

CANARY ROCKFISH REBUILDING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Situation: The West Coast canary rockfish resource is currently classified as overfished, and the Council must prepare a rebuilding plan for this stock before the November 2000 meeting. This stock inhabits the continental shelf over a wide latitudinal range, from the U.S. border with Canada to southern California. The 1999 stock assessment was conducted in two parts, and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) combined the results in order to develop its 2000 acceptable biological catch and optimum yield recommendations. Management measures for 2000 include provisions intended to reduce fishing in rocky areas of the shelf where this species was abundant in the past. Because this species occupies a wide geographic area, including relatively shallow areas, it has been harvested by recreational and commercial groundfish sectors as well as non-groundfish fisheries (e.g., the pink shrimp fishery). Achieving equitable distribution of the conservation burden will be a challenge for the Council. The GMT has provided a preliminary set of tables showing distribution of canary rockfish by commercial fishers in 1999 (Attachment D.11.b.).

A stock rebuilding plan should include the length of time necessary to rebuild the stock, expected harvest levels over the rebuilding period, any allocations necessary to equitably distribute the costs and benefits among fishery sectors, and other management measures the Council believes may be necessary. The first step in the process is determining the rebuilding schedule and initial harvest levels. With this information, the Council can begin to investigate the types of management measures that may be necessary to achieve the rebuilding goals and objectives. It may be possible only to identify and initiate a process for developing allocations at this time, including designating who will take the lead in this process.

Any direct allocations require Council consideration at three meetings; therefore, initial identification of any allocations should be proposed at this time.

Council Action:

- 1. Preliminary decision on allocation and/or regulations.**
- 2. Council guidance on the length of the rebuilding schedule and initial harvest levels.**

Reference Materials:

1. Rebuilding Provisions of Amendment 12 to The Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (Attachment D.11.a.).
2. 1999 Canary Rockfish Tonnage, by State Subareas, Fleet, and Month (Attachment D.11.b.).

PFMC
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