

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
PRELIMINARY 2001 HARVEST LEVELS AND SPECIFICATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the preliminary Groundfish Management Team (GMT) acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations as presented in Exhibit G.6, Attachment 1, and offers the following recommendations. Except as noted, the GAP recommends the Council adopt the proposed ABC and optimum yield (OY) levels and ranges contained in the document.

**Lingcod** - The GAP recommends adopting the high end of the OY range. This number reflects the new stock assessment prepared this year.

**Pacific Ocean perch** - The GAP urges the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to resolve the issue of the level of Pacific Ocean perch (POP) and other rockfish in historic foreign catches. Two Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panels suggested different and potentially conflicting approaches on this issue, which has a bearing on proposed ABCs.

**Widow rockfish** - The GAP recommends adoption of the high end of the OY range, which reflects application of the new harvest policy and management based on the Council's 40-10 control rule.

**Canary rockfish** - As noted in its comments on the canary rockfish rebuilding plan, the Council needs to decide on how to balance optimistic and pessimistic projections with the upcoming triennial trawl survey.

**Longspine thornyheads** - The GAP recommends adoption of the upper end of the OY range, consistent with the Council's previously stated policy of not applying the new harvest policy rates to species which have not had a new stock assessment and which are not considered at risk.

**Dark blotched rockfish** - As noted above in relation to POP, the SSC needs to resolve the issue of composition of historic foreign catch, as this has major bearing on the status of this species.

**Dover sole** - The GAP recommends adoption of the high end of the OY range. Two years ago, the Council selected the low end of an assessment range as a precautionary measure, even though Dover stocks were projected to increase. The low end of the OY range shown here represents application of the new harvest policy, even though no new stock assessment has been completed, and stocks are not at risk. This double precautionary approach carries conservative fisheries management to the extreme and should be rejected.

**English sole, petrale sole, arrowtooth flounder, and other flatfish** - In all cases, the GAP recommends adoption of the high end of the OY range, as the low end represents application of the new harvest policy to stocks that are not at risk and that have not been subject to a new assessments.

PFMC  
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