

RECONSIDERATION OF SELECT 2015 AND 2016  
GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Council adopted 2015 and 2016 harvest specifications for groundfish stocks and stock complexes with final action in June 2014. Subsequent to that action, a potential mis-specification of overfishing limits (OFLs) for English sole, yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N lat., sharpchin rockfish, and rex sole was discovered. The OFLs adopted for these four stocks and analyzed in the Proposed Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2015-2016 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and Amendment 24 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were based on maximum likelihood estimates, the common metric for determining OFLs for assessed stocks. However, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommended that the 2015 and 2016 OFLs from the Bayesian data-moderate assessments be based on the median of the posterior distribution of estimated OFLs. Table 1 compares the OFLs (and the subsequent acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and annual catch limits (ACLs)) for these four stocks using the two OFL estimation methods.

The Council has an opportunity to correct the harvest specifications for these four stocks pending final SSC advice on the OFLs. Any Council action to modify 2015 and 2016 harvest specifications for the affected stocks and stock complexes in Table 1 will be transmitted as public comment to the National Marine Fisheries Service to affect the final EIS and final rule.

Table 1. Comparison of 2015 and 2016 harvest specifications adopted by the Council for English sole, yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N lat., sharpchin rockfish, and rex sole relative to those harvest specifications based on SSC-endorsed methods for calculating OFLs (stocks in bold are those newly assessed stocks with harvest specifications under consideration for a correction).

Stock	Council-adopted Specifications						Specifications Based on SSC-endorsed Methods					
	Harvest Specifications Based on OFLs Calculated as Maximum Likelihood Estimates						Harvest Specifications Based on OFLs Calculated as Medians of the Posterior Distribution					
	2015			2016			2015			2016		
	OFL	ABC	ACL	OFL	ABC	ACL	OFL	ABC	ACL	OFL	ABC	ACL
English Sole	12,092	11,040	11,040	8,493	7,754	7,754	10,792	9,853	9,853	7,890	7,204	7,204
Yellowtail N. of 40°10'	12,281	11,213	11,213	11,647	10,634	10,634	7,218	6,590	6,590	6,949	6,344	6,344
<b>STOCK COMPLEXES</b>												
Slope Rockfish North	1,804	1,669	1,669	1,818	1,683	1,683	1,831	1,693	1,693	1,844	1,706	1,706
<i>Aurora</i>	17.4	16.6	16.6	17.5	16.7	16.7	17.4	16.6	16.6	17.5	16.7	16.7
<i>Bank</i>	17.2	14.4	14.4	17.2	14.4	14.4	17.2	14.4	14.4	17.2	14.4	14.4
<i>Blackgill</i>	4.7	3.9	3.9	4.7	3.9	3.9	4.7	3.9	3.9	4.7	3.9	3.9
<i>Redbanded</i>	45.3	37.7	37.7	45.3	37.7	37.7	45.3	37.7	37.7	45.3	37.7	37.7
<i>Rougeye/Blackspotted</i>	201.9	184.3	184.3	206.8	188.8	188.8	201.9	184.3	184.3	206.8	188.8	188.8
<b>Sharpchin</b>	<b>305.6</b>	<b>279.0</b>	<b>279.0</b>	<b>297.6</b>	<b>271.7</b>	<b>271.7</b>	<b>332.8</b>	<b>303.8</b>	<b>303.8</b>	<b>323.2</b>	<b>295.1</b>	<b>295.1</b>
<i>Shortraker</i>	18.7	15.6	15.6	18.7	15.6	15.6	18.7	15.6	15.6	18.7	15.6	15.6
<i>Splitnose</i>	1,000.6	956.6	956.6	1,018.2	973.4	973.4	1,000.6	956.6	956.6	1,018.2	973.4	973.4
<i>Yellowmouth</i>	192.4	160.5	160.5	192.4	160.5	160.5	192.4	160.5	160.5	192.4	160.5	160.5
Slope Rockfish South	806	698	687	807	699	689	813	705	693	814	705	695
<i>Aurora</i>	74.3	70.7	70.7	74.3	70.7	70.7	74.3	70.7	70.7	74.3	70.7	70.7
<i>Bank</i>	503.2	419.7	419.7	503.2	419.7	419.7	503.2	419.7	419.7	503.2	419.7	419.7
<i>Blackgill</i>	137.0	125.1	113.8	140.0	127.8	117.2	137.0	125.1	113.8	140.0	127.8	117.2
<i>Pacific ocean perch</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Redbanded</i>	10.4	8.7	8.7	10.4	8.7	8.7	10.4	8.7	8.7	10.4	8.7	8.7
<i>Rougeye/Blackspotted</i>	4.1	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.9
<b>Sharpchin</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>83.2</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>80.8</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>73.8</b>
<i>Shortraker</i>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Yellowmouth</i>	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7
Other Flatfish	11,298	8,620		9,948	7,496		11,453	8,749	8,749	9,645	7,243	7,243
<i>Butter sole</i>	4.6	3.2	3.2	4.6	3.2	3.2	4.6	3.2	3.2	4.6	3.2	3.2
<i>Curlfin sole</i>	8.2	5.7	5.7	8.2	5.7	5.7	8.2	5.7	5.7	8.2	5.7	5.7
<i>Flathead sole</i>	35.0	24.3	24.3	35.0	24.3	24.3	35.0	24.3	24.3	35.0	24.3	24.3
<i>Pacific sanddab</i>	4,801.0	3,331.9	3,331.9	4,801.0	3,331.9	3,331.9	4,801.0	3,331.9	3,331.9	4,801.0	3,331.9	3,331.9
<b>Rex sole</b>	<b>5,609.0</b>	<b>4,672.3</b>	<b>4,672.3</b>	<b>4,259.0</b>	<b>3,547.7</b>	<b>3,547.7</b>	<b>5,764.0</b>	<b>4,801.4</b>	<b>4,801.4</b>	<b>3,956.0</b>	<b>3,295.3</b>	<b>3,295.3</b>
<i>Rock sole</i>	66.7	46.3	46.3	66.7	46.3	46.3	66.7	46.3	46.3	66.7	46.3	46.3
<i>Sand sole</i>	773.2	536.6	536.6	773.2	536.6	536.6	773.2	536.6	536.6	773.2	536.6	536.6