

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
2007-2008 GROUND FISH FISHERIES—PART II

Based on the Council action taken under Agenda Item H.3, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) updated the acceptable biological catch (ABC)/optimum yield (OY) tables (Attachment 1), identified specific items to be considered for 2007-2008 management, and developed a suggested course of action relative to the development of management measure alternatives.

Preliminary Range of ABCs/OYs

In the updated ABC/OY table, all species with new assessments in 2005 are displayed in bold. The GMT made the following changes:

1. Table structure: Added columns for alternative ABCs and the Council-preferred ABC and OY.
2. Pacific whiting: Ranged ABCs and OYs between the current ABC and OY by $\pm 30\%$.
3. Chilipepper: Added an OY alternative equal to the ABC.
4. Remaining rockfish north and remaining rockfish south: returned subcomponents for specific species listed. The GMT notes that these serve to provide reference within the group OY and do not represent separate OYs.
5. California scorpionfish: added two ABC alternatives which equal each OY alternative.
6. Petrale sole *assessment area* OYs: Corrected error in OY Alt 1 and added 3rd alternative to provide alternatives originally intended by the GMT. The tables presented under H.3 showed Alt 1 coupled with a 25% reduction for the base model in the south with the low spawning biomass model in the north. For Alt 1, correctly aligned the low spawning biomass model OYs for north and south, and added Alt 2 OY with the base model OY in north and a 25% reduction from the base model to reflect the greater uncertainty in the southern assessment. Alt 3 OY is the base model north and south.
7. Petrale sole *adjusted area* OYs: Adjusted ABCs and OYs with a regional split north and south of 40°10' N. latitude. Data source for adjustment: Used General Linear Model (GLM)-adjusted triennial trawl survey data by area averaged over 3 years to calculate the portion of the southern area ABC and OY to shift to the north.
8. Starry flounder: added ABCs and corrected OYs.

The GMT had a discussion on the two-year process and how to better serve the purpose of the two-year cycle relative to creating management stability and simplifying management measures and how they are established. With different OY targets for successive years in the management cycle, there is a need for two sets of management measures that correspond to the OY targets for each year. Therefore, for simplicity, the GMT recommends consideration of averaging the OY

values for 2007 and 2008 and using the same value for each year as annual OYs, with the understanding that the OYs would be capped at the ABC level should the average OY exceed the annual ABC.

2007-2008 Management Issues

The GMT has identified the following items to be among those considered for the 2007-2008 management and specifications:

1. Develop a range of management measures for commercial and recreational fisheries that, in combination, stay within the range of OYs adopted by the Council earlier this week.
2. Develop a range of alternatives for commercial/recreational sharing of overfished species that are particularly constraining (e.g., canary and yelloweye rockfish).
3. Identify sectors and species for which to consider sector limits, harvest guidelines, and harvest targets.
4. Review gear definitions including chafing gear, midwater gear, and selective flatfish gear, and recommend revisions as needed.
5. North of 40°10'N lat., consider requiring that vessels adhere to the more restrictive trip limits for the entire two-month cumulative period if more than one type of gear is used during the period (i.e., if selective flatfish trawl gear is used at any time during the period, then the selective flatfish trawl trip limits will apply for the entire period for all species).
6. Review of rockfish conservation areas (RCAs) coastwide and add boundaries as necessary.
7. Consider modifying the boundaries of the Cowcod Conservation Areas.
8. Consider use of hotspots for canary and/or yelloweye rockfish for recreational fisheries and the potential use of hotspots for commercial fisheries.
9. Consider mandatory release devices and/or gear modifications in the recreational fisheries.
10. Review discard mortality rates for groundfish species in the commercial and recreational fisheries, and recommend changes if there is supporting research to change it from status quo.
11. Consider a trip limit for lingcod with groundfish pot gear.
12. Consider implementing selective flatfish trawl gear south of 40°10'N latitude.

The GMT is aware that the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) has identified specific management measure alternatives for commercial and recreational fisheries. However, the GMT anticipated that a preliminary range of alternatives to address these items, and additional items identified through the public process, would be developed over the winter and presented at the April 2006 Council meeting. Therefore, if the Council chooses to approve a portion or all of the items on the GAP lists for public review, then the GMT recommends that this be identified as a minimum list, and not the full range of alternatives. The GMT also recommends that the Council pare down the list, to the extent possible, to exclude items which are likely outside of a reasonable range of alternatives.

Allocation Alternatives

As mentioned in the GMT report presented in September, the GMT recommends that the Council provide guidance to the Allocation Committee on the sideboards around the range of alternatives to be considered, primarily for items 2. and 3. listed above. Regarding item 2., which is commercial/recreational sharing alternatives for overfished species including canary and yelloweye, the GMT suggests the Council consider a range similar to what was considered for 2005-2006, which is:

60% comm./40% rec. (status quo for canary)
50% comm./50% rec. (status quo for yelloweye)
40% comm./60% rec.

The GMT believes that analyzing all three commercial/recreational sharing alternatives for canary and yelloweye represents a reasonable range.

With regard to item 3., which is identifying the sectors and species for which to consider sector limits, harvest guidelines, and harvest targets, the GMT offers the following recommendations:

1. Consider continuing bycatch limits for the non-tribal whiting fishery for canary and widow rockfish.
2. Consider continuing using separate harvest guidelines for recreational fisheries in the north (WA/OR combined), and the south (CA) for canary and yelloweye rockfish, and lingcod, with state-specific harvest targets.
3. Consider continuing separate harvest guidelines by state for recreational fisheries in the south for black rockfish.

The GMT also recommends that the Council provide the flexibility to the Allocation Committee to work with the GMT and GAP over the winter to further develop the range of management measures within the sideboards recommended above.

GMT Recommendations

1. Consider averaging the OY values for 2007 and 2008 and using the same value for each year as annual OYs with the understanding that the OYs would be capped at the ABC level should the average OY exceed the annual ABC.
2. Approve the preliminary range of ABCs and OYs for public review.
3. Provide guidance (if any) on the list of items the GMT has identified for consideration for 2007-2008.
4. Consider the list of management measure alternatives developed by the GAP and pare down the list, if possible.
5. Provide sideboards to the Allocation Committee regarding commercial/recreational sharing for canary and yelloweye rockfish (and other species, as needed).
6. Include bycatch limits for the non-tribal whiting fishery for canary and widow rockfish as alternatives for consideration.
7. Include status quo recreational harvest guidelines and harvest targets for consideration.
8. Provide flexibility to the Allocation Committee to work with the GMT and GAP to further develop the range of management measures within the sideboards identified.

TABLE 1. GMT-recommended alternatives for acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yields (OYs) (mt) for 2007. (Overfished stocks in CAPS).

Stock	No Action Alternative				2007 Action Alternatives								Council ABC a/	Council OY a/
	2005 ABC	2005 OY	2006 ABC	2006 OY	Alt 1 ABC	Alt 2 ABC	Alt 1 OY	Alt 2 OY	Alt 3 OY	Alt 4 OY	Alt 5 OY			
Lingcod - coastwide b/	2,922	2,414	2,716	2,414	6,706		6,706	6,492				6,706		
Columbia and US-Vanc. areas		1,694		1,694			5,830	5,830						
Eureka, Monterey, and Conception areas		719		719			876	662						
N. of 42 (OR & WA)		1,801		1,801			5,960	5,960						
S. of 42 (CA)		612		612			746	532						
Pacific Cod	3,200	1,600	3,200	1,600	3,200		1,600					3,200	1,600	
Pacific Whiting (Coastwide)	269,545	269,069	To be determined in March 2006		188,682	350,409	188,348	349,790				To be determined in March 2007		
Sablefish (Coastwide)	8,368	7,761	8,175	7,634	6,210		4,634	5,998				6,210	5,998	
N. of 36 (Monterey north)		7,486		7,363			4,470	5,785					5,785	
S. of 36 (Conception area)		275		271			164	213					213	
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	966	447	934	447	900		84	397	506	741		900	397	
Shortbelly Rockfish	13,900	13,900	13,900	13,900	13,900		13,900					13,900	13,900	
WIDOW ROCKFISH	3,218	285	3,059	289	5,334		0	322	447	903	1,352	5,334	447	
CANARY ROCKFISH c/	270	47	279	47	172		0	24	43	67		172	43	
Chillipepper Rockfish	2,700	2,000	2,700	2,000	2,700		2,000	2,700				2,700		
BOCACCIO	566	307	549	309	602		0	147	216	314	425	602		
Spitnose Rockfish	615	461	615	461	615		461					615	461	
Yellowtail Rockfish	3,896	3,896	3,681	3,681	4,585		4,585					4,585	4,585	
Shortspine Thornyhead - coastwide					2,488		1,655	2,488				2,488		
Shortspine Thornyhead - N. of 34deg27'	1,055	999	1,077	1,018			1,232	1,642						
Shortspine Thornyhead - S. of 34deg27'							423	846						
Longspine Thornyhead - coastwide	2,851	2,656	2,851	2,656	3,953		2,724	3,930				3,953		
Longspine Thornyhead - N. of 34deg27' d/		2,461		2,461			2,242	2,989						
Longspine Thornyhead - S. of 34deg27' d/		195		195			482	941						
COWCOD - S. of 36 (Conception area)	5	2.1	5	2.1	17		0	3	7	9	11	17		
COWCOD - Monterey area	19	2.1	19	2.1	19		0	3	7	9	11	19		
DARKBLOTCHED	269	269	294	294	456		0	130	219	317	456	456		
YELLOWEYE	54	26	55	27	47		0	12	17	21	24	47	17 or 21	
Nearshore Species														
Black Rockfish (WA)	540	540	540	540	540		540					540	540	
Black Rockfish (OR-CA)	753	753	736	736	725		725					725	725	
Minor Rockfish North	3,680	2,250	3,680	2,250	3,680		2,250	2,270	2,290			3,680		
Nearshore Species		122		122			122	142	162					
Shelf Species		968		968			968	968	968				968	
Slope Species		1,160		1,160			1,160	1,160	1,160				1,160	
Remaining Rockfish North	1,612	1,216	1,612	1,216	1,612		1,216							
Bocaccio	318	239	318	239	318		239							
Chillipepper - Eureka	32	32	32	32	32		32							
Redstripe	576	432	576	432	576		432							
Sharpchin	307	230	307	230	307		230							
Silvergrey	38	29	38	29	38		29							
Spitnose	242	182	242	182	242		182							
Yellowmouth	99	74	99	74	99		74							
Other Rockfish North	2,068	1,034	2,068	1,034	2,068		1,034							
Minor Rockfish South	3,412	1,968	3,412	1,968	3,403		1,753	1,855	1,898	2,006		3,403		
Nearshore Species		615		615			413	515	558	666				
Shelf Species		714		714			714	714	714	714			714	
Slope Species		639		639			626	626	626	626			626	
Remaining Rockfish South	854	689	854	689	854		689							
Bank	350	263	350	263	350		263							
Blackgill	343	305	343	305	292		292							
Gopher	97	48.5	97	48.5	302		48.5	151	227	302				
Sharpchin	45	34	45	34	45		34							
Yellowtail	116	87	116	87	116		87							
Other Rockfish South	2,558	1,279	2,558	1,279	2,558		1,279							
California scorpionfish	Not specified - managed as part of Minor RF				137	219	137	219						
Cabezon (off CA only)	103	69	108	69	94		69							
Dover Sole	8,522	7,476	8,589	7,564	28,522		16,500	28,522				28,522		
English Sole	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	6,773		6,773					6,773	6,773	
Petrale Sole (coastwide) b/	2,762	2,762	2,762	2,762	2,917		1,866	2,510	2,917			2,917		
Columbia and US-Vanc. areas							818	1,289	1,289					
Eureka, Monterey, and Conception areas							1,048	1,221	1,628					
N of 40deg10'							1,094	1,611	1,718					
S of 40deg10'							772	899	1,199					
Arrowtooth Flounder	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800		5,800					5,800	5,800	
Starry Flounder	Not specified - managed as part of Other Flatfish				1,221		854	1,138						
Other Flatfish	6,781	4,909	6,781	4,909	6,731		4,884					6,731	4,884	
Other Fish	14,600	7,300	14,600	7,300	14,600		7,300					14,600	7,300	
Kelp Greenling HG (OR)							No Fed HG	fed HG = state HG						

a/ Council ABC and Council OY represent the Council's preferred harvest alternative for 2007.

b/ Area OYs/HGs are stratified according to the assessment areas and alternatively adjusted by management areas for lingcod and petrale sole.

c/ The canary rockfish OY alternatives assume a 50:50 commercial:recreational catch share. The OY varies by the commercial:recreational catch share due to the fact that the recreational fishery takes smaller fish and therefore has a greater 'per ton' impact than the commercial fishery. Therefore, a higher OY would result from a higher commercial catch share.

d/ The No Action alternative OYs for 2005 and 2006 were specified north and south of 36 deg. N latitude. The GMT recommends specifying longspine thornyhead OYs north and south of 34 deg.27' N latitude. OY apportionment may change based on further analysis of survey catch rates.

TABLE 2. GMT-recommended alternatives for acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and total catch optimum yields (OYs) (mt) for 2008. (Overfished stocks in CAPS).

Stock	No Action Alternative				2008 Action Alternatives								Council ABC a/	Council OY a/
	2005 ABC	2005 OY	2006 ABC	2006 OY	Alt 1 ABC	Alt 2 ABC	Alt 1 OY	Alt 2 OY	Alt 3 OY	Alt 4 OY	Alt 5 OY			
Lingcod - coastwide b/	2,922	2,414	2,716	2,414	5,853		5,853	5,683					5,853	
Columbia and US-Vanc. areas							5,025	5,025						
Eureka, Monterey, and Conception areas							828	658						
N. of 42 (OR & WA)							5,155	5,155						
S. of 42 (CA)							698	528						
Pacific Cod	3,200	1,600	3,200	1,600	3,200		1,600						3,200	1,600
Pacific Whiting (Coastwide)	269,545	269,069	To be determined in March 2006		188,682	350,409	188,348	349,790					To be determined in March 2007	
Sablefish (Coastwide)	8,368	7,761	8,175	7,634	6,058		4,513	5,869					6,058	5,869
N. of 36 (Monterey north)		7,486		7,363			4,353	5,661						5,661
S. of 36 (Conception area)		275		271			160	208						208
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	966	447	934	447	911		0	89	412	522	756		911	412
Shortbelly Rockfish	13,900	13,900	13,900	13,900	13,900		13,900						13,900	13,900
WIDOW ROCKFISH	3,218	285	3,059	289	5,144		0	335	464	931	1,385		5,144	464
N. of 36 (Monterey north)		47		47	179		0	25	45	69				45
CANARY ROCKFISH c/	2,700	2,000	2,700	2,000	2,700		2,000	2,700					2,700	
Chilipepper Rockfish	2,700	2,000	2,700	2,000	2,700		2,000	2,700					2,700	
BOCACCIO	566	307	549	309	618		0	150	219	316	422		618	
Spitnose Rockfish	615	461	615	461	615		461						615	461
Yellowtail Rockfish	3,896	3,896	3,681	3,681	4,510		4,510						4,510	4,510
Shortspine Thornyhead - coastwide	1,055	999	1,077	1,018	2,463		1,666	2,463					2,463	
Shortspine Thornyhead - N. of 34deg27'							1,247	1,626						
Shortspine Thornyhead - S. of 34deg27'							419	837						
Longspine Thornyhead - coastwide	2,851	2,656	2,851	2,656	3,860		2,668	3,930					3,860	
Longspine Thornyhead - N. of 34deg27' d/		2,461		2,461			2,198	2,989						
Longspine Thornyhead - S. of 34deg27' d/		195		195			470	941						
COWCOD - S. of 36 (Conception area)	5	2.1	5	2.1	17		0	4	7	9	11		17	
COWCOD - N. of 36 (Monterey area)	19	2.1	19	2.1	19		0	4	7	9	11		19	
DARKBLOTCHED	269	269	294	294	487		0	130	238	343	487		487	
YELLOWWEYE	54	26	55	27	47		0	12	17	21	24		47	17 or 21
Nearshore Species														
Black WA	540	540	540	540	540		540						540	540
Black OR-CA	753	753	736	736	719		719						719	
Minor Rockfish North	3,680	2,250	3,680	2,250			2,250	2,270	2,290					
Nearshore Species		122		122			122	142	162					
Shelf Species		968		968	968		968	968	968					968
Slope Species		1,160		1,160	1,160		1,160	1,160	1,160					1,160
Remaining Rockfish North	1,612	1,216	1,612	1,216	1,612		1,216							
Bocaccio	318	239	318	239	318		239							
Chilipepper - Eureka	32	32	32	32	32		32							
Redstripe	576	432	576	432	576		432							
Sharpchin	307	230	307	230	307		230							
Silvergrey	38	29	38	29	38		29							
Spitnose	242	182	242	182	242		182							
Yellowmouth	99	74	99	74	99		74							
Other Rockfish North	2,068	1,034	2,068	1,034	2,068		1,034							
Minor Rockfish South	3,412	1,968	3,412	1,968	3,403		1,753	1,855	1,898	2,006				
Nearshore Species		615		615			413	515	558	666				
Shelf Species		714		714			714	714	714	714				714
Slope Species		639		639			626	626	626	626				626
Remaining Rockfish South	854	689	854	689	854		689							
Bank	350	263	350	263	350		263							
Blackgill	343	306	343	306	292		292							
Gopher	97	48.5	97	48.5	302		48.5	151	227	302				
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Yellowtail	116	87	116	87	116		87							
Other Rockfish South	2,558	1,279	2,558	1,279	2,558		1,279							
California scorpionfish	Not specified - managed as part of Minor RF South				137	219	137	219						
Cabazon (off CA only)	103	69	108	69	94		69						94	69
Dover Sole	8,522	7,476	8,589	7,564	26,442		16,500	28,442					28,442	
English Sole	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	5,701		5,701						5,701	5,701
Petrale Sole	2,762	2,762	2,762	2,762	2,919		1,976	2,488	2,849				2,919	
Columbia and US-Vanc. areas							1,001	1,405	1,405					
Eureka, Monterey, and Conception areas							975	1,083	1,444					
N. of 40deg10'							1,258	1,691	1,786					
S. of 40deg10'							718	797	1,063					
Arrowtooth Flounder	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800		5,800						5,800	5,800
Starry Flounder	Not specified - managed as part of Other Flatfish				1,395		926	1,234						
Other Flatfish	6,781	4,909	6,781	4,909	6,731		4,884						6,731	4,884
Other Fish	14,600	7,300	14,600	7,300	14,600		7,300						14,600	7,300
Kelp Greenling HG (OR)							No Fed HG	Fed HG = State HG						

a/ Council OY is the Council's preferred harvest alternative for 2008.

b/ Area OYs/HGs are stratified according to the assessment areas and alternatively adjusted by management areas for lingcod and petrale sole.

c/ The canary rockfish OY alternatives assume a 50:50 commercial:recreational catch share. The OY varies by the commercial:recreational catch share due to the fact that the recreational fishery takes smaller fish and therefore has a greater "per ton" impact than the commercial fishery. Therefore, a higher OY would result from a higher commercial catch share.

d/ The No Action alternative OYs for 2005 and 2006 were specified north and south of 36 deg. N latitude. The GMT recommends specifying longspine thornyhead OYs north and south of 34 deg.27' N latitude. OY apportionment may change based on further analysis of survey catch rates.

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