

HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2009-2010 FISHERIES

The Council decided a schedule and process for developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine 2009-2010 groundfish harvest specifications (acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and optimum yields (OYs) for groundfish species and species complexes) and management measures at their June 2007 meeting (Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1). That schedule and process calls for the Council to decide 2009 and 2010 groundfish harvest specifications, as well as a range of 2009-2010 management measures at this meeting. Last November, the Council adopted the 2009-2010 ABCs recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and a range of OYs for further analysis (Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 2). They also decided to consider revisions to adopted rebuilding plans for at least three of the seven west coast overfished groundfish species (canary rockfish, cowcod, and darkblotched rockfish) as recommended by the SSC (Agenda Item H.1.a, November 2007 SSC Report on Rebuilding Analyses).

The Council is tasked with deciding three actions related to EIS considerations this week: 1) preliminary adoption of revised rebuilding plans, including OYs and target rebuilding years, for canary rockfish, cowcod, and darkblotched rockfish; 2) adoption of final preferred 2009-2010 ABCs and OYs for the rest of the groundfish species and species complexes; and 3) adoption of a range of 2009-2010 groundfish management measure alternatives for analysis that are designed to stay within final preferred OYs. The first two actions are contemplated under this agenda item and the third action has been separated into two steps as Agenda Items H.5 and H.7 on Thursday and Saturday, respectively.

Tables 2-1a and 2-1b in Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 2, depict 2009-2010 ABCs and a range of OYs for all groundfish species and species complexes. The preliminary preferred OYs for most of the overfished rockfish and revised target rebuilding years for canary rockfish, cowcod, and darkblotched rockfish decided by the Council last November are provided in the far right columns in Tables 2-1a and 2-1b. Table 2-2 in Attachment 2 provides the scientific basis for each OY alternative. Table 2-3 and Figure 2-2 in Attachment 2 depict the trade-off between OY alternatives for overfished species versus the predicted duration of rebuilding from 2007 rebuilding analyses.

Rebuilding plans must meet the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act mandate to rebuild overfished stocks in as short a time as possible, while taking into account the status and biology of the overfished species, the socioeconomic needs of west coast fishing communities, and the interaction of the overfished stocks within the marine ecosystem. Analyses of EIS alternatives are designed to demonstrate the short and long-term costs, benefits, and tradeoffs associated with alternative rebuilding plans.

The Council should consider the advice of the SSC, other Council advisors, and the public before deciding final preferred 2009-2010 OYs.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt Preliminary Revised Rebuilding Plans for At Least Three Overfished Species, including OYs for 2009-2010, a Harvest Strategy, and Target Rebuilding Time (T_{TARGET}).**
2. **Adopt Final Preferred 2009-2010 ABCs and OYs for All Other Appropriate Groundfish Species and Species Complexes.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1: Pacific Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service Schedule and Process for Developing 2009-2010 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures.
2. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 2: Tables and Graphics Relevant to Deciding 2009-2010 Groundfish Harvest Specifications.
3. Agenda Item H.1.a, November 2007 SSC Report on Rebuilding Analyses: Scientific and Statistical Committee Report on Rebuilding Analyses for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. State, Tribal, and Federal Agency Recommendations
 - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comments
 - e. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) and Optimum Yields (OYs), and Preliminary Revised Rebuilding Plans for Overfished Species
- John DeVore

PFMC
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