

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
PRELIMINARY RANGE OF HARVEST LEVELS FOR 2004

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the proposed harvest levels recommended by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and provides the following comments.

Except as noted below, the GAP recommends the medium optimum yield (OY) levels identified in Exhibit B.4, Attachment 1 be the preferred alternatives for 2004 harvest levels, within the ranges identified in that Exhibit. The medium OY of 4,320 mt for **yellowtail** is also recommended.

In regard to sablefish, the GAP reminds the Council the influences of environmental factors are well-documented in other fisheries such as salmon and sardines. Further, the author of the sablefish assessment has presented considerable work on environmental impacts on sablefish reproduction. It is, therefore, appropriate to use the medium OY level for sablefish that is derived from the assessment.

We have attached a table showing our recommended OY ranges and preferred options for those species where no values were shown in Exhibit B.4, Attachment 1. The preferred options of the majority of the GAP are underlined and **bold**. The preferred options of a minority of the GAP are in *italics*.

SPECIES	LOW OY	LOW/MID OY	MEDIUM OY	HIGH OY
<i>Pacific Ocean Perch</i>	318		444	<u>555</u> ^{1/}
<i>Widow</i>	30		284 ^{1/}	<u>501</u> ^{1/}
<i>Canary</i>	31		<u>45</u> ^{1/}	46
<i>Bocaccio</i>	199	295 ^{1/}	<u>377</u> ^{1/}	710 ^{1/}
<i>Darkblotched</i>	172		272	<u>417</u> ^{1/}
<i>Black (OR/CA)</i>	729		<u>775</u> ^{1/}	861

PFMC
06/17/03

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- 1/ Preferred based on P_{MAX} of 60%.
 - 2/ Based on model 8, P_{MAX} of 60%.
 - 3/ Preferred based on P_{MAX} of 60%, from Model 9.
 - 4/ Preferred based on continuation of 61% / 39% split from 2003; other values for canary are based on 50% / 50% split.
 - 5/ P_{MAX} of 60%, from STAR model B2.
 - 6/ Preferred based on P_{MAX} of 60% from STAT model C.
 - 7/ P_{MAX} of 60%, from STAR model B1.
 - 8/ Preferred based on P_{MAX} of 60%, with recruits re-sampled through 2001.
 - 9/ Preferred based on medium OY value.