

PART 1 OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2011-2012 FISHERIES

The Council's November 2009 meeting marked the initiation of the harvest specifications and management measures decision-making process for 2011-2012 fisheries. The Council adopted a preliminary range of annual catch limits (ACLs) for each stock and stock complex as well as a preliminary range of management measures designed to stay within the harvest specifications. At this meeting under Agenda Item I.6, the Council is scheduled to adopt a range of 2011-2012 alternatives, including overfished species ACLs and management measures and, if possible, preliminary preferred ACL alternatives for formal analysis and public review.

Under this Agenda Item, the Council is scheduled to make preliminary decisions on these matters and, if necessary, assign further analysis to the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) to facilitate Council tasks under Agenda Item I.6.

A key element for the 2011-2012 process has been restructuring the alternatives to better understand the implications of decisions on overfished species ACLs, which, like in past management cycles, will constrain fishing opportunity in 2011-2012. Agenda Item I.4.a Attachment 1 contains background information on the restructuring and a draft set of alternatives, including strategic combinations and ranges of overfished rockfish species ACLs and considerations for developing management measures. Attachment 2 contains the preliminary preferred range of management measures adopted by the Council in November 2009.

The management measures are intended to meet, but not exceed the preferred non-overfished species ACLs adopted under Agenda Item I.2 and the overfished species ACLs contained within each alternative. The management measures are also designed to keep the fisheries within allocations, including the non-treaty trawl and non-treaty non-trawl allocations adopted by the Council under Amendment 21: Intersector Allocation, which is scheduled for implementation on January 1, 2011. Included in this amendment are allocations for trawl dominant overfished species (darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and widow rockfish) for the non-treaty trawl and non-treaty non-trawl sectors, as well as for each non-treaty trawl sector (i.e., shoreside non-whiting, shoreside whiting, catcher-processor, and mothership).

Two-year allocations for yelloweye rockfish, canary rockfish, bocaccio, and cowcod need to be determined for the non-treaty trawl and non-treaty non-trawl sectors. The Council guidance in November, 2009 was to assume the canary and yelloweye rockfish catch proportions by sector and state as provided in the GMT's March 2009 scorecard. Under this agenda item, the Council should provide guidance on two-year allocations for bocaccio and cowcod as well. Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 3 provides supplemental recent year catch estimates and other information to aid the Council in determining a preliminary preferred two-year allocation for yelloweye rockfish, canary rockfish, bocaccio, and cowcod.

In order to determine the amount of the ACL that is available for harvest, yield set-asides to accommodate expected catches in the tribal fishery, incidental open access fishery, scientific research, and exempted fishing permit must be subtracted. Under this agenda item, the GMT is expected to make overfished species set-aside recommendations for the 2011-2012 fisheries. Set-asides for non-overfished species will be brought forward at the June Council meeting. After the set-asides are accommodated, sector allocations are applied.

The Council also needs to adopt revised rebuilding plans for at least two species (canary rockfish and Pacific ocean perch) and develop a new petrale sole rebuilding plan, which will be implemented through Amendment 16-5 to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The Magnuson-Stevens Act mandates the rebuilding periods “be as short as possible, taking into account the status and biology of any overfished stocks of fish, the needs of fishing communities, recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates, and the interaction of the overfished stock of fish within the marine ecosystem” (Section 304(e)). Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 2 contains materials that inform the estimated time to rebuild given varying spawning biomass per recruit (SPR) harvest rates and ACLs.

Revised rebuilding plans for canary rockfish and Pacific ocean perch are necessary because of fundamental changes in our understanding of the stocks’ productivity, via adoption of new stock assessments in 2009. The new stock assessments show it very unlikely the stocks will rebuild by their respective Target Rebuilding Times (T_{TARGET}). The 2009 petrale sole assessment indicated an overfished condition, for the first time, and as such the Council must develop a new rebuilding plan which should include a rebuilding SPR harvest rate (which is the basis for the ACLs), a T_{TARGET} , and a harvest strategy. With regard to the harvest strategy, the Council should provide guidance on two-year allocations of petrale sole to all sectors, including the treaty sector. The Council should also provide general guidance on whether constraints should be imposed on sectors other than the non-treaty non-whiting trawl sector and whether to pursue a year-round or summer only fishery.

Other attachments useful for developing a range of 2011-2012 alternatives include a proposed range of management measures for the Oregon and Washington recreational groundfish fisheries (Agenda Item I.4.b, ODFW Report 1 and Agenda Item I.4.b, Supplemental WDFW Report), the Oregon nearshore commercial fisheries (Agenda Item I.4.b, ODFW Report 2), and public comment received by the April briefing book deadline (Agenda Item I.4.d, Public Comment). The Council should consider these proposals, as well as advice from advisory bodies and the public before adopting a preliminary range of alternatives for further analysis.

It is expected the Council should also carefully consider the intended scope of action and workload on the GMT, constituent agencies, and Council staff when deciding which alternatives and management measures are the highest priority for analysis. Some management measures may be particularly labor-intensive and others may not be as closely linked to the decisions typically considered in the biennial harvest specifications and management measures process.

The Council may want to request additional analysis by the GMT and GAP under this agenda item. Results for any requested analyses can be provided on Thursday under Agenda Item I.6, when the Council is scheduled to adopt a final refined range of 2011-2012 alternatives for analysis in the DEIS. If possible, the Council should adopt a preliminary preferred alternative under Agenda Item I.6 to allow intensified analysis between the April and June Council meetings.

Final Council action on a preferred 2011-2012 alternative including management measures and overfished species ACLs is scheduled for the June Council meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt preliminary revised rebuilding plans for at least two overfished species (canary rockfish and Pacific ocean perch), including a rebuilding SPR harvest rate (basis for the ACLs) and target rebuilding time (T_{TARGET}).**
- 2. Adopt a preliminary rebuilding plan for petrale sole, including a rebuilding SPR harvest rate, target rebuilding time (T_{TARGET}), and a harvest strategy.**
- 3. Adopt a preliminary range of refined alternatives including overfished species ACLs and management measures for 2011-2012 fisheries.**
- 4. Provide guidance for two-year allocations for bocaccio, and cowcod.**
- 5. Provide guidance to the GMT and GAP for further analysis of alternatives (if necessary).**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 1: Considerations for Draft Alternatives Including Overfished Species Annual Catch Limits and Management Measures.
2. Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 2: Preliminary Range of Management Measures for 2011-2012 Groundfish Fisheries.
3. Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 3: Recent Year Catch Estimates Relevant to Deciding a Range of 2011-2012 Allocations.
4. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 2: Tables and Graphics Relevant to Deciding 2011-2012 Groundfish Annual Catch Limits.
5. Agenda Item I.4.b, ODFW Report 1: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Preliminary Management Measure Alternatives for the 2011-2012 Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fisheries.
6. Agenda Item I.4.b, ODFW Report 2: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Management Measures for the 2011-2012 Commercial Nearshore Groundfish Fishery.
7. Agenda Item I.4.b, Supplemental WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Preliminary Management Measure Alternatives for the 2011-2012 Washington Recreational Groundfish Fisheries.
8. Agenda Item I.4.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview **Kelly Ames and John DeVore**
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt a Preliminary Range of Alternatives including Overfished Species Annual Catch Limits and Management Measures for Analysis

PFMC
03/26/10