of 40°10' N. lat. | 669.0 | Amendment 21 | 63% | 421.5 | 37% | 247.5 |
| Other Flatfish | Coastwide | 7,292.0 | Amendment 21 | 90% | 6,562.8 | 10% | 729.2 |
| Other Fish | Coastwide | 243.0 | None | | | | |

a/ The cowcod fishery harvest guideline is further reduced to an ACT of 4 mt.

b/ Pacific whiting TAC forecasts for 2015-2016 were unavailable during the preparation of the EIS, therefore the 2013 values were used.

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Table 4-5. Preferred Alternative. Sablefish north of 36° N. latitude ACLs, off-the-top deductions from the ACL used to calculate the commercial harvest guideline (mt) for 2015-2016 under the Preferred Alternative.

| Year | ACL | Tribal Share a/ | Res. | Rec | EFP | Non-Tribal Comm. Share |
|-------------|------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 2015 | 4,793 | 479 | 26 | 6.1 | 1 | 4,281 |
| 2016 | 5,241 | 524 | 26 | 6.1 | 1 | 4,684 |

a/ The sablefish allocation to Pacific coast treaty Indian Tribes is 10 percent of the sablefish ACL for the area north of 36° N. lat. This allocation represents the total amount available to the treaty Indian fisheries before deductions for discard mortality.

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Table 4-6. Preferred Alternative: Allocations and projected mortality impacts (mt) of overfished groundfish species for 2015 and 2016 under the Preferred Alternative.

2015

| Fishery | Bocaccio b/ | | Canary | | Cowcod b/ | | Dkbl | | Petrale | | POP | | Yelloweye | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ |
| <i>Date: 5-23-14</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Off the Top Deductions | 8.3 | 8.3 | 15.2 | 15.2 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 20.8 | 20.8 | 236.6 | 236.6 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 5.8 | 5.8 |
| EFPc/ | 3.0 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Research d/ | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 14.2 | 14.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Incidental OA e/ | 0.7 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | -- | -- | 18.4 | 18.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Tribal f/ | | | 7.7 | 7.7 | | | 0.2 | 0.2 | 220.0 | 220.0 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Trawl Allocations | 81.9 | 11.3 | 56.9 | 23.6 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 301.3 | 127.0 | 2,544.4 | 2,410.0 | 135.9 | 68.1 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| -SB Trawl | 81.9 | 11.3 | 43.3 | 9.9 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 285.6 | 111.3 | 2,539.4 | 2,405.0 | 118.5 | 50.7 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| -At-Sea Trawl | | | 13.7 | 13.7 | | | 15.7 | 15.7 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 17.4 | 17.4 | | |
| a) At-sea whiting MS | | | 5.6 | 5.6 | | | 6.5 | 6.5 | | | 7.2 | 7.2 | | |
| b) At-sea whiting CP | | | 8.0 | 8.0 | | | 9.2 | 9.2 | | | 10.2 | 10.2 | | |
| Non-Trawl Allocation | 258.8 | 118.0 | 49.9 | 30.9 | 2.6 | 1.2 | 15.9 | 4.9 | 35.0 | 0.3 | 7.2 | 0.3 | 11.2 | 9.7 |
| Non-Nearshore | 79.1 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 1.1 | | | | 4.7 | | 0.3 | | 0.3 | 1.1 | 0.5 |
| LE FG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OA FG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Directed OA: Nearshore | 1.0 | 0.4 | 6.7 | 6.0 | | | | 0.2 | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| Recreational Groundfish | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WA | | | 3.4 | 0.8 | | | | -- | | -- | | -- | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| OR | | | 11.7 | 3.2 | | | | -- | | -- | | -- | 2.6 | 2.2 |
| CA (based on Option 2) | 178.8 | 117.6 | 24.3 | 19.8 | | 1.2 | | -- | | -- | | -- | 3.4 | 2.9 |
| TOTAL | 349.0 | 137.6 | 122.0 | 69.7 | 6.0 | 3.3 | 338.0 | 152.7 | 2,816.0 | 2,646.9 | 158.1 | 83.4 | 18.0 | 15.6 |
| 2015 Harvest Specification | 349 | 359 | 122 | 122 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 338 | 338 | 2,816 | 2,816 | 158 | 158 | 18 | 18 |
| Difference | 0.0 | 221.4 | 0.0 | 52.4 | 4.0 | 6.7 | 0.0 | 185.3 | 0.0 | 169.1 | -0.1 | 74.6 | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| Percent of ACL | 100.0% | 38.3% | 100.0% | 57.1% | 60.2% | 33.2% | 100.0% | 45.2% | 100.0% | 94.0% | 100.1% | 52.8% | 100.0% | 86.4% |
| Key | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

a/ Formal allocations are represented in the black shaded cells and would be specified in regulation in Tables 1b and 1e. The other values in the allocation columns are 1) off the top deductions, 2) set asides from the trawl allocation (at-sea petrale only) 3) ad-hoc allocations recommended under the action Alternatives, 4) HG for the recreational fisheries for canary and YE.

b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.

c/ EFPs are amounts set aside to accommodate anticipated applications. Values in this table represent the estimates from the 15-16 biennial cycle.

d/ Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.

e/ The GMT's best estimate of impacts as analyzed in the 2015-2016 Environmental Impact Statement (Appendix B), which are currently specified in regulation.

f/ Tribal values in the allocation column represent the values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.

g/ Projected impacts are derived from GMT projection models.

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2016

| <i>Date: 5 April 2014</i> | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ | Allocation a/ | Projected Impacts g/ |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Off the Top Deductions | 8.3 | 8.3 | 15.2 | 15.2 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 20.8 | 20.8 | 236.6 | 236.6 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 5.8 | 5.8 |
| EFPc/ | 3.0 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Research d/ | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 14.2 | 14.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Incidental OA e/ | 0.7 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | -- | -- | 18.4 | 18.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Tribal f/ | | | 7.7 | 7.7 | | | 0.2 | 0.2 | 220.0 | 220.0 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Trawl Allocations | 85.0 | 85.0 | 58.5 | 58.5 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 308.9 | 308.9 | 2,638.4 | 2,499.0 | 141.6 | 141.6 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| -SB Trawl | 85.0 | 11.8 | 44.5 | 10.2 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 292.8 | 114.1 | 2,633.4 | 2,494.0 | 124.0 | 53.1 | 1.1 | 0.0 |
| -At-Sea Trawl | | | 14.0 | 14.0 | | | 16.2 | 16.2 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 17.4 | 17.4 | | |
| a) At-sea whiting MS | | | 5.8 | 5.8 | | | 6.7 | 6.7 | | | 7.2 | 7.2 | | |
| b) At-sea whiting CP | | | 8.2 | 8.2 | | | 9.5 | 9.5 | | | 10.2 | 10.2 | | |
| Non-Trawl Allocation | 268.7 | 118.0 | 51.3 | 31.0 | 2.6 | 1.2 | 16.3 | 5.4 | 35.0 | | 7.5 | 0.3 | 12.1 | 9.6 |
| Non-Nearshore | 82.1 | 0.0 | 3.9 | 1.2 | | 0.0 | | 5.2 | | 0.3 | | 0.3 | 1.2 | 0.5 |
| LE FG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OA FG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Directed OA: Nearshore | 1.0 | 0.4 | 6.9 | 6.0 | | | | 0.2 | | 0.0 | | 0.0 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Recreational Groundfish | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WA | | | 3.5 | 0.8 | | | | -- | | -- | | -- | 3.1 | 2.8 |
| OR | | | 12.0 | 3.2 | | | | -- | | -- | | -- | 2.8 | 2.2 |
| CA (based on Option 2) | 185.6 | 117.6 | 25.0 | 19.8 | | 1.2 | | -- | | -- | | -- | 3.7 | 2.9 |
| TOTAL | 362.0 | 211.3 | 125.0 | 104.7 | 6.0 | 4.6 | 346.0 | 335.1 | 2,910.0 | 2,735.6 | 164.1 | 156.9 | 19.0 | 16.6 |
| 2015 Harvest Specification | 362 | 362 | 125 | 125 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 346 | 346 | 2,910 | 2,910 | 164 | 164 | 19 | 19 |
| Difference | 0.0 | 150.7 | 0.0 | 20.4 | 4.0 | 5.4 | 0.0 | 10.9 | 0.0 | 174.4 | -0.1 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| Percent of ACL | 100.0% | 58.4% | 100.0% | 83.7% | 60.2% | 46.2% | 100.0% | 96.8% | 100.0% | 94.0% | 100.1% | 95.7% | 100.0% | 87.2% |
| Key | | | = not applicable | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | -- | = trace, less than 0.1 mt | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | = Fixed Values | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | = off the top deductions | | | | | | | | | | | |

a/ Formal allocations are represented in the black shaded cells and are specified in regulation in Tables 1b and 1e. The other values in the allocation columns are 1) off the top deductions, 2) set asides from the trawl allocation (at-sea petrale only) 3) ad-hoc allocations recommended in the 2013-14 EIS process, 4) HG for the recreational fisheries for canary and YE.

b/ South of 40°10' N. lat.

c/ EFPs are amounts set aside to accommodate anticipated applications. Values in this table represent the estimates from the 13-14 biennial cycle, which are currently specified in regulation.

d/ Includes NMFS trawl shelf-slope surveys, the IPHC halibut survey, and expected impacts from SRPs and LOAs.

e/ The GMT's best estimate of impacts as analyzed in the 2013-2014 Environmental Impact Statement (Appendix B), which are currently specified in regulation.

f/ Tribal values in the allocation column represent the values in regulation. Projected impacts are the tribes best estimate of catch.

g/ Projected impacts are derived from GMT projection models.

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4.2.2.2 Overview of Management Measures

The following bullet points summarize management measure changes by sector under the Preferred Alternative. A more detailed discussion of management measures by sector follows. New measures, discussed under Chapter 2, Section XXX and analyzed in Appendix B, would be implemented. New management measures that are specific to a sector are described below.

The Council is also considering a range of state-specific nearshore HGs to keep mortality of nearshore rockfish north of 40°10' N. latitude at or within the ACL. Appendix B, Section XXX contains the management measures for the commercial nearshore (OR and CA) and recreational fisheries (WA, OR, and CA) that are necessary to stay within the range of state-specific HGs adopted by the Council at their April meeting. The Council is scheduled to adopt preferred nearshore HGs north of 40°10' N. latitude, which would be implemented under the action alternatives, at the June Council meeting.

- The shorebased IFQ fishery would operate under the same management measures as No Action, with a few modifications. The No Action trawl RCA configuration (see Section XXX) would be modified to 100 fm shoreward and 150 fm seaward in the area 40°10' to 48°10' N. latitude, year-round. The IFQ would be issued based the 2015-2016 ACLs and resulting trawl allocations under the Preferred Alternative. Underutilized off-the-top deductions from the ACL (tribal, research, incidental open access, and EFPs) may be taken into consideration when considering the projections for surplus carryover. Legal-sized Pacific halibut IBQ would be limited to 15 percent of the Area 2A total constant exploitation yield (TCEY) for legal size halibut (net weight), not to exceed 100,000 pounds (45 mt) annually for legal size halibut (net weight), which is a 30,000 pound (14 mt) reduction from status quo. A scientific sorting requirement for rougheye/blackspotted would be implemented which would improve the data used in management. Further, deeper RCA boundary lines and/or bycatch reduction areas for midwater gears would be defined in regulation and would be available to reduce rougheye/blackspotted rockfish mortality inseason, if needed (e.g., boundary lines that approximate the 300 and 350 fm depth contours).
- The at-sea whiting co-ops would operate under the same management measures described under No Action with a few modifications. Allocations would be issued based the 2015-2016 ACLs and resulting at-sea trawl allocations under the Preferred Alternative. Adjustments to the at-sea whiting set-asides would be necessary to accommodate the restructuring of the Other Fish complex, which removed spiny dogfish from the complex. A scientific sorting requirement for rougheye/blackspotted could be implemented which could improve the data used in management. Further, bycatch reduction areas for midwater gears would be defined in regulation and would be available to reduce rougheye/blackspotted rockfish mortality inseason, if needed (e.g., boundary lines that approximate the 300 and 350 fm depth contours).
- The non-nearshore fixed gear fishery would operate under the same management measures as No Action, except trip limits increases for several species, including sablefish, bocaccio and shelf rockfish south of 34°27' N. latitude, are proposed to attain the ACLs under the Preferred Alternative. The prohibition on lingcod retention in Periods 1, 2, and 6 would be removed and trip limits increased for both limited entry and open access. Trip limit decreases for slope rockfish north of 40°10' N. latitude are proposed to reduce mortality of rougheye/blackspotted rockfish. A scientific sorting requirement for rougheye/blackspotted would be implemented which could improve the data used in management.
- The nearshore fixed gear fishery would operate under the same management measures as No Action with a few modifications. Trip limit decreases or non-retention may be required for nearshore rockfish to keep mortality at or within the complex ACL or the state-specific nearshore

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rockfish HGs. The prohibition on lingcod retention in Periods 1, 2, and 6 may be removed and trip limits increased for both limited entry and open access.

- Tribal fisheries would operate under the harvest guidelines and allocations under the Preferred Alternative. Tribal fisheries would be managed using the same measures described under No Action. Additionally, a scientific sorting requirement for rougheye/blackspotted would be implemented which would improve the data used in management.
- Washington recreational fisheries would operate under the same management measures as No Action, except the season dates for the depth closure in the North Coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4) would be shorter than under No Action. In the South Coast (Marine Area 2), the prohibition on lingcod retention seaward of 30 fathoms in the area south of 46°58' N. latitude on Fridays and Saturdays from July to August 31 would be removed. Lastly, in the Columbia River Area (Marine Area 1), the southern boundary for the year-round lingcod closure would be moved three miles north. Changes to groundfish retention in Pacific halibut fisheries could also be proposed. Bag limit decreases or non-retention may be required for nearshore rockfish to keep mortality at or within the complex ACL or state-specific nearshore rockfish HGs.
- Oregon recreational fisheries would operate under the same management measures as under the No Action Alternative except that the cabezon sub-bag limit would be removed, a one fish canary sub-bag limit would be implemented, and changes to groundfish retention in Pacific halibut fisheries could be proposed. Bag limit decreases or non-retention may also be required for nearshore rockfish to keep mortality at or within the complex ACL or state-specific nearshore rockfish HGs.
- Season lengths and depth restrictions were explored for the California recreational fisheries. The lingcod bag limit would be increased from two to three fish. Bag limit decreases, season length reduction, or non-retention may be required for nearshore rockfish to keep mortality at or within the complex ACL or state-specific nearshore rockfish HGs. All other management measures would be the same as under No Action.

4.2.2.3 Impact (Groundfish Mortality) Shorebased IFQ – Preferred Alternative

The No Action trawl RCA configuration (see Section XXX) would be modified to 100 fm shoreward and 150 fm seaward in the area 40°10' to 48°10' N. latitude, year-round. The shorebased IFQ would be issued based the preferred 2015-2016 ACLs and resulting trawl allocations (Table 4-7 and Table 4-8). Notable IFQ increases from No Action include Dover sole, petrale, longspine thornyheads north, sablefish, shortpine thornyhead, widow rockfish, yellowtail, and Other Flatfish. Underutilized off-the-top deductions from the ACL (tribal, research, incidental open access, and EFPs) may be taken into consideration when considering the projections for surplus carryover (see Appendix B, Section XXX).

The shoreside trawl rationalization program keeps the trawl sector bycatch of halibut within expectations by requiring that trawlers account for their total mortality of all halibut in round weight (legal and sublegal sized). Therefore, to determine a trawl bycatch mortality limit the amount of halibut pounds available to the trawl fleet will be determined by expanding the expected legal sized halibut mortality (net weight) into a round weight legal+sublegal sized amount. To achieve this, the following conversions will be applied.

- Net weight to round weight conversion: multiply by the IPHC net weight to round weight conversion factor in use at the time of each year's the calculation.
- Legal to legal+sublegal sized conversion factor: multiply by the ratio of legal sized halibut to legal+sublegal sized halibut from the most up-to-date NMFS analysis of trawl fishery bycatch available at the time of each year's calculation.

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After these conversions, 10 mt will be subtracted to cover bycatch mortality in the at-sea whiting fishery and trawl fishery south of 40°10' N. lat, and the remainder will be issued as IBQ, to be used to cover Pacific halibut mortality by vessels operating in the shoreside trawl IFQ program. Under all action alternatives, legal-sized Pacific halibut IBQ would be limited to 15 percent of the Area 2A total constant exploitation yield (TCEY) for legal size halibut (net weight), not to exceed 100,000 pounds annually for legal size halibut (net weight), which is a 30,000 pound reduction from status quo.

A risk analysis was conducted to evaluate the risk of exceeding the spiny dogfish ACL (see Section XXX, Appendix B). The effectiveness of GCAs to reduce spiny dogfish mortality in the shorebased IFQ sector was also explored in Appendix B. Given the low risk of exceeding the spiny dogfish ACL, the Council recommended continuing with trip limit management of spiny dogfish in the shorebased IFQ sector and they did not recommend spiny dogfish GCAs.

Management measures to reduce rougheye/blackspotted rockfish catch, including rougheye/blackspotted GCAs and/or rockfish excluders for the at-sea whiting vessels were considered but rejected (see Chapter 2, Section XXX and Appendix B). Instead, the Council recommended that a scientific sorting requirement for rougheye/blackspotted could be implemented which could improve the data used in management. Further, management measures to reduce rougheye/blackspotted rockfish catch could be implemented, including 300 and 350 seaward trawl RCA boundaries and bycatch reduction areas for vessels using midwater gears, if necessary.

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Table 4-7. Preferred Alternative – Shorebased IFQ. Projected mortality for IFQ species compared to the allocations or set-asides under the Preferred Alternative for 2015. No action estimates of mortality are provided (right panel).

| IFQ Species | Area | Preferred Alternative | | No Action | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| | | 2015 Projected Mortality (mt) | 2015 SB IFQ Allocation (mt) a/ b/ | Projected Mortality (mt) | SB IFQ Allocation (mt) |
| BOCACCIO | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 11.3 | 81.9 | 10.9 | 79.0 |
| CANARY | Coastwide | 9.9 | 43.3 | 9.4 | 41.1 |
| COWCOD | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| DARKBLOTCHED | Coastwide | 111.3 | 285.6 | 108.5 | 278.4 |
| PETRALE | Coastwide | 2,405.0 | 2539.4 | 2,252.1 | 2378.0 |
| POP | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 50.7 | 118.5 | 48.0 | 112.3 |
| YELLOWEYE | Coastwide | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Arrowtooth flounder | Coastwide | 2,436 | 3,194 | 2,436 | 3,467 |
| Chilipepper rockfish | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 308 | 1,203 | 291 | 1,067 |
| Dover sole | Coastwide | 15,935 | 45,981 | 7,713 | 22,235 |
| English sole | Coastwide | 152 | 10,384 | 137 | 5,261 |
| Lingcod | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 222 | 1,133 | 227 | 1,152 |
| Lingcod | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 79 | 448 | 84 | 743 |
| Longspine thornyheads | North of 34°27' N. lat. | 1,531 | 2,962 | 936 | 1,811 |
| Pacific cod | Coastwide | 266 | 1,126 | 266 | 1,126 |
| Pacific halibut a/ | North of 40°10' N. lat. | N/A | 45 max | N/A | 45 max |
| Pacific halibut b/ | South of 40°10' N. lat. | N/A | 10 | N/A | 10 |
| Pacific whiting | Coastwide | 83,928 | 85,679 | 83,946 | 85,697 |
| Sablefish | North of 36° N. lat. | 2,088 | 2,199 | 1,887 | 1,988 |
| Sablefish | South of 36° N. lat. | 339 | 720 | 307 | 653 |
| Shortspine thornyheads | North of 34°27' N. | 845 | 1,581 | 733 | 1,372 |
| Shortspine thornyheads | South of 34°27' N | 4 | 50 | 4 | 50 |
| Splitnose rockfish | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 54 | 1,619 | 53 | 1,575 |
| Starry flounder | Coastwide | 9 | 757 | 9 | 756 |
| Widow rockfish | Coastwide | 673 | 1,457 | 426 | 994 |
| Yellowtail rockfish | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 2,484 | 8,946 | 816 | 2,939 |
| Shelf rockfish | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 60 | 1,127 | 28 | 508 |
| Shelf rockfish | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 27 | 192 | 12 | 81 |
| Slope rockfish | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 276 | 1,200 | 182 | 789 |
| Slope rockfish | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 110 | 420 | 98 | 379 |
| Other flatfish | Coastwide | 1,311 | 7,554 | 728 | 379 |

a/ Pacific halibut is managed using IBQ, see regulations at §660.140. Starting in 2015, the maximum IBQ allocation is 45 mt, see (§660.55 (m)). There is no projection model for Pacific halibut bycatch.

b/ As stated in regulations (§660.55 (m)), a Pacific halibut set-aside of 10 mt, to accommodate bycatch in the at-sea Pacific whiting fisheries and in the shorebased trawl sector south of 40°10' N. latitude. (estimated to 5 mt each). There is no projection model for Pacific halibut bycatch.

c/ The 2014 Pacific whiting TAC was unavailable during the preparation of the EIS, therefore the 2013 values were used.

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Table 4-8. Preferred Alternative – Shorebased IFQ. Projected mortality for IFQ species compared to the allocations or set-asides under the Preferred Alternative for 2016. No action estimates of mortality are provided (right panel).

| IFQ Species | Area | Preferred Alternative | | No Action | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| | | 2016 Projected Mortality (mt) | 2016 SB IFQ Allocation (mt) a/ b/ | Projected Mortality (mt) | SB IFQ Allocation (mt) |
| BOCACCIO | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 11.8 | 85.0 | 10.9 | 79.0 |
| CANARY | Coastwide | 10.2 | 44.5 | 9.4 | 41.1 |
| COWCOD | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| DARKBLOTCHED | Coastwide | 114.1 | 292.8 | 108.5 | 278.4 |
| PETRALE | Coastwide | 2,494.0 | 2633.4 | 2,252.1 | 2378.0 |
| POP | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 53.1 | 124.2 | 48.0 | 112.3 |
| YELLOWEYE | Coastwide | 0 | 1.1 | 0 | 1.0 |
| Arrowtooth flounder | Coastwide | 2,436 | 3,033 | 2,436 | 3,467 |
| Chilipepper rockfish | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 306 | 1,196 | 291 | 1,067 |
| Dover sole | Coastwide | 15,935 | 45,981 | 7,713 | 22,235 |
| English sole | Coastwide | 137 | 7,263 | 137 | 5,261 |
| Lingcod | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 215 | 1,083 | 227 | 1,152 |
| Lingcod | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 75 | 422 | 84 | 743 |
| Longspine thornyheads | North of 34°27' N. lat. | 1,455 | 2,815 | 936 | 1,811 |
| Pacific cod | Coastwide | 266 | 1,126 | 266 | 1,126 |
| Pacific halibut a/ | North of 40°10' N. lat. | N/A | 45 max | N/A | 45 max |
| Pacific halibut b/ | South of 40°10' N. lat. | N/A | 10 | N/A | 10 |
| Pacific whiting c/ | Coastwide | 83,928 | 85,679 | 83,946 | 85,697 |
| Sablefish | North of 36° N. lat. | 2,289 | 2,411 | 1,887 | 1,988 |
| Sablefish | South of 36° N. lat. | 371 | 788 | 307 | 653 |
| Shortspine thornyheads | North of 34°27' N. | 835 | 1,563 | 733 | 1,372 |
| Shortspine thornyheads | South of 34°27' N | 4 | 50 | 4 | 50 |
| Splitnose rockfish | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 55 | 1,649 | 53 | 1,575 |
| Starry flounder | Coastwide | 9 | 759 | 9 | 756 |
| Widow rockfish | Coastwide | 673 | 1,457 | 426 | 994 |
| Yellowtail rockfish | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 2,343 | 8,436 | 816 | 2,939 |
| Shelf rockfish | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 60 | 1,131 | 28 | 508 |
| Shelf rockfish | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 27 | 192 | 12 | 81 |
| Slope rockfish | North of 40°10' N. lat. | 279 | 1,211 | 182 | 789 |
| Slope rockfish | South of 40°10' N. lat. | 110 | 421 | 98 | 379 |
| Other flatfish | Coastwide | 1,136 | 6,543 | 728 | 379 |

a/ Pacific halibut is managed using IBQ, see regulations at §660.140. Starting in 2015, the maximum IBQ allocation is 45 mt, see (§660.55 (m)).

There is no projection model for Pacific halibut bycatch.

b/ As stated in regulations (§660.55 (m)), a Pacific halibut set-aside of 10 mt, to accommodate bycatch in the at-sea Pacific whiting fisheries and in the shorebased trawl sector south of 40°10' N. latitude. (estimated to 5 mt each). There is no projection model for Pacific halibut bycatch.

c/ The 2014 Pacific whiting TAC was unavailable during the preparation of the EIS, therefore the 2013 values were used.

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4.2.2.4 Impact (Groundfish Mortality) At-Sea Whiting Co-ops – Preferred Alternative

The at-sea whiting co-ops would operate under the same management measures described under No Action with a few modifications. The 2015-2016 allocations for the catcher-processor and mothership sectors under the Preferred Alternative for 2015-2016 are provided in Table 4-9 and compared to No Action.

At-sea whiting set-asides for some species would be increased compared to No Action (Table 4-10), based on recent fishery data. Further, adjustments would be necessary to accommodate the restructuring of the Other Fish complex, which removed spiny dogfish from the complex (Chapter 2, Section). The proposed Other Fish complex contains nearshore species which are not typically encountered in the at-sea whiting sectors. As such, the Council determined it was not necessary to specify an Other Fish complex set-aside. A range of spiny dogfish set-asides from 163 mt to 725 mt was analyzed along with a risk analysis for all sectors of exceeding the spiny dogfish ACL (see Section XXX, Appendix B). The effectiveness of GCAs to reduce spiny dogfish mortality was also explored in Appendix B. Given the low risk of exceeding the spiny dogfish ACL, the Council did not recommend spiny dogfish set-asides nor did they recommend spiny dogfish GCAs for the at-sea sectors.

Management measures to reduce rougheye/blackspotted rockfish catch, including rougheye/blackspotted GCAs and/or rockfish excluders for the at-sea whiting vessels were considered but rejected (see Chapter 2, Section XXX and Appendix B). Instead, the Council recommended a scientific sorting requirement for rougheye/blackspotted would be implemented which could improve the data used in management. Further, management measures to reduce rougheye/blackspotted rockfish catch could be implemented, including bycatch reduction areas for vessels using midwater gears, if necessary.

Table 4-9. Preferred Alternative – At-Sea. Allocations for the catcher-processor (CP) and mothership sectors (MS) under the Preferred Alternative for 2015-2016. The No Action allocations are provided (right panel) for reference.

| Stock | Area | Preferred Alternative | | | | No Action Allocations | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | 2015 | | 2016 | | CP All. (mt) | MS All. (mt) |
| | | CP All. (mt) | MS All. (mt) | CP All. (mt) | MS All. (mt) | | |
| CANARY | Coastwide | 8.0 | 5.6 | 8.2 | 5.8 | 7.6 | 5.4 |
| DARKBLOTCHED | Coastwide | 9.2 | 6.5 | 9.5 | 6.7 | 9.0 | 6.3 |
| POP | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 10.2 | 7.2 | 10.2 | 7.2 | 10.2 | 7.2 |
| Pacific whiting a/ | Coastwide | 69,373 | 48,970 | 69,373 | 48,970 | 69,373 | 48,970 |
| Widow | Coastwide | 170.0 | 120.0 | 170.0 | 120.0 | 170.0 | 120.0 |

a/ The 2014 Pacific whiting TAC was unavailable during the preparation of the EIS, therefore the 2013 values were used.

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Table 4-10. Preferred Alternative – At-Sea. At-sea whiting set-asides under the Preferred Alternative. The No Action set-aside values are provided for reference.

| Stock | Area | Preferred Alternative Total Set-Asides (mt) | No Action Set-Asides Total Set-Asides (mt) |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| PETRALE SOLE | Coastwide | 5 | 5 |
| YELLOWEYE | Coastwide | 0 | 0 |
| Arrowtooth flounder | Coastwide | 45 | 20 |
| Dover sole | Coastwide | 5 | 5 |
| English sole | Coastwide | 5 | 5 |
| Lingcod | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 15 | 15 |
| Longnose skate | Coastwide | 5 | 5 |
| Longspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 5 | 5 |
| Pacific cod | Coastwide | 5 | 5 |
| Pacific halibut a/ | Coastwide | 10 | 10 |
| Sablefish | N of 36° N. lat. | 50 | 50 |
| Shortspine thornyhead | N of 34°27' N. lat. | 20 | 20 |
| Starry flounder | Coastwide | 5 | 5 |
| Yellowtail | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 300 | 300 |
| Shelf rockfish north | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 35 | 35 |
| Slope rockfish north | N of 40°10' N. lat. | 100 | 100 |
| Other Fish b/ | Coastwide | N/A | 520 |
| Spiny Dogfish | Coastwide | N/A | N/A |
| Other flatfish | Coastwide | 20 | 20 |

a/As stated in §660.55 (m), the Pacific halibut set-aside is 10 mt, to accommodate bycatch in the at-sea Pacific whiting fisheries and in the shorebased trawl sector south of 40°10' N. latitude (estimated to 5 mt each).

b/ In 2014, spiny dogfish was managed as part of the Other Fish complex. Starting in 2015-2016, spiny dogfish will be managed separately.

4.2.2.5 Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear– Preferred Alternative

Impact (Groundfish Mortality) – Non-Nearshore North of 36° N. latitude

Management measures and projected mortality for the non-nearshore fishery north of 36° N. latitude under the Preferred Alternative is largely influenced by the sablefish ACL, which would be calculated with a P* of 0.40 (Table 4-5), and the resulting sablefish allocations (Table 4-11 and Table 4-12). Trip limit increases for sablefish would be proposed (Table 4-13) and would be routinely adjusted to achieve the limited entry and open access sablefish allocations (Table 4-11 and Table 4-12). The prohibition on lingcod retention in Periods 1, 2, and 6 would be removed and trip limits increased for both limited entry and open access fixed gears (see Appendix B, Section XXX). Trip limits for other species may also be adjusted to attain the ACL or achieve other conservation goals.

Trip limit decreases for slope rockfish north of 40°10' N. latitude are proposed to reduce roughey/blackspotted rockfish mortality (Table XXX and Appendix B, Section XXX). A scientific

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sorting requirement for roughey/blackspotted would be implemented which could improve the data used in management.

The overfished species mortality, as a result of harvesting the sablefish allocations, was evaluated using 2002-2012 WCGOP data in the non-nearshore model. Under the Preferred Alternative, trawl and non-trawl allocations were established for overfished species. Further, the non-nearshore fishery was also allocated a share of the non-trawl allocation for bocaccio, canary, and yelloweye (Table 4-14). Routine adjustments of the non-trawl RCA (same as No Action, See XXX) would occur in the event the projected overfished species mortality is expected to exceed the non-nearshore share or non-trawl allocation (e.g., changing from 100 to 125 fm). RCA changes can also be accommodated to provide greater access to target species when overfished species mortality is projected to be within the non-nearshore share or non-trawl allocation (e.g., changing from 125 to 100 fm). Table 4-15 contains the projected mortality groundfish for the non-nearshore fishery.

Table 4-11. Preferred Alternative: Limited entry sablefish FMP allocations north of 36 N. latitude for 2015-2016.

| Year | ACL | Sablefish Com. HG | Limited Entry Share | LEFG Share (mt) | | | | Estimated Tier Limits (lbs) a/ | | |
|------|-------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | | | | Total Catch Share | Landed Catch Share a/ | Primary Season Share | DTL Share | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 |
| 2015 | 4,793 | 4,281 | 3,878 | 1,629 | 1,571 | 1,336 | 236 | 41,175 | 18,716 | 10,695 |
| 2016 | 5,241 | 4,684 | 4,244 | 1,782 | 1,719 | 1,461 | 258 | 45,053 | 20,479 | 11,702 |

a/ The limited entry fixed gear total catch share is reduced by the anticipated discard mortality of sablefish, based on WCGOP data from 2002 to 2012. In 2015-2016, 17.7 percent of the sablefish caught are anticipated to be discarded and 20 percent are expected to die.

Table 4-12. Preferred Alternative: Open access FMP allocations north of north of 36 N. latitude for 2015-2016.

| Year | Open Access Total Catch Share (mt) | Open Access Landed Catch Share (mt) a/ |
|------|------------------------------------|--|
| 2015 | 402 | 388 |
| 2016 | 440 | 425 |

a/ The open access total catch share is reduced by the anticipated discard mortality of sablefish, based on WCGOP data from 2002 to 2012. In 2015-2016, 17.7 percent of the sablefish caught are anticipated to be discarded and 20 percent are expected to die.

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Table 4-13. Preferred Alternative. Sablefish trip limits north of 36° N. latitude for limited entry and open access fixed gears for 2015-2016.

| Year | Fishery | Jan-Feb | Mar-Apr | May-Jun | July-Aug | Sept-Oct | Nov-Dec |
|------|---------------|--|---------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| 2015 | Limited Entry | 1,025 lb/week, not to exceed 3,075 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| | Open Access | 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 900 lb, not to exceed 1,800 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 2016 | Limited Entry | 1,275 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| | Open Access | 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |

Table 4-14. Preferred Alternative – Non-Nearshore. Overfished species projected mortality (mt), compared to the shares for the non-nearshore fixed gear fishery and the non-trawl allocations (mt), for 2015-2016.

| Stock | 2015 | | | 2016 | | |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | Projected Mortality | Non-Nearshore Share | Non-Trawl Allocation | Projected Mortality | Non-Nearshore Share | Non-Trawl Allocation |
| BOCACCIO | 0.0 | 79.1 | 258.8 | 0.0 | 82.1 | 268.7 |
| CANARY | 1.1 | 3.8 | 49.9 | 1.2 | 3.9 | 51.3 |
| COWCOD | 0.0 | | 2.6 | 0.0 | | 2.6 |
| DARKBLOTCHED | 4.7 | | | 5.2 | | |
| POP | 0.3 | | | 0.3 | | |
| PETRALE SOLE | 0.3 | | | 0.3 | | |
| YELLOWEYE | 0.5 | 1.1 | 11.2 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 12.1 |

Table 4-15. Preferred Alternative. Projected groundfish mortality for the limited entry (LE) and open access (OA) fixed gear fisheries (in mt).

| Stock | 2015 | | | 2016 | | |
|--|------|----|-------|------|----|-------|
| | LE | OA | Total | LE | OA | Total |
| Arrowtooth flounder | 44 | 7 | 51 | 48 | 7 | 55 |
| Bank rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Big skate | 6 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Black rockfish (Oregon/California) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Blackgill rockfish (South of 40°10' N. lat.) | 12 | 5 | 17 | 13 | 5 | 19 |
| Blue rockfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cabazon - (California) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cabazon - (Oregon) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| California skate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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| Stock | 2015 | | | 2016 | | |
|---|------|----|-------|------|----|-------|
| | LE | OA | Total | LE | OA | Total |
| Chilipepper rockfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dover sole | 6 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| English sole | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenspotted rockfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenstriped rockfish | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Grenadiers | 47 | 15 | 62 | 51 | 17 | 68 |
| Kelp greenling | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lingcod - (California) | 12 | 4 | 16 | 13 | 4 | 17 |
| Lingcod - (Washington/Oregon) | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Longnose skate | 63 | 12 | 76 | 69 | 14 | 83 |
| Longspine thornyhead (North Pt. Conception) | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Mixed thornyheads | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Pacific cod | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Pacific hake | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Redstripe rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sharpchin rockfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shortbelly rockfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shortspine thornyhead (North Pt. Conception) | 20 | 5 | 25 | 22 | 5 | 27 |
| Silvergrey rockfish (North of 40°10' N. lat.) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spiny dogfish | 149 | 24 | 173 | 163 | 26 | 189 |
| Splitnose rockfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Starry flounder | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unspecified skate | 16 | 3 | 19 | 18 | 3 | 21 |
| Widow rockfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yellowmouth (North of 40°10' N. lat.) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yellowtail rockfish | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other flatfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other groundfish | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Other nearshore rockfish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other shelf rockfish | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Other slope rockfish | 101 | 18 | 119 | 110 | 20 | 130 |

Impact (Groundfish Mortality) Non-Nearshore South of 36° N. latitude

Management measures and projected groundfish mortality for the non-nearshore fishery south of 36° N. latitude under the Preferred Alternative is largely influenced by the sablefish ACL, which would be calculated with a P* of 0.40 (Table 4-5). Anticipated catch of sablefish south of 36° N latitude under the Preferred Alternative would be approximately equal to the 2015-2016 sablefish allocations and resulting landed catch shares for limited entry and open access fixed gears (Table 4-16). Increases to the sablefish trip limits would be proposed (Table 4-17) and would be routinely adjusted to achieve the limited entry and open access sablefish allocations (Table 4-16). Additionally, trip limit increases are proposed for

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bocaccio and shelf rockfish south of 34°27' N. latitude to increase attainment of the non-trawl allocations (Table 4-18, See Appendix B Section XXX for historical attainment). Trip limits for other species may also be adjusted to attain the ACL or achieve other conservation goals.

Under the Preferred Alternative, trawl and non-trawl allocations would be established for overfished species. Further, the non-nearshore fishery would be allocated a share of the non-trawl allocation for bocaccio, canary, and yelloweye to ensure that total non-trawl catches remained within the non-trawl allocations for these overfished species (Table 4-14). Routine adjustments of the non-trawl RCA (same as No Action, See Section XXX) would occur in the event the projected overfished species mortality is expected to exceed the non-nearshore share or non-trawl allocation (Table 4-14). RCA changes can also be accommodated to provide greater access to target species when overfished species mortality is projected to be within the non-nearshore share or non-trawl allocation (e.g., changing from 125 to 100 fm).

A scientific sorting requirement for rougheye/blackspotted would be implemented which could improve the data used in management.

Table 4-16 Preferred Alternative: Short-term sablefish allocations south of 36° N. latitude for the non-trawl sector, limited entry and open access for 2015-2016.

| Year | Commercial HG | Non-Trawl Allocation | LE FG Total Catch Share | Directed OA Total Catch Share | LE FG Landed Catch Share a/ | Directed OA Landed Catch Share a/ |
|------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2015 | 1,714 | 994 | 547 | 447 | 531 | 432 |
| 2016 | 1,875 | 1,088 | 598 | 489 | 581 | 472 |

a/ The limited entry and open access fixed gear total catch shares are reduced by the anticipated discard mortality of sablefish, based on WCGOP data from 2002 to 2012. In 2015-2016, 17.7 percent of the sablefish caught are anticipated to be discarded and 20 percent are expected to die.

Table 4-17. Preferred Alternative. Sablefish trip limits south of 36° N. latitude for limited entry and open access fixed for 2015-2016.

| Year | Fishery | Jan-Feb | Mar-Apr | May-Jun | July-Aug | Sept-Oct | Nov-Dec |
|------|---------------|--|---------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| 2015 | Limited Entry | 2,100 lb/week | | | | | |
| | Open Access | 315 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,575 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |
| 2016 | Limited Entry | 2,175 lb/week | | | | | |
| | Open Access | 325 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,625 lb, not to exceed 3,250 lb/ 2 months | | | | | |

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Table 4-18. Preferred Alternative. Proposed trip limit increases for bocaccio and shelf rockfish south of 34°27' N. latitude.

| Fishery Sector | Fleet | Alternative | Jan/Feb | Mar/Apr | May/June | Jul/Aug | Sep/Oct | Nov/Dec |
|--|-------|-------------|---------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Bocaccio south 34°27' | LE | No Action | 300 | closed | 300 | 500 lbs/2 months | | |
| | | Preferred | 1,000 | closed | 1,000 lbs/2 months | | | |
| | OA | No Action | 100 | closed | 100 | 200 lbs/2 months | | |
| | | Preferred | 500 | closed | 500 lbs/2 months | | | |
| Shelf Rockfish Complex south 34°27' | LE | No Action | 3,000 | closed | 3,000 | 4,000 lbs/2 months | | |
| | | Preferred | 4,000 | closed | 4,000 lbs/2 months | | | |
| | OA | No Action | 750 | closed | 750 | 1,000 lbs/2 months | | |
| | | Preferred | 1,500 | closed | 1,500 lbs/2 months | | | |

Impact (Groundfish Mortality) Nearshore – Preferred Alternative

There are Federal limits and state quotas (or harvest guideline) for nearshore species that constrain target species landings in the commercial nearshore fishery. State harvest guidelines between recreational and commercial fisheries may be adjusted by each state between or within years, so are not displayed herein. State harvest guidelines for each sector are established to ensure that the non-trawl allocation provided to each state is not exceeded while providing fishing opportunities for both sectors. The Preferred Alternative is based on the expectation that landings in the Oregon nearshore fishery (Table 4-19) will be equal to their allocations, except for lingcod where the historical average landings are assumed and except for black rockfish for which the state landing cap would have to be reduced from 137.9 mt to 120.0 mt to remain under the yelloweye rockfish catch share shown in Table 4-20. In California, nearshore fishery allocations are unable to be achieved given the current overfished species shares allocated to the nearshore fishery and state. As such, landings are reduced to stay within the nearshore fishery overfished species shares of the non-trawl allocation. Nearshore fishery landings are influenced by a variety of factors, including weather and market, and can vary annually. As such, there is substantial uncertainty surrounding the estimated landings under the action alternatives, which in turn influence the projected overfished species mortality and socioeconomic analysis. In the event fishery performance is lower than the allocations, mortality of groundfish species will be lower.

Trawl and non-trawl allocations for overfished species, would be implemented under the Preferred Alternative. Specifically, the nearshore fishery would be managed to stay within its share of the non-trawl allocation for bocaccio, canary, and yelloweye or the overall non-trawl allocations (Table 4-20). In the event the projected overfished species mortality is expected to exceed the nearshore share or non-trawl allocation, routine adjustments of the shoreward non-trawl RCA or reduced trip limits for nearshore species could occur. RCA changes can also be accommodated to provide greater access to target species when overfished species mortality is projected to be within the nearshore share or non-trawl allocation (e.g., changing from 20 to 30 fm).

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Under the Preferred Alternative, the Council is considering a range of state-specific nearshore HGs to keep mortality of nearshore rockfish north of 40°10' N. latitude at or within the ACL. Appendix B, Section XXX contains the management measures for the nearshore fisheries that are necessary to stay within the range of state-specific HGs adopted at the April Council meeting. The Council is scheduled to adopt preferred nearshore HGs north of 40°10' N. latitude at the June Council meeting.

The Council is also considering removing the prohibition on lingcod retention in Periods 1, 2, and 6 and increasing trip limits for both limited entry and open access fixed gears (see Appendix B, Section XXX). In the event this option is selected for implementation, the estimated lingcod landings (Table 4-19) and the projected overfished species mortality would be updated (Table 4-20).

Table 4-19. Preferred Alternative. Expected landings under the Preferred Alternative (mt) in 2015-2016. Target species landings by area are also shown (far right panel).

| Stock | Area | Total Landings | Landings by Area | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | OR Total | CA Total | 40°10' – 42° N. lat. | S. of 40°10' N. lat. |
| Black rockfish | S. 46°16 N. lat. | 179 | 120 | 59 | 55 | 4 |
| Cabazon | OR | 30 | 30 | | | |
| Cabazon | CA | 57 | | 57 | 3 | 54 |
| Kelp greenling | OR | 23 | 23 | | | |
| Kelp greenling | CA | 21.2 | | 21.2 | 0.2 | 21 |
| Lingcod | N. 40°10 N. lat. | 33 | 29 | 4 | 4 | |
| Lingcod | S. 40°10 N. lat. | 15 | | 15 | | 15 |
| Nearshore rockfish N. a/ | N. 40°10 N. lat. | 25 | 18 | 7 | | |
| --Blue rockfish | | 9 | 4 | 5 | 5 | |
| --Other nearshore rockfish | | 16 | 14 | 2 | 2 | |
| Nearshore rockfish S. | S. 40°10 N. lat. | 79 | | 79 | | |
| --Blue rockfish | | 2 | | 2 | | 2 |
| --Shallow nearshore rockfish b/ | | 53 | | 53 | | 53 |
| --Deeper nearshore rockfish c/ | | 24 | | 24 | | 24 |

a/ Nearshore rockfish totals consists of black-and-yellow, blue rockfish, China, gopher, grass, kelp, brown, olive, copper, treefish, calico, and quillback. These species are part of the nearshore rockfish complex north and south of 40°10' N. latitude.

b/Shallow nearshore rockfish consists of black and yellow rockfish, China rockfish, gopher rockfish, grass rockfish, and kelp rockfish south of 40°10' N. latitude. These species are part of the nearshore rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. latitude.

c/ Deeper nearshore consists of black rockfish, blue rockfish, brown rockfish, calico rockfish, copper rockfish, olive rockfish, quillback rockfish, and treefish south of 40°10' N. latitude. These species are part of the nearshore rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. latitude.

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Table 4-20. Preferred Alternative. Total projected overfished species (OFS) mortality compared to the nearshore fishery share of the non-trawl allocation for 2015-2016 (mt). Projected overfished species mortality by area is also shown in the right panel and compared to the state specific shares, where applicable (in parenthesis). Overages of the allocations are indicated in bold.

| Stock | Area | Total Projected OFS Mortality 2015-2016 | Nearshore Fishery Share 2015/2016 | Projected OFS Mortality by Area for 2015-2016 | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | Oregon Total (Share 2015/2016) | CA Total (Share 2015/2016) | 40°10' – 42° N. lat. | S. of 40°10' N. lat. |
| Bocaccio | S. 40°10' | 0.4 | 1.0/1.0 | N/A | 0.4 | N/A | 0.4 |
| Cowcod | S. 40°10' | 0 | | N/A | 0 | N/A | 0 |
| Canary | Coastwide | 6.0 | 6.7/6.9 | 1.1 (1.8/1.9) | 4.9 (4.9/5.0) | 0.5 | 4.4 |
| Darkblotched | Coastwide | 0.2 | | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.1 |
| POP | N. 40°10' | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Petrale | Coastwide | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yelloweye | Coastwide | 1.2 | 1.2/1.3 | 0.9 (0.9/0.9) | 0.3 (0.3/0.35) | 0.2 | 0.1 |

4.2.2.6 Impact (Groundfish Mortality) Tribal Fisheries – Preferred Alternative

Tribal fisheries would operate under the harvest guidelines and allocations displayed in Table 4-1, Table 4-3, and Table 4-5. Tribal fisheries would be managed using the same measures described under No Action.

4.2.2.7 Washington Recreational – Preferred Alternative

Primary catch controls for the Washington recreational fishery are season dates, depth closures, bag limits, and GCAs, including YRCAs. Under the Preferred Alternative, Washington recreational fisheries would operate under the 2015 and 2016 ACLs (Table 4-1 and Table 4-3) and Washington recreational harvest guidelines (HGs) for overfished species (Table 4-21).

Table 4-21. Preferred Alternative: Washington recreational harvest guidelines for 2015 and 2016.

| Stock | 2015 | 2016 |
|---------------------|------|------|
| CANARY ROCKFISH | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH | 2.9 | 3.1 |

Groundfish Season Structure

Under the Preferred Alternative, the Washington recreational fishery would be open year-round for groundfish, except lingcod. Washington would continue to prohibit the retention of canary and yelloweye rockfish in all areas.

Depth restrictions are the primary tool used to keep recreational mortality of yelloweye and canary rockfish within specified HGs. Restrictions limiting the depth where groundfish fisheries are permitted are more severe in the area north of the Queets River (Marine Areas 3 and 4) where yelloweye and canary rockfish abundance is higher and therefore caught incidentally at a higher rate. Depth restrictions are less restrictive moving south where incidental catch of yelloweye and canary becomes progressively less.

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Management measures under the Preferred Alternative differ only slightly from the No Action Alternative. Under the Preferred Alternative, the depth closure in the North Coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4) would be in place from May 9th through Labor Day rather than from May 1 through September 30. In the South Coast (Marine Area 2), the prohibition on lingcod retention seaward of 30 fathoms in the area south of 46°58 on Fridays and Saturdays from July to August 31 would be removed and in the Columbia River Area (Marine Area 1), the southern boundary for the year round lingcod closure would be moved three miles north. The primary intent of these changes is to simplify management measures for recreational anglers while maintaining total mortality projections that stay within Washington’s HGs for overfished species. Management measures, in addition to those analyzed in the 2013-14 EIS were implemented in 2013 through inseason action to respond to higher than anticipated encounters with yelloweye rockfish. These additional management measures reduced the potential for encounters with overfished species and provide some leeway to refine and streamline management measures described under the No Action Alternative. Table 4-22 summarizes key features of the Washington recreational regulations under the Preferred Alternative.

Table 4-22. Preferred Alternative. Washington Recreational Seasons and Groundfish Retention Restrictions.

| Marine Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|--------------------|-----|---|-----|--------------------------------|------|--------------------|-----|-----------------|--------------------|-----|-----|
| 3 & 4 (N. Coast) | Open all depths | | | | Open <20 fm May 9-Labor Day a/ | | | | Open all depths | | | |
| 2 (S. Coast) | Open all depths e/ | | Open <30 fm Mar 15 - June 15 b/, c/, d/, e/ | | | | Open all depths e/ | | | | | |
| 1 (Col. R.) | Open all depths e/ | | | | Open all depths e/, f/ | | | | | Open all depths e/ | | |
| a/ Groundfish retention prohibited >20 fm except, retention of lingcod, Pacific cod and sablefish is allowed seaward of 20 fm on days when Pacific halibut is open. b/ Retention of sablefish and Pacific cod allowed seaward of 30 fm from May 1- June 15. c/ Retention of rockfish allowed seaward of 30 fm. d/ Retention of lingcod allowed seaward of 30 fm on days that the primary halibut season is open. e/ Retention of lingcod prohibited in deepwater areas at all times. f/ Retention of groundfish, except sablefish and Pacific cod, prohibited with Pacific halibut on board on days open to the all depth Pacific halibut fishery. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

North Coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4)

The retention of bottomfish is prohibited seaward of a line approximating 20 fm from May 9th through the first Monday in September, except, lingcod, Pacific cod and sablefish can be retained seaward of 20 fm on days open to recreational fishing for Pacific halibut. Fishing for, retention, or possession of groundfish and Pacific halibut is prohibited in the C-shaped YRCA.

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South Coast (Marine Area 2)

The retention of bottomfish, except rockfish, is prohibited seaward of 30 fm from March 15 through June 15, except sablefish and Pacific cod retention is allowed May 1 through June 15. Retention of lingcod is allowed seaward of 30 fm on days open to the primary Pacific halibut season. Fishing for, retention, or possession of lingcod is prohibited in deepwater areas seaward of a line extending from 47°31.70' N. latitude, 124°45.00' W. longitude to 46°38.17' N. latitude, 124°30.00' W. longitude year-round, except as allowed on days open to the Pacific halibut fishery (Figure 4-1). Fishing for, retention or possession of bottomfish or Pacific halibut is prohibited in the South Coast YRCA and Westport Offshore YRCA (See Section XXX).

Columbia River (Marine Area 1)

Retention of bottomfish, except sablefish and Pacific cod, is prohibited with Pacific halibut onboard during the all-depth recreational halibut fishery from May 1 through September 30. Fishing for, retention, or possession of lingcod in deepwater areas seaward of a line extending 46°38.17' N. latitude, 124°21.00' W. longitude to 46°28.00' N. latitude, 124°21.00' W. longitude is prohibited year-round (Figure 4-1).

Area Restrictions

Under the Preferred Alternative, fishing for, retention, or possession of groundfish and halibut during the Washington recreational groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries would be prohibited in the C-shaped YRCA in the north coast and the South Coast and Westport YRCAs in the south coast.

Fishing for, retention, or possession of lingcod would be prohibited seaward of a line connecting the following coordinates from the Queets River (47°31.70' N. latitude, 124° 45.00' W. longitude) to 46°28.00' N. latitude, 124°21.00' W. longitude, year round except as allowed in Washington Marine Area 2 on days open to the primary Pacific halibut fishery (Figure 4-1).

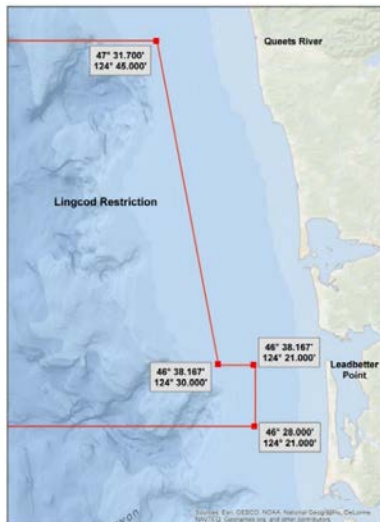


Figure 4-1. Preferred Alternative. Washington Lingcod Restricted Area.

Other Measures

Nearshore Rockfish HGs: Under the Preferred Alternative, the Council is considering a range of state-specific nearshore HGs to keep mortality of nearshore rockfish north of 40°10' N. latitude at or within the

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ACL. Appendix B, Section XXX contains the management measures for the Washington recreational fisheries that are necessary to stay within the range of state-specific HGs adopted at the April Council meeting. The Council is scheduled to adopt preferred nearshore HGs north of 40°10' N. latitude at the June Council meeting.

Groundfish Bag Limits: Groundfish bag limits would be the same under the Preferred Alternative as they are under the No Action alternative. The recreational groundfish bag limit, including rockfish and lingcod, would be 12 fish per day. Of the 12 recreational groundfish allowed to be landed per day, sub-limits of 10 rockfish and, two lingcod apply. The recreational bag limit also includes a sub-limit of two cabezon in Marine Areas 1-3 and one cabezon in Marine Area 4.

Lingcod Seasons and Size Limits: Under the Preferred Alternative, the lingcod seasons would be the same as they are under the No Action Alternative. In Marine Areas 1 through 3 (Washington-Oregon border at 46°16' N. latitude to Cape Alava at 48°10' N. latitude) the lingcod season would be open from the Saturday closest to March 15 through the Saturday closest to October 15. In Marine Area 4, (Cape Alava to the U.S. Canadian border) the lingcod season would be open from April 16 through October 15, or the Saturday closest to October 15 if that Saturday comes before October 15, whichever is earlier. Lingcod seasons under the Preferred Alternative would be structured the same as they were under the No Action Alternative. Under the Preferred Alternative the lingcod seasons and size limits by area are as follows:

- Marine Areas 1-3: March 14 through October 17 in 2015 and March 12 through October 15 in 2016. Minimum size, 22 inches.
- Marine Area 4: April 16 through October 15 in 2015 and April 16 to October 15 in 2016. Minimum size, 22 inches.

Cabezon Size Limit: Under the Preferred Alternative, there is an 18 inch minimum size limit for cabezon in Marine Area 4 (Cape Alava to the U.S. Canadian border).

Pacific Halibut Seasons: It is expected that the Pacific halibut seasons in 2015 and 2016 would be similar to the halibut seasons in 2013 and 2014. There are no changes to the restrictions on groundfish retention during the Pacific halibut season proposed under the Preferred Alternative. However, modifications to the groundfish retention rules during the all-depth Pacific halibut openings may be proposed under the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan process (see Appendix B, Section XXX).

Additional Management Measures Analyzed: No additional management measures were analyzed for the Preferred Alternative. Currently available management measures will be used to keep recreational harvests of overfished species within specified HGs for 2015-2016.

Impact (Groundfish Mortality)

Projected mortality for Washington's recreational fishery is based upon the previous season's harvest estimated by the Ocean Sampling Program (OSP) and incorporated in Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN). Table 4-23 summarizes the projected mortality for overfished and non-overfished species under the Preferred Alternative.

It should be noted that the precision of recreational groundfish catch estimates based upon previous seasons will continue to be influenced by factors such as the length and success of salmon and halibut seasons, weather and unforeseen factors.

Washington's Ocean Sampling Program is able to produce estimates of groundfish catch with a one month lag time. Management measures such as more restrictive depth closures, area closures, groundfish

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retention restrictions, or changes to seasons can be considered and implemented through emergency changes to state regulations if inseason catch reports indicate that recreational harvests of overfished or non-overfished species are exceeding pre-season projections to the point where HGs are at risk of being exceeded.

Table 4-23. Preferred Alternative: Washington recreational projected groundfish mortality in 2015 and 2016 (in mt).

| Stock | 2015/2016 |
|---------------------|------------------|
| CANARY ROCKFISH | 0.75 |
| YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH | 2.83 |
| Black Rockfish | 251.54 |
| Lingcod | 125.61 |
| Nearshore Rockfish | 10.54 |
| Blue Rockfish | 2.58 |
| Quillback Rockfish | 2.23 |
| Copper Rockfish | 2.24 |
| China Rockfish | 3.49 |
| Brown Rockfish | - |
| Grass Rockfish | - |
| Yellowtail Rockfish | 28.32 |
| Vermilion Rockfish | 0.60 |
| Cabezon | 5.56 |
| Kelp Greenling | 1.90 |

4.2.2.8 Oregon Recreational – Preferred Alternative

Primary catch controls for the Oregon recreational fishery are season dates, depth closures, bag limits, and GCAs, including yelloweye rockfish conservation areas (YRCAs). The Preferred Alternative analyzes the Oregon recreational fishery with the 2015 and 2016 ACLs (Table 4-1 and Table 4-3), and Oregon recreational harvest guidelines (HG) for overfished species (Table 4-24), which directly influence the recommended management measures. Key target species with a state quota or Federal HG are also shown, such as black rockfish which has a HG of 440.4 mt.² Projected mortality under the Preferred Alternative for the Oregon recreational fisheries is shown in Table 4-25.

² The black rockfish ACL is allocated 58 percent to Oregon and 42 percent to California. Of the Oregon portion, Oregon state rule specifies that 76 percent is allocated to the recreational fishery with 24 percent to the commercial fishery. Similarly for nearshore rockfish species, state regulations allocate 48.7 percent of the Oregon portion to the recreational fishery.

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Table 4-24. Oregon recreational Federal harvest guidelines (in mt) and state quotas under the Preferred Alternative for 2015-2016.

| Stock | HG and State Quotas a/ | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| | 2015 | 2016 |
| CANARY ROCKFISH | 11.7 | 12.0 |
| YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH | 2.6 | 2.8 |
| Black Rockfish | 440.4 | 440.4 |
| Greenlings b/ | 5.2 | 5.2 |
| Nearshore Rockfish N. of 40°10 N. lat. | TBD | TBD |
| -- <i>Blue Rockfish</i> | | |
| -- <i>Other Nearshore Rockfish</i> | | |

a/ Federal HG are established for canary and yelloweye rockfish only. The state process in Oregon establishes quotas for black rockfish, blue rockfish, other nearshore rockfish, and greenlings (all species). Black and blue rockfish are managed to a combined state quota, the estimated quotas by species are represented in this table. The state quotas are not intended to be implemented in Federal regulation, they are only provided as information.

b/ Includes kelp and other greenlings

Table 4-25. Projected Mortality in the Oregon recreational fisheries under the action alternatives for 2015-2016.

| Stock | Projected Mortality (mt) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CANARY ROCKFISH | 3.2 |
| YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH | 2.2 |
| Black Rockfish | 322.2 |
| Cabezon | 35.8 |
| Greenlings ^{a/} | 6.4 |
| Lingcod | 132.0 |
| Nearshore Rockfish N. 40°10 N. Lat. | 30.5 |
| -- <i>Blue Rockfish</i> | 17.5 |
| -- <i>Other Nearshore Rockfish</i> | 13.0 |

^{a/} Includes kelp and other greenlings.

Groundfish Season Structure

Under the Preferred Alternative, the Oregon recreational groundfish fishery would be open offshore year-round, except from April 1 to September 30 when fishing is only allowed shoreward of 40 fathoms, as defined by waypoints (Figure 4-2). Closing the fishery outside of 40 fathoms from April 1 to September 30, months when angler effort and yelloweye rockfish encounters are greatest, mitigates mortality of yelloweye rockfish. Projected mortality of yelloweye and canary rockfish are within the HG, therefore the shore-based fishery would be open year-round.

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| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|-----|-----|
| Bottomfish Season | Open all depths | | | Open < 40 fm | | | | | | Open all depths | | |
| Marine Bag Limit ¹ | Ten (10) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lingcod Bag Limit | Three (3) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flatfish Bag Limit ² | Twenty Five (25) | | | | | | | | | | | |

1 Marine bag limit includes all species other than lingcod, salmon, steelhead, Pacific halibut, flatfish, surfperch, sturgeon, striped bass, pelagic tuna and mackerel species, and bait fish such as herring, anchovy, sardine, and smelt.

2 Flounders, soles, sanddabs, turbot and halibuts except Pacific halibut.

Figure 4-2. Preferred Alternative. Oregon recreational groundfish season structure and bag limits under the Preferred Alternative.

Area Closures

The Stonewall Bank YRCA has been in place since 2006 and would also remain under the Preferred Alternative (Figure 4-3). The YRCA is located approximately 15 miles west of the Port of Newport and consists of the high-relief area of Stonewall Bank, an area of high yelloweye rockfish encounters. No recreational fishing for groundfish and Pacific halibut can occur within this YRCA, which is bounded by the following waypoints specified in Table 4-26.

Two options for extending the status quo Stonewall Bank YRCA for 2015-2016 recreational fisheries, should they become necessary, are also shown in Figure 4-3 and are defined by the coordinates in Table 4-26.

Table 4-26. Preferred Alternative. Coordinates for the Stonewall Bank currently as specified in regulation, Option 2 and Option 3 for the expanding the Stonewall Bank area closure under.

| Current | | Option 2 | | Option 3 | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Latitude | Longitude | Latitude | Longitude | Latitude | Longitude |
| 44°37.458' | 124°24.918' | 44°41.7594' | 124°30.018' | 44°38.544' N | 124°27.4122' |
| 44°37.458' | 124°23.628' | 44°41.7348' | 124°21.603' | 44°38.544' N | 124°23.8554' |
| 44°28.710' | 124°21.798' | 44°25.2456' | 124°16.944' | 44°27.132' N | 124°21.501' |
| 44°28.710' | 124°24.102' | 44°25.2942' | 124°30.1404' | 44°27.132' N | 124°26.8944' |
| 44°31.422' | 124°25.500' | 44°41.7594' | 124°30.018' | 44°31.302' N | 124°28.3476' |

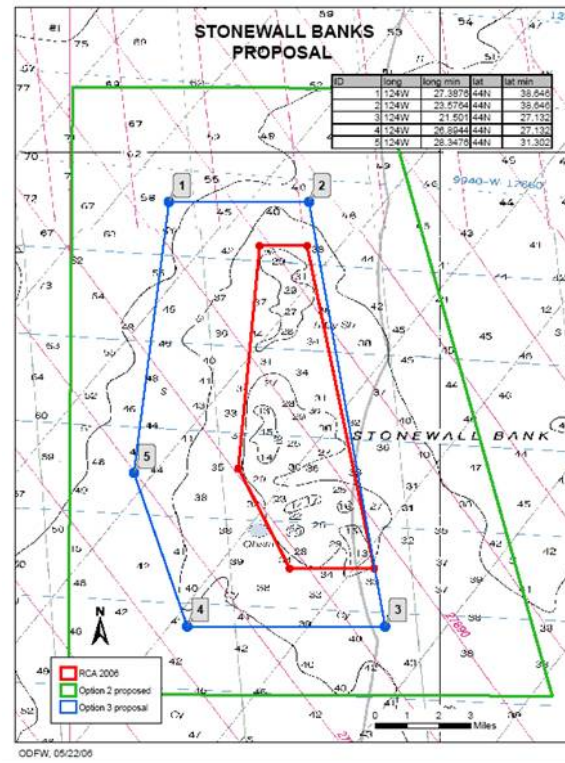


Figure 4-3. Preferred Alternative. The Stonewall Bank Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area where recreational fishing for groundfish and Pacific halibut is prohibited.

Groundfish Bag Limits and Size Limits

Under the Preferred Alternative, a marine fish daily bag limit of 10 fish in aggregate would be implemented, the same as under No Action, for 2015-2016. The marine bag includes all species other than lingcod, salmon, steelhead, Pacific halibut, flatfish, surfperch, sturgeon, striped bass, pelagic tuna and mackerel species, and bait fish such as herring, anchovy, sardine and smelt. The seasonal one fish sub-bag limit for cabezon which was in place under No Action would be removed under the Preferred Alternative. Cabezon mortality would be limited via state regulations. A flatfish daily bag limit of 25, which includes all soles and flounders except Pacific halibut, would be allowed in addition to the marine fish daily bag limit. Additionally a three-fish bag limit would be allowed for lingcod. Retention of canary and yelloweye rockfish would continue to be prohibited under the Preferred Alternative.

The following minimum size limits applied to 2013-2014 Oregon recreational fisheries and would be carried forward under the Preferred Alternative:

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- Lingcod – 22 in.
- Cabezon – 16 in.
- Kelp greenling – 10 in.

Under the Preferred Alternative, the recreational Pacific halibut fisheries should be able to proceed as in 2013 and 2014, in regards to days and areas open, etc., depending on the halibut quota. Since 2009, only sablefish and Pacific cod may be retained in the Pacific halibut fishery at any depth in the area north of Humbug Mountain, Oregon. South of Humbug Mountain, groundfish may be retained in areas open to groundfish (e.g., less than 30 fm) when halibut are onboard the vessel. There are no changes to the restrictions on groundfish retention during the Pacific halibut season proposed under the Preferred Alternative. However, modifications to the groundfish retention rules during the Pacific halibut openings may be proposed under the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan process (see Appendix B, Section XXX).

Under the Preferred Alternative, the Council is considering a range of state-specific nearshore HGs to keep mortality of nearshore rockfish north of 40°10' N. latitude at or within the ACL. Appendix B, Section XXX contains the management measures for the Oregon recreational fisheries that are necessary to stay within the range of state-specific HGs adopted at the April Council meeting. The Council is scheduled to adopt preferred nearshore HGs north of 40°10' N. latitude at the June Council meeting.

Additional Management Measures Analyzed

Under the Preferred Alternative, two additional management measures were analyzed for the Oregon recreational fisheries: allowing limited retention of canary rockfish and modifying the groundfish species allowed to be retained during all-depth Pacific halibut openings. Additionally, a variety of season structure (depths and months) were modeled to determine potential mortality to overfished species.

Inseason Management Tools

Oregon has a responsive port-based monitoring program through the Ocean Recreational Boat Survey (ORBS) and regulatory processes in place to track mortality and take actions inseason, if necessary. The following are suggested management measures that could be implemented inseason if the fishery does not proceed as expected.

Inseason management tools, designed to mitigate mortality, include bag limit adjustments (including non-retention), length limit adjustments, gear restrictions, and season, days per week, depth, and area closures.

Season, depth, days open per week, and area closures are the primary inseason tools for limiting yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish mortality, since retention of these species is already prohibited. If catch rates indicate that the bycatch harvest targets for yelloweye rockfish would be reached prematurely, offshore depth closures may be implemented inseason at 30, 25, or 20 fathoms as these two species are less abundant nearshore, and release survival rates are higher in shallow waters. Additionally, days per week may also be closed to reduce mortality. ODFW would monitor inseason progress toward recreational harvest targets for canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish. Regulations would depend upon the timing of the determination for their need.

Adjustments to the marine fish daily bag limit to no more than 10 fish may be implemented to achieve season duration goals in the event of accelerated or decelerated black rockfish or other nearshore rockfish harvest. The lingcod daily bag limits may be adjusted to no more than 3 fish in the event the marine bag limit changes or the halibut catch limit is reduced from 2013 levels. Season and/or area closures may also be considered if harvest targets are projected to be attained. Closing one or more days per week is an

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inseason tool that could be used to limit mortality. Closing certain days each week would help lengthen the duration of a fishery approaching an HG.

Non-retention and/or length restrictions are the likely inseason tools to use for cabezon and kelp greenling, as release survival is very high. They may also be used to reduce mortality of nearshore species, such as nearshore rockfish species, especially when combined with the use of descending devices.

Gear restrictions and/or release technique requirements may be implemented to reduce the impact of overfished rockfish since a variety of descending devices are available. SSC recommended and Council-approved mortality rates for canary and yelloweye rockfish when descending devices are used will be implemented in 2014 (see Appendix A for documentation).

Directed yellowtail rockfish and/or flatfish fisheries may be implemented inseason, as were implemented in 2004, in the event of a closure of the recreational groundfish fishery due to attainment Federal or state HGs or targets. Specific gear restrictions may be implemented in the event that yellowtail rockfish and/or flatfish fisheries remain open during a groundfish closure. Additionally, the fishery may be expanded to waters seaward of the RCA, promoting directed yellowtail rockfish opportunity. Directed flatfish fisheries would be legal year round and open shoreward of 40 fathoms during any period the groundfish fishery has any depth restrictions (e.g., 40, 30, 25, 20, and 50 fathom lines). The flatfish fishery would not have any depth restrictions when the groundfish fishery has no depth restrictions. Fisheries would be monitored to ensure that mortality of yelloweye and canary rockfish are within the harvest targets/guidelines.

In the event that the duration of total season is reduced from 12 months; the nearshore waters are closed to groundfish fishing due to management of nearshore species; or the Pacific halibut catch limit is reduced from 2013 levels, the fishery may be expanded to waters seaward of the RCA that is in effect at the time, promoting directed yellowtail rockfish and offshore lingcod opportunity. Fisheries would be monitored to ensure that mortality of yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish is not in excess of the HGs.

4.2.2.9 California Recreational – Preferred Alternative

The 2015-2016 California recreational groundfish projected mortality and season structure under the Preferred Alternative are based on CDFW's updated RecFISH model. Model projections were calculated for the five recreational groundfish management areas using updated 2011 and 2012 RecFIN estimates; overfished species mortality are reported statewide. Table 4-27 depicts the Preferred Alternative overfished species harvest guidelines for the 2015-2016 California recreational groundfish seasons.

Table 4-27. Preferred Alternative: California recreational allocations/harvest guidelines for 2015-2016.

| Stock | 2015 | 2016 |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| BOCACCIO | 178.8 | 185.6 |
| CANARY | 24.3 | 25.0 |
| COWCOD* | 2.6 | 2.6 |
| YELLOWEYE | 3.4 | 3.7 |

*Non-trawl allocation

Groundfish Seasons and Area Restrictions

Under the Preferred Alternative, tradeoffs between season lengths and depth restrictions were explored (Options 1, 2, and 3). Because the non-trawl allocation for cowcod will increase to 2.6 mt in 2015-2016, all three Options allow depth restrictions to be modified from 50 fm to 60 fm in the Southern Management Area. Under Option 1, longer seasons and status quo (or No Action) depth restrictions were examined. Option 2 explored longer seasons north of Point Conception and limited additional opportunity in deeper depths in the Northern and Mendocino Management Areas; the area where the depths restrictions are the most restrictive under status quo regulations (20 fm). Option 3 examined shorter seasons and deeper depths north of Point Conception. The three fish lingcod bag limit can be accommodated under all Options.

Option 1

Under Option 1, the depth restrictions would be the same as the No Action Alternative and the season lengths would be extended for all areas north of Point Conception from March 1 through December 31 (Figure 4-4). Due to lower yelloweye rockfish mortality in recent years the season lengths in the areas north of Point Conception can be extended. Black rockfish mortality limits the season length at the current depth restrictions. Under this option, the portion of the recreational catch share is exceeded by 1.7 mt, but could be accommodated by the residual from the commercial fishery. The mortality of cowcod and bocaccio in the Southern Management Area are projected to be far below the respective harvest guidelines. Season length in the Southern Management Area would remain the same as status quo, March 1st – December 31st, but the depth restriction would be modified from 50 fm to 60 fm to resume access to deeper depths allowed in 2012 prior to an inseason action.

| Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|--------|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Northern | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31 <20 fm | | | | | | | | | |
| Mendocino | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31 <20 fm | | | | | | | | | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31 <30 fm | | | | | | | | | |
| Central | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31 <40 fm | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31 <60fm | | | | | | | | | |

Figure 4-4. Preferred Alternative (Option 1): California recreational groundfish season structure and depth restrictions for 2015-2016 with maximized season length.

Option 2

Due to lower yelloweye rockfish encounter rates in recent years, the season length north of Point Conception can be extended to April 1st through December 31st (Figure 4-5). In addition, under Option 2, deeper depth restrictions are analyzed in the Northern and Mendocino Management Areas for part of the year; the depth restriction would be 20 fm from April 1st through September 30th, then increase to 30 fm from October 1st through December 31st. The depth and season in all other areas would be unchanged from Option 1.

When depth restrictions are liberated, it becomes more challenging to predict angler behavior and uncertainty in the yelloweye rockfish projections increases. Further, the RecFISH model assumes proportion of catch by depth and those proportions of catch can change when depth is increased, which results in underestimates of mortality. The relatively low effort during October 1st through December 31st makes it possible to allow access to deeper depths without greatly increasing the risk of exceeding the yelloweye rockfish harvest guideline. Black rockfish mortality remains within the state recreational share under this option.

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| Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|--------|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Northern | Closed | | April 1 – Sep 30 <20 fm, Oct 1– Dec 31 <30 fm | | | | | | | | | |
| Mendocino | Closed | | April 1 – Sep 30 <20 fm, Oct 1– Dec 31 <30 fm | | | | | | | | | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | April 1 – Dec 31 <30 fm | | | | | | | | | |
| Central | Closed | | April 1 – Dec 31 <40 fm | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern | Closed | | Mar 1 – Dec 31 <60 fm | | | | | | | | | |

Figure 4-5. Preferred Alternative (Option 2): California recreational groundfish season structure and depth restrictions for 2015-2016.

Option 3

Under Option 3, tradeoffs between increased depth and season lengths north of Point Conception were explored. By allowing access to deeper depths, encounters with overfished shelf rockfish species are expected to increase. In order to keep mortality of overfished species from exceeding harvest guidelines, season lengths north of Point Conception would be reduced (Figure 4-6). Similar to Option 2, when depth restrictions are modified uncertainty increases, as effort shifts to deeper depths may be greater than projected, resulting in mortality exceeding projected values.

Season length in the Southern Management Area would also be reduced to the May 15th to August 15th to explore reductions in catch savings on cowcod, bocaccio, or other species. In recent years, bocaccio and cowcod encounters have increased, making it more difficult to model projected mortality. Given these concerns, examining a shorter season in the Southern Management Area is prudent in the event inseason action would be necessary to keep catches within allowable levels. California scorpionfish would remain open year round to 60 fm.

| Management Area | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|
| Northern | Closed | | | | May15–Aug15<30fm | | | | Closed | | | |
| Mendocino | Closed | | | | May15–Aug15<30fm | | | | Closed | | | |
| San Francisco | Closed | | | | May15–Aug15<40fm | | | | Closed | | | |
| Central | Closed | | | | May15–Aug15<50fm | | | | Closed | | | |
| Southern | Closed | | | | May15–Aug15<60fm | | | | Closed | | | |

Figure 4-6. Preferred Alternative (Option 3): California recreational groundfish season structure and depth restrictions for 2015-2016.

Other Measures

Nearshore Rockfish HGs: Under the Preferred Alternative, the Council is considering a range of state-specific nearshore HGs to keep mortality of nearshore rockfish north of 40°10' N. latitude at or within the ACL. Appendix B, Section XXX contains the management measures for the California recreational fisheries that are necessary to stay within the range of state-specific HGs adopted at the April Council meeting. The Council is scheduled to adopt preferred nearshore HGs north of 40°10' N. latitude at the June Council meeting.

Groundfish Bag Limits and Size Limits: Under The Preferred Alternative, the groundfish bag limits or size limits are the same as under No Action except for the following:

- Lingcod: The No Action bag limit for lingcod is two fish. Under the Preferred Alternative, lingcod bag limit would increase from two fish to three fish. The mortality (in metric tons) as a result of the increase in the bag limit for Options 1, 2, and 3 is provided in Table 4-28. An increase in the lingcod bag limit from two to three fish could be accommodated statewide with the aforementioned season and depth restrictions under all options. The Council is not proposing

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any changes to the lingcod minimum size restriction. Increases to overfished species mortality as a result of this increase are expected to be minimal (if any).

Additional Management Measures Analyzed: None

Table 4-28. Preferred Alternative: California recreational projected mortality of non-overfished species for 2015-2016 under Option 1, Option 2, and Option 3. Results in parenthesis reflect lingcod mortality with a three fish bag limit.

| Stock | Projected Mortality (mt) | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
| Black Rockfish | 232.5* | 219.7 | 110.3 |
| Blue Rockfish | 65.2 | 62.2 | 22.9 |
| Cabazon | 42.5 | 40.2 | 16.9 |
| California scorpionfish | 81.1 | 81.1 | 13.3 |
| Greenlings | 24.7 | 22.4 | 8.7 |
| Lingcod | 296.2 (356.4) | 280.9 (338.0) | 111.0 (134.0) |
| Minor Nearshore Rockfish North | 15.6 | 15.4 | 6.7 |
| Minor Nearshore Rockfish South | 376.5 | 365.4 | 118.6 |
| Widow Rockfish | 4.2 | 3.8 | 1.5 |

**Mortality exceeds the recreational portion of the California catch share of 230.8 mt. Further discussion provided under the text describing Option 1.*

Impact (Groundfish Mortality)

Projected mortality for bocaccio, canary rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish for all Options under the Preferred Alternative can be found in Table 4-29. Under all the Options contemplated under the Preferred Alternative the projected mortality of cowcod, bocaccio, canary and yelloweye rockfish increases compared to the No Action alternative, due to the increased season lengths or deeper depth restrictions. The number of angler trips is expected to increase under the Options allowing for increased opportunity for both private/rental boats (PR) and commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFV). Projections for non-overfished species for the Preferred Alternative under each Option are provided in Table 4-28.

Similar to the No Action Alternative, if overfished species encounters are tracking higher or lower than projected, inseason action could be taken, which could include closing one or more recreational groundfish management areas, restricting recreational fishery seasons and/or modifying depth restrictions. As in the No Action Alternative, the YRCAs would be available and could be implemented inseason if catches are projected to exceed harvest guidelines.

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Table 4-29. Preferred Alternative: California recreational projected mortality of overfished species for 2015-2016 under Option 1, Option 2 and Option 3.

| Stock | California Recreational 2015 HG (mt) | California Recreational 2016 HG (mt) | Projected Mortality (mt) | | |
|--------------|---|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
| BOCACCIO | 178.8 | 185.6 | 117.5 | 117.6 | 23.5 |
| CANARY | 24.3 | 25.0 | 19.8 | 19.8 | 10.6 |
| COWCOD | | | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.3 |
| YELLOWEYE | 3.4 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.7 |

a/The non-trawl allocation of cowcod is 2.6 mt.