

PRELIMINARY RANGE OF HARVEST LEVELS FOR 2004

Situation: Each year, the Council recommends harvest specifications for the upcoming year. This year, the task remains a two-meeting process that begins with the Council making preliminary recommendations at the June meeting and final recommendations at the September meeting. The fishery management plan (FMP) requires the Council to establish reference points for each major species or species complex: an acceptable biological catch (ABC), an optimum yield (OY), and overfishing threshold. In addition, OYs for some species are allocated between the open access, limited entry, tribal, and recreational fisheries.

Stock assessments were prepared in 2003 for Pacific ocean perch, widow rockfish, bocaccio, black rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, cowcod, and yellowtail rockfish (Exhibit B.3, Attachments 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 15, and 17, respectively). New rebuilding analysis have also been prepared for Pacific ocean perch, widow rockfish, bocaccio, and darkblotched rockfish (Exhibit B.3, Attachments 2, 5, 8, and 13, respectively). These new assessments and rebuilding analyses were considered by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) at their May 2003 meeting to develop a recommended range of harvest levels (Exhibit B.4, Attachment 1). At this meeting the GMT outlined many critical uncertainties in rebuilding analyses that require Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) resolution. Based on SSC advice and Council action under agendum B.3, the GMT may refine the range of harvest levels they recommend for 2004 groundfish management.

The Council task at this meeting is to adopt a range of 2004 harvest levels and specifications for public review and analysis. Council staff will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) this summer to analyze the effect of alternative harvest levels as well as alternative management measures for 2004 groundfish fishery management. A preliminary draft EIS containing relevant environmental analysis of alternatives will be available to aid the Council in deciding final harvest levels, specifications, and management measures at the September meeting.

The public comment period under this agendum also serves as a scoping meeting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as previously announced in the *Federal Register*. Pursuant to the NEPA, the Council, in cooperation with NMFS, seeks public comment on the scope of the EIS that will be prepared for the 2004 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures (see Exhibit B.14). The scope consists of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in the EIS. At the end of the public scoping period, Council and NMFS staff will prepare and make available a scoping summary describing the oral and written comments on the scope of the analysis, including those made at this meeting and, as appropriate, how they will be addressed in the EIS. Comments are most helpful if they bear directly on the range of alternatives that should be considered and the specific impacts to the natural and human environment that the commenter believes the proposed action will cause.

Council Action:

1. Adopt a Preliminary Range of Harvest Levels for 2004 Management.

Reference Materials:

1. TABLE 2.1-1. Acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yield (OY) alternatives (mt) for 2004 for the Washington, Oregon, and California region under the GMT-recommended alternatives. (Exhibit B.4, Attachment 1).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Preliminary Estimates of Acceptable Biological Catch and Optimum Yield
- c. Recommendation of the States, Tribes, and Federal Agencies
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Adopt a Preliminary Range of Harvest Levels for 2004 Management

John DeVore

Michele Robinson

TABLE 2.1-1. Acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yield (OY) alternatives (mt) for 2004 for the Washington, Oregon, and California region under the GMT-recommended alternatives. (Overfished stocks in CAPS).

Stock	2003 ABCs/OYs		2004 ABCs and OY Alternatives				
	ABC	OY	ABC	Low OY	Med OY	High OY	Tmid OY
LINGCOD	841	651			735		
Pacific Cod	3,200	3,200	3,200		3,200		
PACIFIC WHITING (Coastwide)	188,000	148,200		OY decision deferred until Mar 2004			
Sablefish							
North of Conception	8,209	6,500		4,670	7,566	8,365	
Conception INPFC area	441	294		238	326	351	
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH (Pmax fixed)	689	377	862	112	305	555	
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH (Ttarget fixed)				-30	-240	-450	
Shortbelly Rockfish	13,900	13,900	13,900		13,900		
WIDOW ROCKFISH	3,871	832		0	300	-500	
CANARY ROCKFISH a/							
(50% Comm.-50% Rec.)	256	44		31	42	46	26
(80% Comm.-20% Rec.)	309						33
(20% Comm.-80% Rec.)	218						21
Chilipepper Rockfish	2,700	2,000	2,700		2,000		
BOCACCIO	198	≤20		178	408	674	
Splitnose Rockfish	615	461	615		461		
Yellowtail Rockfish	3,146	3,146					
Shortspine Thornyhead	1,004	955	1,030		983		
Longspine Thornyhead	2,461	2,461	2,461		2,461		
S. of Pt. Conception	390	195	390		195		
COWCOD (S. Concep)	5	2.4	5		2.4		
N. Concep & Monterey	19	2.4	19		2.4		
DARKBLOTCHED	205	172		55	137		186
YELLOWEYE	52	22			24		
Nearshore Species							
Black WA	1,115	835	540		540		
Black OR-CA b/			775		775		
Cabezon WA							
Cabezon OR							
Cabezon CA							
Minor Rockfish North	4,795	3,115	4,795		3,115		
Remaining Rockfish North	2,727	2,081	1,612		1,216		
Bocaccio	318	239	318		239		
Chilipepper - Eureka	32	32	32		32		
Redstripe	576	432	576		432		
Sharpchin	307	230	307		230		
Silvergrey	38	29	38		29		
Splitnose	242	182	242		182		
Yellowmouth	99	74	99		74		
Other Rockfish North	2,068	1,034	2,068		1,034		
Minor Rockfish South	3,506	2,015	3,506		2,015		
Remaining Rockfish South	854	689	854		689		
Bank	350	263	350		263		
Blackgill	343	306	343		306		
Sharpchin	45	34	45		34		
Yellowtail	116	87	116		87		
Other Rockfish South	2,652	1,326	2,558		1,279		
Dover Sole	8,510	7,440	8,510		7,440		
English Sole	3,100	3,100	3,100		3,100		
Petrals Sole	2,762	2,762	2,762		2,762		
Arrowtooth Flounder	5,800	5,800	5,800		5,800		
Other Flatfish	7,700	7,700	7,700		7,700		
Other Fish	14,700	14,700	<14,700		<14,700		

a/ Updated the alternative OYs from the last rebuilding analysis. The high OY value ranged last year was at a Pmax of 50%. All other stocks with new rebuilding analyses have high OYs based on a Pmax of 60%. The canary stock was not assessed in 2003.

b/ The OR-CA harvest guideline options are: 1) 488 mt in OR and 287 mt in CA based on a 63:37 catch ratio in OR and CA from 1990-2002 catch history; 2) 450 mt in OR and 325 mt in CA based on a 1.4 OR:CA catch ratio from 1985-2002; and 3) 434 mt in OR and 341 mt in CA based on a nearshore area calculation (0-50 fm) from San Fran. N to the CA-OR border and the OR nearshore area.