

BYCATCH MORTALITY FOR ROCKFISH

Situation: For the year 2000, optimum yields (OYs) were established for the new minor rockfish categories in the Monterey/Conception area and the Eureka/Columbia/Vancouver area. These were specified as total catch OYs, with no adjustment to account for anticipated discard (see Attachment G.5.a.). The Council directed the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to determine whether to assign a bycatch mortality rate, recognizing there will be mortality for minor shelf, nearshore, and slope rockfish. Likewise, no discard was assigned for bocaccio. In addition, the Council asked the GMT to analyze the setnet rockfish species composition data to determine if additional rockfish management measures would be appropriate.

Council Action:

1. Preliminary recommendations for bycatch mortality adjustments.

Reference Materials:

1. GMT Report G.5.(1).
2. Minor rockfish and bocaccio acceptable biological catches and OYs for 2000 (Attachment G.5.a.).

PFMC
02/23/00