

FINAL HARVEST LEVELS AND OTHER SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2001

Situation: Each year, the Council recommends harvest specifications for the upcoming year. This is a two-meeting process that begins with the Council making preliminary recommendations at the September meeting and final recommendations at the November meeting. For the purposes of this meeting, desired strategy is that the Council complete, within this agenda item, all the necessary harvest level decisions for 2001; provide a day (Wednesday) for advisory bodies to prepare management recommendations to achieve those harvest levels, and make final decisions on management measures under agenda item C.9 on Thursday.

The fishery management plan (FMP) requires the Council to establish reference points for each major species or species group: an acceptable biological catch (ABC), an optimum yield (OY), and overfishing threshold. In addition to the OYs, the anticipated tribal and/or recreational catch of some species must be identified so that allocations can be calculated for the commercial open access and limited entry fisheries. The Council needs to confirm or revise its preliminary recommendations at this time, and then may need to identify additional species and species groups for allocation between limited entry and open access fisheries in 2000. In the past, this has included most stocks whose OYs were expected to be reached.

Process for Developing Final ABC and OY Recommendations

Draft assessment documents, Stock Assessment (STAT) Team summaries and Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel reports were mailed to Council family and others in August 2000. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) has developed its final 2001 ABC and OY recommendations (Exhibit C.3.c, GMT Reports 1 and 2). The GMT has recommended a few changes from the preliminary recommendations, which can be seen by comparing the last two columns of Exhibit C.3.c, GMT Report 1. (For a more detailed evaluation of the changes in comparison to 2000 levels, compare GMT Report 1 to Attachment 1). The GMT's estimates of 2001 recreational catch and preliminary calculations of the various allocations are provided in Exhibit C.3.c, GMT Report 3). Although management measures to achieve the harvest targets will be discussed later in the meeting under Agenda C.9, the 2001 recreational catch of various species must be estimated now so the commercial targets can be calculated and management measures developed. The Council should provide guidance to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and GMT so they can work out specific proposals to achieve the proposed targets. Finally, the Council may need to specify that no groundfish are available for foreign fishing or processing.

Changes from Current (year 2000) Harvest Specifications

Stock assessments were prepared in 2000 for darkblotched rockfish, lingcod (coastwide), widow rockfish, bank rockfish, Pacific Ocean perch (POP), and yellowtail rockfish. These new assessments calculate different ABC values than those in place for the year 2000. In addition, application of the new (lower) default harvest rates results in reduced ABC values for several groundfish stocks. The overall difference between the 2000 OYs and the GMT's final 2001 recommendations is a reduction valued about \$11 million.

The overall limited entry and open access allocation shares are based on landings during the limited entry window period and do not change from year to year. In the northern area, the open access allocation is based primarily on groundfish harvest in the pink shrimp fishery. In the southern area, the open access allocation share reflects groundfish harvest by set net gear during that period. Each of those fisheries harvested a mix of species that is substantially different from the mix taken by current participants (mostly hook-and-line fishers). Historical catch statistics are inadequate for calculating species by species allocation shares, and division of the rockfish complex into slope, shelf and nearshore components has made it difficult to determine allocation shares that match both the current and historic harvest patterns. In addition, the current open access fishery is concentrated in nearshore waters targeting many of the same species as the recreational fishery; recreational catch takes precedence in the calculations. The GMT has attempted to develop recommendations that provide each sector with access to its fair share (see GMT Report 3).

Compensation to Vessels Participating in Scientific Research

Amendment 11 provided for using amounts of groundfish as payment to vessels that participate in National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)-sponsored scientific research. There are two parts to the process. The amounts that were taken during the current or previous year are deducted from the ABCs prior to setting optimum yield OY so that all groundfish users share the cost of scientific research activities. In this case, the amounts of fish taken in 1999-2000 as compensation for conducting the NMFS surveys must be subtracted:

Sablefish north of 36° N latitude	24.2 mt
Longspine thornyhead	8.3 mt
Shortspine thornyhead	4.1 mt
Dover sole	67.1 mt

Second, the Council authorizes amounts to be available for compensation in the upcoming year. NMFS may propose compensation amounts at this time. The actual amounts provided to vessels will be deducted from the 2002 ABCs.

Council Action: (Motions must be visible in writing prior to vote).

- 1. Adopt final recommendations for ABCs and OYs for 2001.**
- 2. Adopt final recommendations for tribal allocations.**
- 3. Adopt estimates of recreational harvest of various species in 2001.**
- 4. Identify any changes of species to be allocated between limited entry and open access sectors.**
- 5. Adopt final recommendations for domestic annual processing, joint venture processing, and total allowable level of foreign fishing, if necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Preliminary Council ABC and OY Recommendations for 2001 (Exhibit C.3, Attachment 1).
2. Table of GMT Final ABC and OY Recommendations for 2001 (Exhibit C.3.c, GMT Report 1).
3. GMT Final Recommendations Report for ABC and OY in 2001 (Exhibit C.3.c, GMT Report 2).
4. GMT Estimates of 2001 Recreational Catch and Calculations of Commercial Limited Entry and Open Access Allocations (Exhibit C.3.c, GMT Report 3).

PFMC
10/18/00