

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE HARVEST LEVELS FOR 2005-06 FISHERIES

Situation: The groundfish 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 November 2003 meeting. However, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommends a new range of lingcod and cabezon harvest levels for 2005-06 based on the revised assessments adopted at the March 2004 Council meeting (Exhibit C.8.b, Attachment 1). These harvest levels will determine the types of management measures available for Council consideration in 2005 and 2006. The Council is tasked with adopting recommendations for preferred 2005-06 groundfish harvest levels at this meeting.

Note that the choice of a preferred harvest level for bocaccio, cowcod, widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish needs to be considered in terms of the long term rebuilding alternatives that are part of the Council decision under agendum C.12. The Council action to adopt preferred harvest levels under the present agendum (C.8) should indicate that the preferred harvest levels for the four overfished species will be as determined in agendum C.12 on Thursday.

The canary rockfish OY varies dependent on commercial and recreational catch sharing due to differences in size selectivity in these fisheries and may be the single most constraining groundfish stock in 2004. The Council may want to defer choosing a final canary rockfish OY until final adoption of management measures in June.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt preferred alternative harvest levels (ABCs and OYs) for 2005-06 management (including the specification that the levels for the four overfished species in Amendment 16-3 are to be as determined in agendum C.12).**

References:

1. Exhibit C.8.b, Attachment 1: Groundfish Management Team Recommendations for the Range of 2005-06 Harvest Levels.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview John DeVore
- b. GMT Report on the Range of Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and Optimum Yield (OY) Michele Robinson
- c. Recommendations of the States, Tribes, and Federal Agencies
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Adopt Preferred Alternative Harvest Levels (ABCs and OYs) for 2005-06 Management

PFMC
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