

## FINAL HARVEST LEVELS AND OTHER SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2003

Situation: Each year the Council recommends harvest specifications for the upcoming year. The fishery management plan (FMP) requires the Council to establish reference points for each major species or species complex: an acceptable biological catch (ABC), a total catch optimum yield (OY), and an overfishing threshold. Additionally, OYs for some species are allocated between the open access, limited entry, tribal, and recreational fisheries. The Council adopted a preliminary range of groundfish harvest levels (OYs) for consideration and analysis at the June meeting (Table 2-1 on page T 2-1, Exhibit C.3, Attachment 1). The *Initial Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis For Proposed Groundfish Acceptable Biological Catch and Optimum Yield Specifications and Management Measures For The 2003 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery* (Annual Specifications EIS; Exhibit C.3, Attachment 1) provides analyses of the potential consequences of management measures estimated to conform to this range of harvest levels. These harvest levels will determine the types of management measures available for Council consideration in 2003. The Council is tasked with adopting final recommendations for 2003 groundfish harvest levels at this September meeting.

The Council reviewed and adopted new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses for bocaccio and canary rockfish, as well as a new expedited stock assessment for sablefish at the June 2002 meeting. These analyses provided the scientific basis for the range of harvest levels considered for these species and adopted in June. Since then, a revised bocaccio rebuilding analysis (Exhibit C.2.b, Bocaccio Rebuilding Analysis) was developed according to the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) recommendations and to comport with one of the bocaccio harvest alternatives requested by the Council in June. The revised bocaccio rebuilding analysis indicates that no fishing mortality can be considered for the southern bocaccio stock south of Cape Mendocino in 2003 and still comply with a rebuilding target of  $B_{40\%}$  (proxy for  $B_{MSY}$ ) within the maximum allowable time frame ( $T_{MAX}$ ).

In June 2002 the Council also reviewed a new rebuilding analysis and the 2001 stock assessment for yelloweye rockfish (Wallace 2002). Wallace (2002) only assessed the portion of the stock in northern California and Oregon. The SSC recommended incorporation of Washington catch and age data in any new yelloweye stock assessment and rebuilding analysis given evidence of relatively high densities in waters off Washington. Upon the advice from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries scientists, a new yelloweye assessment conforming to the SSC's recommendation could be developed and reviewed by a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel this summer, the Council recommended this action. The new yelloweye stock assessment (Exhibit C.2.c, Supplemental Yelloweye Stock Assessment), STAR Panel report (Exhibit C.2.d, Supplemental Yelloweye STAR Panel Report), and rebuilding analysis (Exhibit C.2.c, Supplemental Yelloweye Rebuilding Analysis) are provided for Council consideration of an appropriate level of harvest for yelloweye in 2003.

### **Council Action:**

#### **1. Adopt final 2003 groundfish harvest specification proposals.**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. The Initial Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis For Proposed Groundfish Acceptable Biological Catch and Optimum Yield Specifications and Management Measures For The 2003 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery (Exhibit C.3, Attachment 1).
2. *Bocaccio Rebuilding Analysis for 2002 (final revised version)*, (Exhibit C.2.b, Bocaccio Rebuilding Analysis).
3. Status of yelloweye rockfish off the U.S. West Coast in 2001 (Exhibit C.2.c, Supplemental Yelloweye Stock Assessment).
4. Yelloweye rockfish rebuilding analysis (Exhibit C.2.c, Supplemental Yelloweye Rebuilding Analysis).
5. Yelloweye rockfish STAR Panel meeting report (Exhibit C.2.d, Supplemental Yelloweye STAR Panel Report).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Bocaccio Rebuilding Analysis
- c. Yelloweye Rockfish Stock Assessment
- d. STAR Panel Report for Yelloweye Rockfish
- e. Groundfish Management Team (GMT) Report
- f. Proposed Treaty Indian Harvest Levels
- g. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- h. Public Comment
- i. **Council Action:** Adopt Final 2003 Specification Proposals

John DeVore  
Alec MacCall  
Rick Methot

Jim Hastie  
Jim Harp

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The GFSP supports establishing an allowable level of catch that prevents overfishing while achieving OY based on best available science (Sec. II.A.2). The GFSP also supports establishing and maintaining a management process that is transparent, participatory, understandable, accessible, consistent, effective, and adaptable (Sec. II.C). The Council process of adopting harvest levels and other specifications is consistent with these GFSP principles.

PFMC  
08/20/02