

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FINAL HARVEST LEVELS FOR 2004

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) provided detailed comments on 2004 harvest levels at the June Council meeting. SSC recommendations concerning the range of 2004 harvest levels are unchanged (See B.4. of SSC minutes for the June Council meeting). Council staff correctly note that for darkblotched rockfish the medium and high optimum yield (OY) alternatives are higher than the acceptable biological catch (ABC), which is based on the F_{MSY} proxy for rockfish of $F_{50\%}$. Since the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not allow harvest rates greater than F_{MSY} , the ABC constrains the harvest level for these alternatives. The medium and high OY alternatives use assessment estimates of relatively strong (but uncertain) recruitment in 2000 (medium OY alternative), or both 2000 and 2001 (high OY alternative). Strong recruitment in those years imply that harvest rates could be higher than F_{MSY} , and the stock would still rebuild by T_{MAX} with 80% probability. If subsequent assessments confirm the estimates of strong recruitment in 2000 and 2001, F_{MSY} may continue to constrain harvest levels as the stock rebuilds.

PFMC
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