Pacific Council News

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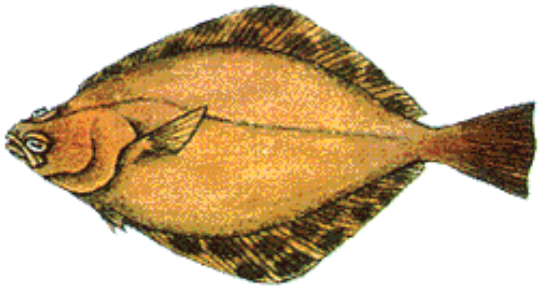
Based on New Data, Petrale Sole to be Declared Overfished

A new West Coast petrale sole assessment done this year indicates the stock's spawning biomass has been depleted to 11.6% of its estimated virgin (unfished) biomass (i.e., $B_{11.6\%}$). The assessment, conducted by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, used catch records dating back to 1876 and indicated the stock has been at an overfished level for almost 60 years. However, the assessment also estimated the biomass that produces maximum sustained yield (B_{MSY}) to be 19% of virgin biomass (or $B_{19\%}$), and the total harvest has annually averaged the estimated MSY for the past 60 years. Under the Council's proxy management reference points for groundfish, the stock is considered overfished.



The assessment results called into question the proxy reference points used to manage the stock. The Council's current reference points apply equally to petrale (a very productive stock) and to long-lived rockfish species with very low productivity. Using those reference points, the biomass that produces maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}) for all groundfish is 40% of the estimated virgin biomass ($B_{40\%}$), and the overfished threshold is 25% of virgin biomass ($B_{25\%}$).

The Council asked the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to investigate using the estimated B_{MSY} from the assessment ($B_{19\%}$) as a management target for petrale sole. The SSC did not recommend using the estimated B_{MSY}, citing uncertainty associated with that estimate. However,

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Albacore Fishing May Need to be Limited, NMFS States

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has asked the Council to consider developing a framework to limit West Coast fishing effort for albacore tuna. NMFS made the request at the Council's November meeting as part of a report that discussed maintaining or limiting fishing effort by the West Coast albacore fishery.

The concern about increases in fishing effort is related to international conservation measures adopted by both the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. The NMFS report, which reviews the status and biology of the North Pacific albacore stock and describes fisheries catching albacore in the North Pacific, describes several approaches that might be considered to limit effort. These include "input/output" controls such as fishing seasons, catch limits, closed areas, and gear restrictions; limited access programs; and limited access privilege programs (LAPPs).

Most West Coast fishermen are familiar with limited access, commonly referred to as "limited entry." This approach limits fishing effort by creating a fixed number of permits; in order to engage in a particular fishing activity—such as fishing for albacore—a person must obtain a permit. A LAPP generally involves conferring a privilege to an individual to catch a fixed amount. Individual fishing quotas and fishery co-operatives are two types of rights-based management familiar to the Council due to the recently completed groundfish trawl rationalization program, scheduled for implementation in 2011.

After hearing the report, the Council asked the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to review the report and gather information to support formal consideration of a limited entry program at a future Council meeting.

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Groundfish News

Process for 2011-2012 Groundfish Management Begins

The November meeting marked the initiation of the Council harvest specifications and management measures decision making process for the 2011-2012 groundfish fisheries. The Council adopted a range of optimum yield (OY)/annual catch limit (ACL) alternatives recommended by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) for analysis (see article, page 5). The Council adopted the following list of management measures and issues for analysis:

Overarching Issues: Ensure consistency with Amendment 23: Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures; develop a petrale sole rebuilding plan and corresponding management measures; analyze impacts to protected resources using best available science; revise selected coordinates of rockfish conservation area (RCA) boundaries for trawl and fixed gear to more closely approximate depth contours; conduct hot spot/cold spot analyses for canary and yelloweye rockfish for potential groundfish fishing areas or closures (e.g., RCAs) for both commercial and recreational fisheries; include in the definitions section, the sablefish dressed weight definition; and implement sorting requirements for species that have management targets.

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS): Evaluate gear stowage requirements for fixed gear vessels transiting closed areas; evaluate VMS technologies to allow drifting by limited entry and open access vessels; and reconvene the Ad Hoc Vessel Monitoring System Committee to discuss VMS issues related to the trawl rationalization program.

Pacific Whiting: For the new tribal Pacific whiting fisheries, analyze projected impacts to overfished species and the associated management implications in coordination with the tribes; and analyze non-treaty midwater trawl trip limits within the primary season for non-whiting species, which would allow vessel payment up to a species-specific trip limit.

Limited Entry Non-Whiting Trawl: analyze management measures for the limited entry trawl fishery as a contingency plan in the event trawl rationalization is implemented later than January 1, 2011; compare current trawl gear regulations with the specifications used during applicable trawl bycatch reduction studies, and determine whether regulatory flexibility can be provided to allow the trawl fleet to develop bycatch reduction modifications necessary to succeed in a rationalized fishery; analyze new limited entry trawl latitudinal management lines south of 40°10' N. latitude, which may reduce overfished species impacts, while increasing fishing opportunities in other areas; and analyze size limits for lingcod.

Fixed Gear Fisheries: Examine size limits and removing the spawning closure for lingcod; for Oregon, analyze management measures for cabezon; for California, modify the gear description for other flatfish hook and line gear to align with recreational regulations; for California, analyze the impacts of allowing fishing within 100 fm of Catalina Island; for the limited entry fixed gear sablefish program, analyze changes to the ownership and control calculation similar to those proposed under the Amendment 20: Trawl Rationalization.

All Recreational Fisheries: Analyze lingcod size limits.

Oregon Recreational Fisheries: Analyze the impacts of groundfish retention in the Oregon all-depth Pacific halibut fishery, and analyze management measures for cabezon.

California Recreational Fisheries: develop a long leader recreational fishery seaward of 150 fm in California, similar to activities conducted under the Recreational Fishing Alliance and Golden Gate Fishermen's Association exempted fishing permit (see article, page 4); analyze removing the lingcod spawning closure; consider exempting flatfish from the groundfish depth and season closures; modify regulations regarding filleting at sea and fillet lengths for federal groundfish species, which would assist dockside species identification; analyze the impacts of allowing fishing within 100 fm of Catalina Island; and analyze changes to the depth restriction as well as retention of shelf and slope rockfish in the Cowcod Conservation Areas.

The Council recommended that the following items be considered as lower priority. Depending on workload, these items may not be analyzed in the 2011-2012 specifications process:

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Groundfish News

Council Recommends Inseason Adjustments to Groundfish Fisheries

At its November meeting, the Council recommended adjustments to the upcoming 2010 groundfish fisheries as described below.

Tribal Fisheries

Based on comments made by the Makah Indian Tribe, the Council recommended that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) increase the tribal black rockfish harvest guideline for the area north of Cape Alava from 20,000 lb to 30,000 lb, and modify the tribal widow rockfish landing limit to no more than 10 percent of the cumulative weight of yellowtail rockfish for a given vessel throughout the year. The Makah are developing a live fish fishery and they anticipate the need for increased access to black rockfish. With regard to widow rockfish, the current limit is 10 percent of the amount of yellowtail rockfish in each landing by weight. The Council-recommended widow rockfish limit, which is no more than 10 percent of the cumulative weight of yellowtail rockfish for a given vessel throughout the year, is intended to provide flexibility in pursuing yellowtail rockfish, while staying within the tribal set-aside.

Recreational Fisheries

The Council modified the 2010 Pacific halibut catch sharing plan to allow lingcod retention in the Washington Pacific halibut recreational fishery south coast subarea, deeper than 30 fm (see article, page 7).

Fixed Gear Fisheries

The Council recommended the following changes to the fixed gear fisheries, effective January 1, or as soon as possible in 2010, through the remainder of the year. The NMFS Northwest Region indicated that due to year-end workload issues, these recommendations will not likely be implemented until March 1, 2010 (period 2).

Council members deliberate at the November 2009 meeting in Costa Mesa, California. Photo: Don McIsaac.

1. Increase limits for the limited entry fixed gear sablefish daily trip limit fishery north of 36° N. latitude to a cumulative weekly landing limit of 1,750 lb (i.e., more than one landing is allowed per week) not to exceed 7,000 lb/2 months, with no daily limit.

2. For the area between 40°10 N. latitude and 42° N. latitude, increase the limited entry and open access fixed gear minor nearshore limit to 7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish.

Interim Adjustments for Canary Rockfish and Petrale Sole

The Council evaluated alternatives in the NMFS environmental assessment for management of petrale sole and canary rockfish, and the rebuilding analyses to determine whether adjustments to the optimum yields (OYs) for these species were necessary in 2010. Ordinarily, the Council does not incorporate information from new stock assessments until the beginning of a biennial management cycle, which in this case begins in 2011. However, due to significant changes in our understanding of stock status and productivity since the last assessment cycle, the Council considered interim adjustments to harvest specifications for these two species. In particular, the worsening status of the canary rockfish stock and its current designation as an overfished species warranted a closer look. Also, the unexpected decline in the petrale sole status warranted a precautionary adjustment as soon as possible (see article, page 1).

A rebuilding analysis indicated that canary rockfish are rebuilding nearly on schedule. The analysis showed only a single year difference in the time to rebuild between the low OY alternatives (44 and 85 mt) and the status quo alternative (105 mt). Given the importance of canary rockfish to both commercial and recreational fisheries and the relatively minimal change in the time to rebuild, the Council recommended that the 2010 canary rockfish OY remain at 105 mt. For the 2011-2012 management cycle, the Council announced a preliminary range of alternatives for a revised canary rockfish rebuilding plan (see article on previous page).

The latest petrale sole stock assessment and newly adopted reference points indicate an overfished status designation for the first time for this stock (see article, page 1). Maintaining harvest at the 2010 OY level would reduce biomass further. The petrale sole rebuilding analysis showed that OY reductions taken in 2010 could help prevent larger reductions in the future (e.g., 2011-2012). As such, the Council recommended reducing the 2010 petrale sole OY to 1,200 mt, effective January 1, 2010. Further, the Council recommended providing for a year-round petrale sole opportunity while constraining catch to within 1,200 mt (see Tables 1 and 2, page 15). The petrale sole OY decrease, trip limit reductions, and modifications to the trawl rockfish conservation area are expected to be in place January 1, 2010.

The Council proposed increases to target species in an attempt to offset some of the loss in petrale sole opportunities, while maintaining projected overfished species impacts at levels similar to status quo. In

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Groundfish News

Six Groundfish Exempted Fishing Permits Adopted for 2010

In November, the Council adopted six groundfish exempted fishing permits (EFPs) proposed for 2010. The six EFPs adopted by the Council and recommended to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for 2010 implementation are as follows:

- An EFP designed to test a trolled longline strategy to selectively harvest abundant chilipepper rockfish off central California;
- An EFP designed to test the effectiveness of a regional fishing association in Morro Bay and Port San Luis to manage a groundfish fishery using hook-and-line and trap gears in central California using limited entry trawl permits purchased by The Nature Conservancy. The Council recommended a petrale sole bycatch cap reduced from the requested 6 metric tons (mt) by the proportional reduction of the 2010 petrale sole OY or 2 mt, whichever is higher. Under the inseason adjustments decision, the Council decided to reduce the 2010 petrale sole OY from 2,393 mt to 1,200 mt (see article, page 1). Therefore, the petrale sole bycatch cap for this EFP is 3 mt;
- An EFP designed to test floated, long leader gear to selectively harvest yellowtail rockfish by Oregon charterboats in waters deeper than 40 fm off Oregon;
- An EFP designed to test the use of recreational hook-and-line gear to catch underutilized chilipepper rockfish on Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels seaward of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) in waters off California between Pt. Conception and 40°10' N latitude. The Council recommends allowing five hooks per angler if the NMFS analysis needed to implement this revision is not a significant workload;
- An EFP sponsored by ODFW to allow selected Oregon charterboats to retain incidentally-caught yelloweye rockfish to be forfeited to the state. The objective of this EFP is to collect biological samples to inform future yelloweye assessments; and
- An EFP to prosecute the 2010 shoreside whiting fishery. The Council requested NMFS staff collaborate with the Groundfish Management Team to specify trip limits for incidentally caught lingcod, minor slope rockfish (including darkblotched), minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly rockfish, widow rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, Pacific cod, and sablefish for the 2010 shoreside whiting fishery. The EFP requires maximized retention of all species caught, but the value up to the specified trip limits of the incidentally caught species listed above would go to the fishermen.

The Council requested interim progress reports next November for all EFPs requested to span multiple calendar years (i.e., 12 month EFPs that start later than January next year). Bycatch caps (mt) of overfished groundfish species for each of the recommended EFPs, other than the shoreside whiting EFP, are shown below.

EFP	Bocaccio	Canary	Cowcod	Darkblotched	POP	Widow	Yelloweye
Trolled longline for chilipepper in CA	3.300	0.027	0.015	0.400	*	3.000	0.005
Morro Bay/Port San Luis regional fishing assoc.	5.000	0.023	0.200	1.000	0.136	2.000	0.068
OR recreational yellowtail	*	1.000	*	*	*	3.000	0.200
CA recreational chilipepper	2.700	0.200	0.023	0.100	*	3.000	0.023
ODFW yelloweye	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.060
Total all EFP's	**11.000**	**1.250**	**0.237**	**1.500**	**0.136**	**11.000**	**0.356**

Note: "*" = no proposed EFP cap.

Trawl Rationalization: Council Modifies Canary Quota Share Allocation; Draft EIS to be Published

In November, the Council decided to modify the initial allocation formula for canary quota shares (QS) for the shoreside trawl fishery after reviewing information on the initial distribution of canary QS, in particular the geographic distribution of those shares.

The portion of the canary QS associated with the buyback permits (approximately 45%) will be distributed equally among all permits, instead of proportionally based on target species QS and bycatch rates. Revised estimates of the amount of QS going to each permit are posted on the Council website. The Council also indicated its intent that onboard fishery observers prioritize data collection necessary for implementing the trawl rationalization program, and communicate program compliance problems to law enforcement personnel.

The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on trawl rationalization (Amendment 20) was published on December 4, 2009 and is posted on the Council website. A letter accompanying the draft EIS provides information on where to submit comments; the comment deadline is January 19, 2010.

The Council website provides a calendar and status report on the Council's process for submitting Amendment 20 recommendations to NMFS for approval, and, if approved, for implementation.

The Council is scheduled to review the draft regulations at its March meeting in Sacramento, and later in the spring, to submit its recommendations and draft regulations to NMFS for final approval.

This schedule currently calls for implementation of trawl rationalization by the beginning of 2011.

Groundfish News

Council Works to Finalize Groundfish Amendment to Address New National Standard 1 Guidelines

In November, the Council provided guidance on finalizing groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) Amendment 23, which seeks to incorporate new National Standard 1 guidelines for preventing overfishing. The guidelines introduce new fishery management concepts including overfishing limits (OFLs), an acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limits (ACLs), annual catch targets (ACTs), and accountability measures (AMs) that are designed to better account for scientific and management uncertainty and to prevent overfishing.

The new terms and concepts recommended in the National Standard 1 guidelines used the West Coast groundfish FMP as a template. For instance, our current ABC control rule defines the overfishing limit, and the new OFL is defined exactly the same way. Likewise, our current OY has been used in groundfish management as an annual total catch limit since 1999, and is directly analogous to the new ACL. The figure below compares the terms in our current harvest specification framework with those proposed in the Amendment 23 harvest specification framework.

The Council reviewed draft amendatory language in November and requested simpler framework language under Amendment 23 that is not overly prescriptive, yet still comports to the revised guidelines. The Council is scheduled to select a preliminary preferred alternative for the amendment at their March 2010 meetirng, and to select a final alternative in June. The Groundfish Management Team and Scientific and Statistical Subcommittee will meet early next year, before the March Council meeting, to further develop their recommendations for finalizing Amendment 23.

Current Harvest Specification Framework		Am. 23 Harvest Specification Framework	
Acceptable biological catch (ABC)	Overfishing Limit	Overfishing limit (OFL)	Overfishing Limit
Optimum yield (OY)	Buffer accommodates scientific uncertainty, management uncertainty, socioeconomic concerns, rebuilding concerns, etc.	Acceptable biological catch (ABC)	Buffer accommodates scientific uncertainty
		Annual catch limit (ACL)	Buffer accommodates management uncertainty, socioeconomic concerns, rebuilding concerns, etc.
Harvest guideline (HG)	Buffer accommodates ad hoc sector allocations and other management objectives	Annual catch target (ACT)	Buffer could accommodate inseason catch monitoring uncertainty, ad hoc sector allocations and other management objectives

Council Chooses Range of Groundfish Annual Catch Limits to be Analyzed for 2011-2012 Fisheries

In November, the Council chose a range of annual catch limits (ACLs) for 2011 and 2012 fisheries (tables, pages 18-19) in order to comply with new Magnuson Act National Standard 1 guidelines for setting and managing harvest specifications (see article above).

The National Standard 1 guidelines require the following new harvest thresholds: an overfishing limit (OFL), which is the level of harvest corresponding to the fishing rate predicted to result in maximum sustainable yield; an acceptable biological catch (ABC), which is set below the overfishing limit and incorporates a scientific uncertainty buffer; and an annual catch limit (ACL), which is set equal to or below the ABC and is analogous to the current optimum yield specification (see table above). Further catch buffers may be considered for other reasons.

A longspine thornyhead in Astoria Canyon (photo: NOAA).

The data informing each ACL alternative was derived from new or past assessments for non-overfished stocks, and from new rebuilding analyses for overfished stocks. In some cases, the highest ACLs are projected to be the same as the overfishing limit for a given stock. Given that ABCs have yet to be specified for these stocks, and will be lower than the stocks' overfishing limits, those ACLs will be lower than shown in the tables, since an ACL cannot exceed an ABC.

The Council has yet to decide the ACL alternatives for groundfish species complexes pending analysis by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The ABCs for stocks and complexes have also yet to be decided pending final SSC recommendations on scientific uncertainty buffers. The GMT will meet in January to finalize their analyses. These analyses will be evaluated by the SSC in a subsequent meeting to be scheduled before the March Council meeting. The Council is scheduled to decide on final 2011-12 harvest specifications at their April meeting.

Groundfish News

Four Rockfish Stocks Rebuilding Faster than Expected; Three Slightly Delayed

In November, the Council adopted new rebuilding analyses for bocaccio, canary rockfish, cowcod, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, widow rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, and petrale sole for use in management decision-making for 2011-2012 groundfish fisheries. Rebuilding analyses are used to consider modifications to existing rebuilding plans and to set overfished species harvest amounts during the rebuilding period in order to rebuild the stock in as short a time as possible while avoiding disastrous short-term impacts to fishing communities.

The new rebuilding analyses for the seven overfished rockfish stocks with existing rebuilding plans indicate all stocks are rebuilding. Four of the seven stocks (**bocaccio, cowcod, darkblotched rockfish**, and **widow rockfish**) are rebuilding faster than anticipated under their rebuilding plans. **Yelloweye rockfish** is slightly behind schedule; however, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) does not recommend modifying the rebuilding plan since it is highly probable the stock will rebuild within the prescribed time.

Two of the stocks (**canary rockfish** and **Pacific ocean perch**) are rebuilding behind schedule, and their rebuilding plans will need to be modified. The discrepancy is due to fundamental revisions in our understanding of the stocks' productivity. The canary rockfish result was driven by a revised catch history for the stock, where historical California catches were lower than previously estimated. The Pacific ocean perch assessment result was driven by revised estimates of stock productivity and depletion arising from two Northwest Fisheries Science Center survey indices that were low in 2007 and 2008. The target years for both of these stock rebuilding plans will need to be revised based on these results.

A new rebuilding analysis for **petrale sole** was also adopted. While it was not clear if the stock would be declared overfished until the November decision on petrale sole management reference points (see article, page 1), a rebuilding analysis was needed to cover that eventuality. The rebuilding analysis was also used to change the 2010 petrale sole optimum yield (OY), given the stock's status and the need to understand the range of future harvests that could be considered for rebuilding the stock.

All of these rebuilding analyses will be used in creating 2011-12 harvest specifications. Further analysis will be done this winter and presented to the Council next April, when the Council is scheduled to choose their preferred alternative for 2011-12 harvest specifications. The range of adopted petrale sole annual catch limits or OYs from that rebuilding analysis will be further analyzed in a draft rebuilding plan that will be developed in concert with the 2011-12 specifications and presented in an environmental impact statement next year.

Enforcement Corner

Operation Safe Crab: On Tuesday, November 24, Council Member Rear Admiral Gary Blore, Thirteenth Coast Guard District Commander (above), personally conducted inspections of commercial fishing vessels prior to the beginning of the Dungeness Crab fishing season off Oregon and Washington.

These safety spot checks and voluntary dockside exams are part of Operation Safe Crab, the Coast Guard's continuing initiative to reduce the number of fisherman's lives lost at sea. Commercial Dungeness Crab vessels operate in some of the winter's worst weather, in hazardous waters and have the highest fatality rate of any West Coast fishery.

Admiral Blore and other Coast Guard examiners checked for watertight integrity, primary lifesaving equipment and reviewed pot loading practices on vessels in port. Spot checks included survival suits, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs,) and liferafts, ensuring these critical safety items were ready for use in an emergency.

Similar safety checks in previous years found that between one-quarter and one-third of EPIRBs and liferafts were installed improperly.

Coincidental Contact: While off duty this November, WDFW Officer Greg Haw observed an occupied disabled vehicle. It was hidden from view during a very severe storm on the Old Olympic Highway in Thurston County, Washington. When Officer Haw offered assistance, the two occupants stated that they were stranded and needed help. A local power outage, darkness, high winds and heavy rain added to their plight. Officer Haw arranged for their rescue. During the subsequent conversation, one of the men advised Officer Haw that on the same day, he was a defendant in a Mason County jury trial that had ended in a "hung jury." He had been tried for salmon snagging. He and his companion had been arrested for snagging by WDFW undercover officers in September. The second man is scheduled for his own jury trial in December. During the following good-natured conversation, which focused on the apparent irony of being assisted by a "Game Warden" so soon after being questioned at trial,

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Salmon and Halibut News

2010 Annual Regulations for Halibut; Changes to Catch Sharing Plan

In November, the Council adopted the following changes to the Area 2A Pacific halibut catch sharing plan affecting Oregon and Washington sport fisheries:

Washington South Coast Sub-area

- *Continue the Sunday, Tuesday primary season structure through the third week in May.*

For the fourth week in May, the primary fishery will be open on Sunday only. Beginning the following week, the fishery would resume the Sunday, Tuesday structure until the primary season quota is attained.

Revising the days open per week balances the harvest opportunity between those who like to fish on weekends and those who like to fish weekdays. Having the fourth week open only on Sunday allows WDFW to tally the catch and provide sufficient notice of a reopener the following week, if quota is available.

- *Specify that the season will be open in the nearshore area seven days per week.*

Increasing the number of days that the nearshore fishery is open during the primary season and after the offshore quota is reached allows better access to the set-aside quota and reduces the amount of incidentally caught halibut that would otherwise be discarded.

- *Revise the nearshore area to align the northern and western boundaries with the line approximating the 30 fathom (fm) depth restriction.*

Currently, the nearshore boundary and the 30-fm line overlap. Aligning the nearshore boundary with the 30-fm line promotes ease of compliance and enforcement. There don't appear to be target areas for halibut within the revised boundaries, so this area would remain an incidental retention opportunity for halibut.

- *On days that the primary halibut season is open, allow the retention of lingcod seaward of the 30-fm line.*

The 30-fm restriction is in place primarily for the protection of yelloweye rockfish; however, during days that the primary halibut season was open, anglers were required to discard lingcod caught while targeting halibut offshore without encountering yelloweye rockfish. Those same anglers then moved shoreward of 30 fms only to catch smaller lingcod or no lingcod at all. WDFW accounts for incidental yelloweye catches associated with the halibut fishery under current management and this change is not expected to increase yelloweye harvest above current estimates. In any event, WDFW will monitor Washington's yelloweye harvest, and will take inseason action as appropriate to ensure our harvest target is not exceeded.

Oregon Central Coast Subarea

- *Adjust the number of open days per week in the summer all-depth fishery from Friday through Sunday to Friday and Saturday.*

In 2009 the harvest during the August 7-9 three day all-depth opening exceeded the remaining sub-area quota, requiring closure of both the all-depth fishery and the inside 40-fm fishery. Reducing the summer all-depth fishery from three to two days per opening is intended to extend the duration of the all-depth fishery and help prevent the same situation from occurring in 2010.

Model Evaluation Workgroup Looks at Influence of Mark-Selective Fisheries on Wild Salmon Mortality

The Model Evaluation workgroup (MEW) met this fall to discuss changes to the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM).

In the FRAM, wild fish were assumed to experience the same levels of fishery-related mortality as hatchery fish. However, with the advent of mark-selective fisheries, this basic assumption was violated, as unmarked fish are released while marked fish are retained and removed from the population. Therefore, unmarked fish can be subjected to multiple encounters in fisheries, each time with an associated hook and release mortality rate. As a result, a bias in the estimated unmarked fish mortality rate was introduced.

The MEW was able to characterize this bias, and developed a method to account for the bias in the coho model, although it has not yet been able to incorporate the modification into the Coho FRAM.

The Council directed the MEW to modify the Coho FRAM and report their evaluation to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Salmon Technical Team (STT) prior to the March Council meeting. The STT may consider use of the modified Coho FRAM for development of Preseason Report I if modification and evaluation are sufficiently complete. The Council will consider final approval of the modified Coho FRAM at the March Council meeting, before developing salmon management options for 2010.

The modification of Chinook FRAM will require more effort because of the multiple age-classes present in Chinook populations. For 2010, the Council approved using Chinook mark-selective fisheries harvest rate limitations of 10 percent per fishery time step (May-June, and July-September) and 30 percent in total, a tactic based on SSC recommendations intended to result in model bias being held to low levels. It is hoped that Chinook FRAM can be modified and evaluated in time for 2011 fisheries.

The Council approved adoption of updated conservation objectives for Puget Sound coho stocks that will result in consistent annual management objectives under the Council's salmon fishery management plan (FMP) and the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Salmon FMP already allows Puget Sound and Washington Coastal stocks to be managed under annual objectives that

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Salmon News

Preseason Salmon Management Schedule for 2010 Released

The preseason management schedule for 2010 salmon management has been set.

Public Hearings

The Council will sponsor season option hearings at the following locations and dates: Westport, Washington (March 29); Coos Bay, Oregon (March 29); Eureka, California (March 30). Other state-sponsored meetings will be considered at the March 2010 Council meeting.

The Council schedule and process for developing 2010 ocean salmon management measures is described below:

October 30-November 5, 2009. The Council and advisory entities met at the Hilton Orange County, Costa Mesa, California, to consider any changes to conservation objectives or methodologies used in the development of abundance projections or regulatory options.

January 19-22, 2010. The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and a NMFS economist meet in Portland, Oregon to draft Review of 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. This report summarizes seasons, quotas, harvest, escapement, socioeconomic statistics, achievement of management goals, and impacts on species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

February 16-19. STT meets in Portland, Oregon to complete *Preseason Report I Stock Abundance Analysis for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries*. This report provides key salmon stock abundance estimates and level of precision, harvest and escapement estimates when recent regulatory regimes are projected on 2010 abundance, and other pertinent information to aid development of management options.

Native method of drying salmon, Unalaska, Alaska, 1895. Photo: Stefan Claesson (NOAA Photo Library).

February 20 through March 5. State and tribal agencies hold constituent meetings to review preseason abundance projections and range of probable fishery options.

February 25. Council reports summarizing the 2009 salmon season and salmon stock abundance projections for 2010 are available to the public from the Council office.

March 6-11. Council and advisory entities meet at the DoubleTree Hotel Sacramento, California, to adopt 2010 regulatory options for public review. The Council addresses inseason action for fisheries opening prior to May 1 and adopts preliminary options on March 8, adopts tentative options for STT analysis on March 9, and final options for public review on March 11.

March 15-19. The STT completes *Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries*.

March 17 though April 8. Management agencies, tribes, and public develop their final recommendations for the regulatory options. North of Cape Falcon Forum meetings are scheduled for March 17-18 in Lacey, Washington and April 6-8 in Lynwood, Washington.

March 23. Council staff distributes *Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* to the public. The report includes the public hearing schedule, comment instructions, option highlights, and tables summarizing the biological and economic impacts of the proposed management options.

March 29-30. Sites and dates of public hearings to review the Council's proposed regulatory options are: Westport, Washington (March 29); Coos Bay, Oregon (March 29); and Eureka, California (March 30). Comments on the options will also be taken during the Council meeting on April 12 in Portland, Oregon.

April 10-15. Council and advisory entities meet to adopt final regulatory measures at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, Portland, Oregon. *Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* and information developed at the Council meeting is considered during the course of the week. The Council will tentatively adopt final regulatory measures for analysis by the STT on April 12. Final adoption of recommendations to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is tentatively scheduled to be completed on April 14.

April 15-21. The STT and Council staff completes *Preseason Report III: Analysis of Council-Adopted Regulatory Measures for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries*. Council and NMFS staff completes required National Environmental Policy Act documents for submission.

April 23. Council staff distributes adopted ocean salmon fishing management recommendations, and Preseason Report III is made available to the public.

May 1. NMFS implements Federal ocean salmon fishing regulations.

Habitat and Ecosystem News

HC Drafts Letter to the Bureau of Reclamation; Discusses Deep Sea Corals, Salmon Issues

At its November meeting, the Habitat Committee (HC) reviewed a draft letter to Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), which the Council approved. The letter encourages the BOR to respond to the essential fish habitat recommendations provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service on June 4, 2009, regarding BOR's long-term operations of the California Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The letter is available on the Council website.

In addition, the HC drafted a letter to the California Board of Forestry, urging it to strengthen its forestry rules in order to protect salmonids. The Council voted not to send the letter, citing recent changes made to California forestry rules by the Board of Forestry.

The HC received a presentation from Dr. Tom Hourigan of NMFS' Office of Habitat Conservation on NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program. The Program has been active in the South Atlantic region, and beginning in FY 2010 will begin a three-year research program on the West Coast, with an initial meeting planned for January 2010 in Portland to identify priorities. Recent changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act have allowed discretionary authority by fishery management councils to protect deep sea corals and sponges. Dr. Hourigan solicited involvement in the process by Council staff and the HC. The northeastern Pacific ocean contains extensive gorgonian and black coral resources.

Council Moves Forward on Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management

In November, the Council made significant progress on implementing an ecosystem-based fishery management plan (E-FMP). The Council appointed members of an Ecosystem Plan Development Team and an Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (see story, page 12) and provided guidance on the initial tasks for these two new advisory groups. The plan envisioned by the Council would not replace the four existing fishery management plans (FMPs), but would advance fishery management under these FMPs by introducing new theories, new scientific findings, and new authorities to the current Council process. The E-FMP is intended to serve as an "umbrella" plan over the four existing fishery management plans, helping with coastwide inter-FMP scientific information, policy guidance, and research planning; creating a framework for status reports on the health of west coast ecosystems; and dealing with comprehensive area-based measures in a full ecosystem context.

The Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) is a 13-member group of State, Federal, and Tribal scientists and policy analysts whose primary responsibility will be to provide analyses and recommendation to the Council on the latest science in support of ecosystem-based fishery management principles and to develop goals, objectives, and policy alternatives for Council consideration as the E-FMP takes shape over the next few years. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) is an 11-member multi-disciplinary group representing industry, policy, and conservation interests from

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Acronyms Used in this Newsletter

ABC	acceptable biological catch
ACL	annual catch limit
ACT	annual catch target
AM	accountability measure
B_{MSY}	target biomass
$B_{19\%}$	19% of target biomass (for example)
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CPS	coastal pelagic species
EAS	Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel
EFP	exempted fishing permit
EIS	environmental impact statement
E-FMP	Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Plan
EPIRB	emergency position-indicating radio beacon
EPDT	Ecosystem Plan Development Team
FMP	fishery management plan
FRAM	(Salmon) Fishery Regulation Assessment Model
GMT	Groundfish Management Team
HC	Habitat Committee
HG	harvest guideline
HMS	highly migratory species
HMSMT	Highly Migratory Species Management Team
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tunas Commission
ISC	International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
KRFC	Klamath River fall Chinook
LAPP	limited access privilege program
MEW	Model Evaluation Workgroup (for salmon)
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
MSY	maximum sustained yield
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OFL	overfishing limit
OSP	Oregon State Police
OY	optimum yield
POP	Pacific Ocean perch
QS	quota share
RCA	Rockfish Conservation Area
SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
STT	Salmon Technical Team
VMS	vessel monitoring system(s)
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WDFW	Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Highly Migratory Species News

Council Makes Recommendations to Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

In November, the Council made recommendations to the U.S. delegation to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) with respect to positions it may take at the Sixth Regular Session of the WCPFC in December.

The Council considered recent efforts to reduce fishing mortality on Pacific bluefin tuna, which is threatened by overfishing. In September the WCPFC Northern Committee adopted a draft Conservation and Management Measure that calls on countries to not increase fishing effort on Pacific bluefin tuna beyond the 2002-2004 level in 2010. Of special concern is catches of juvenile (age 0-3) fish, which are being caught in high numbers in fisheries in Korea and Japan. In addition, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) issued a statement on October 26, 2009, raising concern about further increases in fishing mortality, particularly of 0-year-old recruits, in the Eastern Pacific. The Council recommended that the WCPFC work with the IATTC to adopt a complementary measure so that fishing effort would not be increased on Pacific bluefin tuna throughout the North Pacific, with special attention to 0-year-old fish.

At their upcoming meeting, the WCPFC will be considering a draft conservation and management measure on transshipment put forward by the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It could require observers on both the receiving vessel and the fishing vessel during transshipment operations. However, requiring observers on West Coast albacore troll vessels fishing the WCPFC Convention Area may not be feasible due to the vessels' size and configuration. Therefore, the Council recommended that the U.S. oppose requiring an observer on fishing vessels during transshipment, while noting that requiring an observer on the carrier vessel is acceptable and consistent with the position the U.S. has taken in the past.

The Council supported a proposal developed by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific

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Council Provides Guidance on Annual Catch Limits & Accountability Measures

At its November 2009 meeting, the Council continued discussing a potential amendment to the highly migratory species fishery management plan (HMS FMP) in order to address the revised National Standard 1 guidelines created by the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) (see related stories, page 5 and 11).

In April, the Council initiated scoping for the potential amendment. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) met twice, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee's HMS Subcommittee met once, to discuss issues related to a potential amendment, including classification of stocks in the fishery management plan; application of the MSA's international exception to annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures; establishing reference points and accountability measures; and considering the implications of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's management plan for pelagics.

Classifying species is an important first step before decisions are taken on establishing ACLs. The HMS FMP identifies both managed species and monitored species. In addition, the Guidelines introduce the concept of species "in the fishery," for which catch limits must be considered, and ecosystem component species, an optional category which does not require active management and which closely resembles the current "monitored species" category.

The HMSMT decided that this amendment provides an opportunity to review the current list of managed and monitored species to determine which should be considered "in the fishery," and subject to management, and which are more appropriately classified as ecosystem component species. As part of this exercise, some of the species listed in the FMP may eventually be removed, because they are rarely, if ever, caught in current West Coast HMS fisheries.

Once species have been classified as managed ("in the fishery") or ecosystem components, the managed species must be evaluated in terms of an "international exception" from ACLs and accountability measures. The international exception is for "stocks or stock complexes subject to management under an international agreement." The two Pacific regional fishery management organizations, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and IATTC, define the range of species they manage very broadly, potentially allowing all HMS FMP species to meet this exception.

Because all HMS FMP managed species are also part of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Pelagics FMP, coordination between the two councils is necessary. The National Standard 1 Guidelines state that if a stock or species is identified in more than one FMP, Councils should choose which FMP will be primary. Once these three classification decisions are made, a list of species may remain for which the Pacific Council would establish ACLs.

In November, the Council directed the HMSMT to review the list of managed and monitored species in the HMS FMP to consider re-classification; to conduct a vulnerability analysis on shortfin mako, common thresher, and blue shark; and to revise the list of alternatives for applying the international exception so they include applying the international exception to

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Coastal Pelagic Species News

Council Adopts Pacific Sardine Fishery Specifications for 2010

In November, the Council adopted sardine fishery specifications for 2010, including an acceptable biological catch (ABC) or maximum harvest guideline (HG) of 72,039 metric tons (mt), based on a biomass estimate of 702,204 mt and the harvest control rule in the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan.

The 2009 Pacific sardine assessment combined traditional indices of abundance, such as the long-term survey of Pacific sardine reproductive success in southern California and age and length compositions from recent and historic landings, with an abundance estimate derived from an industry-sponsored aerial survey of Pacific sardine from the U.S./Canada border to Northern California. Because it is a single datapoint, the new aerial survey data provided no information on the estimated trend in Pacific sardine biomass, which continues to suggest that the stock is declining. However, the new survey data did provide valuable data on the magnitude of the northern portion of the stock, and increased current and past estimates of overall Pacific sardine abundance.

The Council recommends that 5,000 mt of the 72,039 mt ABC for Pacific sardine be set aside for Pacific sardine research activities in 2010. This results in an adjusted HG of 67,039 mt for directed and incidental fishery harvest of Pacific sardine to be allocated seasonally per the existing allocation framework. The Council will review research proposals and consider exempted fishing permits (EFPs) in the spring of 2010 for utilizing the research set-aside in new and continuing Pacific sardine surveys.

The Council is currently working to implement new fishery management policies to prevent overfishing in response to the reauthorized MSA (story, page 10). The Council has been implementing many of these principles for years and continues to recommend precautionary measures for 2010. To allow for incidental landings of Pacific sardines in other CPS fisheries, and to help to ensure the fishery does not exceed the total HG or the ABC, the Council adopted a 3,000 mt set-aside for incidental landings and a 4,000 mt management buffer to minimize the chance of exceeding harvest targets due to errors in inseason landing estimates or the timing of directed fishery closures (see table).

The incidental fishery set-asides are intended to allow CPS fisheries targeting species other than Pacific sardine to continue

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2010 Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications and Management Measures

	Total	By Seasonal Allocation Period		
ABC/Total HG	72,039	**Period 1**	**Period 2**	**Period 3**
Research Set-Aside	5,000	**Jan. 1- Jun. 30**	**Jul. 1- Sep 14**	**Sept. 15 – Dec. 31**
Adjusted HG	67,039	23,463	26,861	16,760
Incidental Fishery Set-Aside	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Management Uncertainty Buffer	4,000	0	0	4,000
Directed Fishery HG	60,039	22,463	25,861	11,760

Annual Catch Limits for Coastal Pelagic Species Discussed

In November, the Council discussed how to amend the coastal pelagic species fishery management plan (CPS FMP) to comply with the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) National Standard 1 guidelines. Like other Council FMPs, the CPS FMP must be amended in order to provide for overfishing levels, annual catch limits (ACLs), and annual catch targets (ACTs) for managed species (specifically, Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel). Market squid, anchovy and jack mackerel are exempt from the new requirements either because of their short lifecycle or because they are currently harvested at low levels.

The question of whether existing harvest control rules adequately protect CPS stocks from overfishing will be critical in meeting the new National Standard 1 requirements. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) CPS Subcommittee is currently considering how to include scientific uncertainty in harvest control rules; a subcommittee focused on groundfish is doing the same for groundfish stocks. The subcommittees and the CPS Management Team will likely meet in January 2010 to further explore this issue and to develop recommendations to the Council.

In November, the Council supported alternatives proposed by Council staff regarding stock status determination criteria and alternative management frameworks. Specifically, the Council supported analyses of sector-specific ACLs (not including the live bait fishery), and requested an analysis of ACTs to address management uncertainty and to

Continued on page 16

Appointments Made to Ecosystem Plan Team, Current and 2010-2012 Advisory Bodies

The Council made the following individual advisory body appointments for the current term:

Ms. Lorna Wargo to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife position on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team; Ms. Melodie Palmer-Zwahlen to the California Department of Fish and Game position on the Model Evaluation Workgroup; and Mr. Eric Chavez to the National Marine Fisheries Service position on the Habitat Committee, replacing Mr. Bryant Chesney.

Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT):

The Council reviewed the nominations to the EPDT and determined that a fifth NMFS Science Center member would be appropriate to take advantage of the needed expertise in the development of an ecosystem management plan.

The Council appointed the following members to the EPDT:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: Ms. Cyreis Schmitt; **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**: Mr. Corey Niles; **NMFS Northwest Region**: Ms. Yvonne DeReynier; **NMFS Southwest Region**: Mr. Joshua Lindsay; **NMFS Northwest and Southwest Science Centers**: Dr. John Field, Dr. Melissa Haltuch, Dr. Sam Herrick, Dr. Andrew Leising, and Dr. Mary Ruckelshaus; **National Ocean Service**: Dr. Lisa Wooninck (alternate: Mr. Dan Howard).

Representatives from **California Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Fish and Game**, and **tribal government** are remaining to be determined.

Advisory Body Appointments for the 2010-2012 Term:

Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel

California Commercial: Mr. David Haworth, Ms. Terry Hoinsky, and Mr. John Royal; **Oregon Commercial**: Mr. Eugene Law; **Washington Commercial**: Mr. Robert Zuanich; **California Processor**: Ms. Diane Pleshner-Steele; **Oregon Processor**: Mr. Mike Okoniewski; **Washington Processor**: Mr. Pierre Marchand; **California Sport/Charter**: CPT Paul Strasser; **Conservation**: Mr. Ben Enticknap.

Council staffer Mike Burner facilitates a discuss on ecosystem management at the November Council meeting. Photo: Don McIsaac.

Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel

California: Ms. Kathy Fosmark, Mr. Steven Fukuto, and Mr. Don Maruska; **Oregon**: Mr. Ben Enticknap, Mr. Scott McMullen, and Mr. Frank Warrens; **Washington**: Mr. Geoff LeBon, Mr. Merrick Burden, and Mr. Daniel Waldeck; **tribal** and **Idaho** representatives to be determined later.

Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

Fixed Gear: Mr. Robert Alverson, Mr. Tom Ghio, and Mr. Gerry Richter; **California Trawl**: Mr. Tommy Ancona; **Oregon Trawl**: Mr. Kelly Smotherman; **Washington Trawl**: Mr. Marion Larkin; **Open Access South of Cape Mendocino**: Mr. Daniel Platt; **Open Access North of Cape Mendocino**: Mr. Kenyon Hensel; **Processors** (At-large): Mr. Barry Cohen and Mr. Tom Libby; **At-Sea Processor**: Mr. Daniel Waldeck; **California Charter South of Pt. Conception**: Mr. Joe Villareal; **California Charter North of Pt. Conception**: Mr. Robert Ingles; **Oregon Charter**: Mr. Wayne Butler; **Washington Charter**: Mr. Larry Giese; **Sport Fisheries** (3 At-large): Mr. John Holloway, Mr. David Seiler, and Mr. Tom Marking; **Conservation**: Mr. Shems Jud; **Active Tribal Fisher**: Mr. Roger Bain.

Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel

Commercial Troll: Mr. Wayne Heikkila; **Commercial Purse Seine**: Mr. August Felando; **Commercial Gillnet**: Mr. Steve Fosmark; **Commercial** (3 At-large): Mr. Pete Dupuy, Mr. Douglas Fricke, and Mr. William Sutton; **Processor South of Cape Mendocino**: Mr. Steve Foltz; **Processor North of Cape Mendocino**: Mr. Pierre Marchand; **California Charter Boat** Mr. Mike Thompson; **Washington/Oregon Charter Boat**: Ms. Linda Buell; **Private Sport**: Mr. Bob Osborne; **Conservation**: to be determined later; **Public At-large**: Ms. Pamela Tom.

Salmon Advisory Subpanel

California Troller: Mr. Duncan MacLean; **Oregon Troller**:Mr. Paul Heikkila; **Washington Troller**: Mr. Jim Olson; **Commercial Gillnet Fishery**: Mr. Kent Martin; **Processor**: Mr. Gerald Reinholdt; **California Charter Boat**: Mr. Craig Stone; **Oregon Charter Boat**: Mr. Mike Sorenson; **Washington Charter Boat**: Mr. Butch Smith; **California Sport Fisher**: Mr. Paul Pierce; **Oregon Sport Fisher**: Mr. Richard Heap; **Washington Sport Fisher**: Mr. Steve Watrous; **Idaho Sport Fisher**: Mr. Thomas Welsh; **Washington Active Tribal Fisher**: Mr. Fancis Rosander; **California Tribal**: Mr. Mike Orcutt; **Conservation**: Mr. Jim Hie.

Habitat Committee (non-agency positions):

Commercial Fishing Industry: Mr. Joel Kawahara; **Sport Fishing Industry**: Ms. Liz Hamilton; **Conservation**: Mr. Jim Hie; **NW or Columbia River Tribal**: Mr. Jeremy Gillman; **California Tribal**: Mr. David Hillemeier; **Public At-large**: Mr. Stephen Scheiblauer.

Coming Up at the March 2010 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Sacramento, California on March 6-12, 2010. The advance Briefing Book will be posted on the Council website in late February.

Groundfish
- Pacific whiting: Adopt 2010 Harvest Specs and Management Measures

Coastal Pelagic Species
- Annual catch limits
- Experimental fishing permit for sardine abundance study

Salmon
- 2009 fisheries and 2010 stock abundance estimates
- Identify stocks not meeting conservation objectives
- Develop preliminary management options for 2010 fisheries

Pacific Halibut
- Report on the International Pacific Halibut Commission meeting
- Incidental catch regulations for the salmon troll and sablefish fisheries

Habitat and Ecosystem Management
- Habitat report

Other Items
- NOAA Report on Ocean Policy Task Force and Catch Shares Task Force
- Appointments

Petrale sole, continued from page 1

the SSC did recommend a new proxy management target for petrale sole and other West Coast flatfish species based on an analysis of their potential productivity. The SSC recommended a proxy BMSY of $B_{25\%}$ and a proxy harvest rate that is estimated to produce MSY (F_{MSY}) of $F_{30\%}$ for managing petrale sole and other West Coast flatfish. The Council adopted these new recommended proxy reference points.

The Council accordingly adopted a minimum stock size threshold (MSST), or overfished threshold, of half the B_{MSY} target (or $B_{12.5\%}$) for flatfish. The petrale sole stock is officially considered overfished, given that the estimated spawning biomass is less than the new MSST. A petrale sole rebuilding plan will be developed along with the 2011-12 harvest specifications and management measures. Final Council adoption of this rebuilding plan is scheduled for the June 2010 Council meeting.

Petrale sole are extremely productive; one large female can lay as many as 1.5 million eggs. With this level of productivity combined with stricter harvest limits, the stock is expected to rebound within five or six years. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the stock must be rebuilt within 10 years.

Upcoming Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held March 6-12, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel Sacramento in Sacramento, California. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on February 17 will be included in the briefing books mailed to Council members prior to the March meeting. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on February 25 will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the March meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see www.pcouncil.org/bb/bb.html.

Recipe: Dungeness Crab Bisque

Ingredients
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 cups coarsely chopped red bell peppers (about 2 large)
- 1 cup chopped green onions
- 1 cup coarsely chopped celery
- 2/3 cup coarsely chopped carrots
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped red onion
- 2 teaspoons dried tarragon
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper (more or less to taste)
- 2 14 1/2-ounce cans diced peeled tomatoes in juice
- 3 8-ounce bottles clam juice
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 12 ounces Dungeness crab meat

Directions

Heat oil in heavy large pot over medium heat. Add bell peppers, 3/4 cup green onions, celery, carrots and red onion and sauté until vegetables are tender, about 12 minutes. Stir in tarragon and cayenne. Mix in tomatoes with juices, clam juice and wine. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer 30 minutes to blend flavors, stirring occasionally. Add cream and simmer 20 minutes longer. If a more creamy consistence is desired, puree in a blender or with an immersion blender. Stir in crabmeat. Cook until crab is heated through, about 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup chopped green onions and serve.

Adapted from a recipe from Epicurious.com

Groundfish management, continued from page 2

Modify, if necessary, the definition for dressed weight as well as ice and slime deductions for Pacific halibut to ensure consistency with the International Pacific Halibut Commission; generate midwater trawl trip limits for Pacific whiting during the primary season south of 42° N. latitude (the California early season) to prevent early attainment of the southern Pacific whiting allocation; for California commercial fisheries, analyze retention of shelf and slope rockfish retention in the Cowcod Conservation Areas; analyze removal or modification of the Period 2 closure for limited entry and open access non-trawl fisheries south of 34°27' N. lat to align fishery regulations; develop additional management lines for California and Oregon recreational fisheries; and consider mandatory logbooks for recreational charter/for hire vessels.

The Council stated that initial analyses of management impacts should assume the same catch sharing for canary and yelloweye rockfish between sectors and states as depicted in the 2009 bycatch scorecard, prior to the start of the season. The biological, physical (habitat), and socioeconomic impacts associated with the range of harvest specifications and management measures will be analyzed and presented to the Council as they make final decisions for the 2011 and 2012 seasons next year. Final harvest specifications are scheduled to be chosen in April 2010, and final management measures are scheduled for June 2010.

Groundfish inseason adjustments, continued from page 3

the north, increases to target species including sablefish, longspine and shortspine thornyheads, and slope rockfish were recommended (Table 1, page 15). For vessels using selective flatfish trawl gear, the Council recommended increases to Dover sole limits while decreasing limits to other flatfish in an effort to maintain canary rockfish impacts similar to status quo. In the south, the Council adopted increases to sablefish as well as longspine and shortspine thornyheads. The Council recommended that these changes be effective January 1, or as soon as possible in 2010, through the remainder of the year. The NMFS Northwest Region indicated that due to year-end workload issues, these recommendations will not likely be implemented until March 1, 2010 (period 2).

Enforcement Corner, continued from page 6

they admitted to all elements of the crimes charged. These statements apparently contradicted the day's trial testimony. Officer Haw took careful notes, all the while aware of existing case law, and the potential future admissibility of the self-incriminating statements. Haw immediately generated a supplemental report regarding this contact and forwarded it to the Mason County Prosecutors Office. It appears that a re-trial is planned, this time with an amended witness list.

Illegal Albacore Sale: After networking with Oregon State Police (OSP), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officer Tom Hughes forwarded charges for an unlawful commercial fish sale of Oregon-caught fish that were transported into Clark County, Washington in September. Washington State charges were filed for "secondary commercial seller failing to account for fish." OSP will be issuing a citation for failing to initially sell to a licensed wholesale dealer and not having the required federal endorsement for tuna. In addition, the seller(s) violated their commercial limited fish seller license, which would allow them to only sell from their boat. The information was also referred to NMFS.

Failing to Sort Groundfish: WDFW Officer Jeff Wickersham was advised of a self-reported groundfish overage at a coastal processor from the prior week. After contacting the plant and speaking with the responsible person, he learned that a second offload of groundfish had been made the prior day from the same boat and a fish ticket had not been initiated immediately, as required. The plant's weigh sheet listed over 300 pounds of waste for a 40,000-pound offload, but it did not list the species contained in the waste. Further interviews with the skipper and a vessel observer showed that the plant had improperly sorted the offload from the prior week, and had listed 1,400 pounds of Pacific ocean perch as slope rockfish, which created the slope rockfish overage reported. The plant was advised that enforcement action would be taken regarding the fish ticket and that they would need to do a better job of initiating fish tickets and sorting groundfish. The plant was planning to prepare an amended fish ticket to adjust for the Pacific ocean perch landed.

Salmon methodology review, continued from page 7

are different than those in the FMP, which has been done for Puget Sound coho for several years, so there should be no noticeable difference in annual fishery constraints. However, the overfished status criteria will be affected, and will result in standards more appropriately linked to maximum sustainable yield, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and recommended in the National Standard 1 Guidelines.

The Council also received reports on the September 1 river return date approximation for Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) and on potential methods for forecasting fall fishing impacts south of Cape Falcon to subsequent returns of KRFC and Sacramento River fall Chinook. While the Council took no action on these topics, they did direct the STT to continue pursuit of data and analytical tools to provide additional insight, particularly regarding forecasting fall fishery impacts and the relevance of mature fish caught in the fall on allowable catch in the following year.

Groundfish Inseason Adjustments, Table 1. Council-Adopted Trip Limits and Rockfish Conservation Area Boundaries

Area	Period	Shoreward	Seaward	Sablefish	Longspine	Shortspine	Dover	Other Flat	Petrale	Arrowtth	Slope Rk
North 40 10 Large & Small FR	1	See Attached Table		20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	6,000
	2			20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	6,000
	3			24,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	6,000
	4			24,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	6,000
	5			24,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	6,000
	6			20,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	150,000	6,000
North 40 10 SFFT	1	See Attached Table		9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	60,000	9,500	90,000	6,000
	2			9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	60,000	9,500	90,000	6,000
	3			9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	60,000	9,500	90,000	6,000
	4			9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	60,000	9,500	90,000	6,000
	5			9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	60,000	9,500	90,000	6,000
	6			9,000	5,000	5,000	65,000	60,000	9,500	90,000	6,000
38 to 40 10	1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	15,000
	2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	15,000
	3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	15,000
	4	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	15,000
	5	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	15,000
	6	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	15,000
S 38	1	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	55,000
	2	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	55,000
	3	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	55,000
	4	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	55,000
	5	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	55,000
	6	100	150	22,000	24,000	18,000	110,000	110,000	9,500	10,000	55,000

Note: Shaded cells represent changes

- Chilipepper limits are set at 12,000 lbs per two months for all trawl gears in all periods south of 40°10' N latitude
- Splitnose limits are equal to slope rock limits south of 40°10' N latitude

Groundfish Inseason Adjustments, Table 2. Council-Adopted Rockfish Conservation Area Boundaries in the North

	Jan - Feb	Mar - Apr	May - Jun	Jul - Aug	Sep - Oct	Nov - Dec
North of 48 10	0 - 200*	0 - 200	0 - 150	0 - 150	0 - 200	0 - 200*
48 10 to 45 46	75 - 200*	75 - 200	75 - 150	100 - 150	75 - 200	75 - 200*
45 46 to 40 10			75 - 200	100 - 200	75 - 200	

Shaded cells represent Council adopted changes; * Indicates that petrale sole RCA cutouts are open

Ecosystem-based management, continued from page 9

the States and Tribes.

The Council reviewed its record of decisions and guidance and heard reports from the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Habitat Committee, and the public before assigning the following initial tasks to the EPDT and the EAS:

- Schedule presentations by scientists from the NMFS Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers on the state of the science in support of ecosystem-based fishery management.
- Review the Council record of dialogue on ecosystem-based fishery management including statements by the Council, its Advisory Bodies, and the public.
- Review the existing Council fishery management plans (FMP) to identify existing approaches and commonalities regarding ecosystem approaches to management.
- Inventory ecosystem-related management tools for their applicability to the E-FMP process.
- Review existing ecosystem-based management efforts of other regional fishery management councils.
- Prepare a report to the Council that includes statement of purpose and need; a list of initial goals and objectives; a range of options on the geographic range of the E-FMP, the regulatory scope of the E-FMP, and the management unit species within the E-FMP; and list miscellaneous issues to be addressed by an E-FMP.

The EPDT and the EAS will likely hold their first meetings in February 2010 and are tentatively scheduled to report to the Council at its April 2010 meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Save the Date: Western Groundfish Conference

The Western Groundfish Conference will be held **April 26-30, 2010 in Juneau, Alaska**. The Conference is a biennial meeting of groundfish biologists commonly representing resource management agencies, industry, conservation groups, and universities. **For more information, see https://tundra.iphc.washington.edu/.**

Albacore limited entry, continued from page 1

In a related matter, in April 2010 the Council will consider changing the current March 9, 2000, control date for albacore limited entry. The Council may recommend that activities occurring after that date not count toward qualification for a limited entry program. However, the control date does not commit the Pacific Council to developing any particular type of management regime; a different date could be used for the purposes of qualification, or some other system not involving a date could be used. The HMSAS asked the Council to consider adopting a control date that would better reflect current participation in albacore fisheries while forestalling speculative participation in the 2010 fishery. A control date must be set for the day on which the Council decides to establish it, so if the Council establishes a new control date for the purposes of limited entry in the albacore fishery the date would be on whatever day the decision is taken up at the April 10-15, 2010, Council meeting.

A draft version of the NMFS report may be viewed on the Council website at http://tinyurl.com/ye7hw3z.

WCPFC recommendations, continued from page 10

Ocean (ISC) Albacore Working Group for a biological sampling plan for North Pacific albacore. These scientists see a need for updated estimates of North Pacific albacore vital rates (such as natural mortality, growth, and maturity). The Council said the U.S. should work with the WCPFC and the ISC to secure the funding necessary for this effort.

The Council also expessed concern about the length of time between North Pacific albacore stock assessments. The last assessment was completed in 2006 and the next assessment is not scheduled for completion until 2011. The Council recommended that the WCPFC should work with the ISC to ensure that the North Pacific albacore stock is assessed on a regular, three-year schedule.

HMS annual catch limits, continued from page 10

all HMS FMP species, or to all FMP species except for shortfin mako and common thresher shark, which have harvest guidelines. In addition, the Council directed the HMSMT to coordinate with the WPFMC regarding management of species that are on both Councils' FMPs. In particular, the Council is interested in designating the HMS FMP as the primary FMP for swordfish and striped marlin.

The HMSMT, in conjunction with the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, will also need to develop rules for how to set ACLs for shortfin mako and common thresher shark, which may not be exempted from the requirement to set ACLs.

The Council is scheduled to adopt a range of alternatives for public review at their April 2010 meeting and to choose a preferred alternative In June 2010.

Pacific sardine specifications, continued from page 11

if a seasonal allocation to the directed fishery is reached or exceeded in any period. Under these circumstances, the Council anticipates that NMFS would close the directed sardine fishery and the fishery would revert to an incidental fishery with an incidental landing allowance of no more that 30 percent Pacific sardine by weight.

Under this proposal, the Council anticipates that the National Marine Fisheries Service will take the following inseason automatic actions:

- Any unused seasonal allocation to the directed fishery from Period 1 or Period 2 rolls into the next period's directed fishery.
- Any overage of a seasonal allocation to the directed fishery from Period 1 or Period 2 is deducted from the next Period's directed fishery.
- Any unused incidental set-aside from Period 1 or Period 2 rolls into the next period's directed fishery.
- Any overage of the third period allocation to the direct fishery will be deducted first from the Period 3 management buffer, and secondarily from the Period 3 incidental set-aside.
- If the seasonal allocation to the directed fishery, the incidental set-aside, and the management buffer (where applicable) are reached or exceeded in any period, the retention of Pacific sardine will be prohibited.
- Any set-aside for research that is not included in an EFP will be rolled into the Period 3 directed fishery.
- Any research set-aside attributed to an EFP designed to be conducted prior to September 15, but not utilized, will roll into the Period 3 directed fishery.
- Any research set-aside attributed to an EFP designed to be conducted after September 15, but not utilized, will not be re-allocated.

Regarding the next assessment of Pacific sardine, the Council recommends an updated assessment be conducted in 2010 that simply adds new data to the existing indices of abundance, and a full assessment in 2011 that could include new indices to improve our understanding of Pacific sardine abundance.

Annual catch limits for CPS, continued from page 11

buffer against overfishing. Since the MSA requirements are time-sensitive, the Council put a lower priority on including additional forage species in the CPS FMP and streamlining inseason management.

No CPS FMP stocks are subject to overfishing or are designated as overfished. Therefore, the changes to address National Standards 1 are targeted for the 2011 fishing year. The Council is scheduled to review a range of amendment alternatives and adopt a preliminary preferred alternative at its March 2010 meeting. Final Council action is schedule for the June 2010 Council meeting to allow for full implementation by 2011.

Status Report of the 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California (numbers of fish):

Preliminary Data Through September 30, 2009.

Fishery and Area	Season Dates	Effort Days Fished	CHINOOK Catch	CHINOOK Quota	CHINOOK Percent	COHO[a/] Catch	COHO[a/] Quota	COHO[a/] Percent
COMMERCIAL								
Treaty Indian[b/]	*5/1-6/30*	321	7,250	19,000	38%	Non-Retention		
	7/1-9/15	513	4,986	20,000	25%	59,882	60,000	100%
Non-Indian North of Cape Falcon[c/]	*5/1-6/30*	1,210	10,184	13,735	74%	Non-Retention		
	7/1-9/15	1,233	2,755	6,765	41%	32,262	33,600	96%
Cape Falcon - Humbug Mt.	*9/1-9/31*	730	Non-Retention			10,720	21,240	50%
Humbug Mt. - U.S./Mexico Border	*Closed*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RECREATIONAL								
U.S./Canada Border - Cape Alava[c/]	*6/27-9/20*	16,418	2,444	2,200	111%	13,501	17,100	79%
Cape Alava-Queets River[c/]	*6/27-9/20*	4,524	543	950	57%	6,712	6,980	96%
	9/26-10/11	491	135	100	135%	134	100	134%
Queets River - Leadbetter Pt.[c/]	*6/28-9/20*	37,678	5,014	11,850	42%	53,702	55,270	97%
Leadbetter Pt.-Cape Falcon[c/]	*6/28-8/31 and 9/7-30*	55,510	5,204	5,400	96%	84,686	96,500	88%
Cape Falcon - OR/CA Border	*6/20-8/31*	63,992	Non-Retention			69,775	70,000	100%
Cape Falcon - Humbug Mt.	*9/1-9/30*	6,339	Non-Retention			462	9,560	5%
Humbug Mt. - Horse Mt. (KMZ)	*8/29-9/7*	8,229	856			8	included in 110,000	
OR/CA Border - U.S./Mexico Border	*Closed*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TOTALS TO DATE	Effort 2009	Effort 2008	Effort 2007	Chinook Catch 2009	Chinook Catch 2008	Chinook Catch 2007	Coho Catch 2009	Coho Catch 2008	Coho Catch 2007
TROLL									
Treaty Indian	**834**	614	621	**12,236**	21,076	23,070	**59,882**	14,419	41,066
Washington Non-Indian	**1,905**	1,223	1,274	**12,307**	8,636	14,268	**19,220**	1,706	5,886
Oregon	**1,268**	682	4,768	**655**	5,452	33,763	**13,020**	378	17,095
California	**-**	-	9,214	**-**	-	102,522	**-**	-	-
Total Troll	**4,007**	2,519	15,877	**25,198**	35,164	173,623	**92,122**	16,503	64,047
RECREATIONAL									
Washington Non-Indian	**102,410**	37,610	72,683	**19,523**	14,635	8,944	**156,538**	18,870	83,788
Oregon	**85,202**	27,005	82,620	**1,389**	1,097	5,916	**89,996**	12,079	60,650
California	**5,360**	391	92,678	**670**	6	46,938	**6**	-	746
Total Recreational	**192,972**	65,006	247,981	**21,582**	15,738	61,798	**246,540**	30,949	145,184
PFMC Total	**N/A**	N/A	N/A	**46,780**	50,902	235,421	**338,662**	47,452	209,231

a/ All non-Indian coho fisheries are mark-selective except the Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. September commercial fishery.

b/ Treaty Indian effort is reported as landings.

c/ Numbers shown as Chinook quotas for non-Indian troll and recreational fisheries North of Falcon are guidelines rather than quotas; only the total Chinook allowable catch is a quota.

Save the Date: Ecological Interactions Between Wild & Hatchery Salmon

State of the Salmon, a joint program of the Wild Salmon Center and Ecotrust, is hosting an international conference on May 4-7, 2010, at the Hilton Portland, Oregon, on Ecological Interactions between Wild and Hatchery Salmon. Registration begins Fall 2009. For more information, visit www.stateofthesalmon.org.

"In recent years debate has heightened regarding hatcheries and their effect on freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems. Indeed, a number of reviews highlight a critical gap in our understanding of the ecological relationships between wild and hatchery salmon. This conference represents the first international effort to convene a diverse group to explore the scale and magnitude of the ecological effects of hatcheries, identify gaps in our knowledge and develop research plans to resolve key issues. We expect participation by scientists, fishery and hatchery managers, conservation organizations, indigenous groups, industry representatives and decision makers. The conference will culminate in a panel discussion to develop a vision of working together to contain and manage ecological risk. We hope that this gathering will inspire collaboration among attendees and across jurisdictions to influence the future course of hatchery programs and produce a guiding set of principles for managing hatcheries to conserve wild salmon across the Pacific Rim."

Groundfish Table 1. Range of 2011 annual catch limit alternatives (metric tons) adopted for analysis

Table 1. Range of 2011 annual catch limit (ACL) alternatives (mt) adopted for analysis. NOTE the range of ACL alternatives will be limited by the specified ABC since an ACL cannot exceed the ABC (highlighted cells equal projected OFLs). ABC specifications have yet to be decided; therefore, some of the higher ACLs may not be legally viable. Also, the GMT has yet to determine their recommendations for the minor rockfish, Other Flatfish, and Other Fish complexes, so those values are missing. (Overfished stocks in CAPS; Stocks with new assessments in bold; Species contributions to a stock complex specification in *italics*).

Stock	No Action Alternative				2011 Action Alternatives					
	2009 ABC	2010 ABC	2009 OY	2010 OY	Alt 1 ACL	Alt 2 ACL	Alt 3 ACL	Alt 4 ACL	Alt 5 ACL	Alt 6 ACL
Lingcod - coastwide	5,278	4,829	5,278	4,829	2,481	3,593	4,961			
Lingcod N. of 42° N latitude (OR & WA)					1,219	2,172	2,438			
Lingcod S. of 42° N latitude (CA)					1,262	1,421	2,523			
Pacific Cod	3,200	3,200	1,600	1,600	1,600					
Pacific Whiting (U.S.)	253,852 (US. + Canada)	To be determined in 2010	135,939 (U.S.)	To be determined in 2010	67,970	135,939	404,318			
Sablefish - coastwide	9,914	9,217								
Sablefish N. of 36° N latitude			7,052	6,471	4,343	4,599	5,770	5,770	6,109	
Sablefish S. of 36° N latitude			1,371	1,258	1,022	894	1,358	2,715	1,188	
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	1,160	1,173	189	200	0	180	204	265		
Shortbelly	6,950	6,950	6,950	6,950	EC species					
WIDOW	7,728	6,937	522	509	0	200	400	600	1,000	3,000
CANARY	937	940	105	105	0	49	69	102	128	155
Chilipepper a/	3,037	2,576	2,885	2,447	2,229					
BOCACCIO S. of 40°10' N latitude	793	793	288	288	0	53	109	263	373	
Splitnose b/	615	615	461	461	145	291	618	1,236	Manage in Complex	
Yellowtail N. of 40°10' N latitude	4,562	4,562	4,562	4,562	4,566					
Shortspine Thornyhead - coastwide	2,437	2,411								
Shortspine Thornyhead - N. of 34°27' N latitude			1,608	1,591	1,573	1,573				
Shortspine Thornyhead - S. of 34°27' N latitude			414	410	405	811				
Longspine Thornyhead - coastwide	3,766	3,671								
Longspine Thornyhead - N. of 34°27' N latitude			2,231	2,175	2,119	2,825				
Longspine Thornyhead - S. of 34°27' N latitude			395	385	375	751				
COWCOD (Con + Mon)	13	14	4	4	0	2	3	4	9	
DARKBLOTCHED	437	440	285	291	0	130	222	298	332	461
YELLOWEYE	31	32	17	17	0	9	13	17	20	20
Black Rockfish (WA)	490	464	490	464	445					
Black Rockfish (OR-CA)	1,469	1,317	1,000	1,000	1,000					
California scorpionfish	175	155	175	155	133	144				
Cabezon (CA)	106	111	69	79	102	160				
Cabezon (OR)	Managed under the Other Fish complex				29	50				
Dover Sole c/	29,453	28,582	16,500	16,500	16,500	F30% OFL				
English Sole	14,326	9,745	14,326	9,745	7,158					
PETRALE SOLE (1,200 mt 2010 OY)	2,811	2,751	2,433	1,200	0	459	695	1,021		
PETRALE SOLE (1,200 mt 2010 OY; no winter fishery)	2,811	2,751	2,433	1,200	0	586	810	1,170		
Arrowtooth Flounder	11,267	10,112	11,267	10,112	9,109					
Starry Flounder	1,509	1,578	1,004	1,077	1,130	1,507				
Longnose skate	3,428	3,269	1,349	1,349	1,349					

a/ Chilipepper rockfish are projected from the 2007 assessment based on the population occurring in waters off CA and OR. They were specified for south of 40°10' N latitude in 2009-10, but should have been applied for the waters off CA and OR.

b/ Splitnose rockfish specifications in 2009-10 were for south of 40°10' N latitude. The 2011-12 specifications are projected from the 2009 assessment and apply coastwide.

Groundfish Table 2. Range of 2012 annual catch limit alternatives (metric tons) adopted for analysis

Table 2. Range of 2012 annual catch limit (ACL) alternatives (mt) adopted for analysis. NOTE the range of ACL alternatives will be limited by the specified ABC since an ACL cannot exceed the ABC (highlighted cells equal projected OFLs). ABC specifications have yet to be decided; therefore, some of the higher ACLs may not be legally viable. Also, the GMT has yet to determine their recommendations for the minor rockfish, Other Flatfish, and Other Fish complexes, so those values are missing. (Overfished stocks in CAPS; Stocks with new assessments in bold; Species contributions to a stock complex specification in *italics*).

Stock	No Action Alternative				2012 Action Alternatives					
	2009 ABC	2010 ABC	2009 OY	2010 OY	Alt 1 ACL	Alt 2 ACL	Alt 3 ACL	Alt 4 ACL	Alt 5 ACL	Alt 6 ACL
Lingcod - coastwide	5,278	4,829	5,278	4,829	2,424	3,551	4,848			
Lingcod N. of 42° N latitude (OR & WA)					1,126	2,020	2,251			
Lingcod S. of 42° N latitude (CA)					1,299	1,531	2,597			
Pacific Cod	3,200	3,200	1,600	1,600	1,600					
Pacific Whiting (U.S.)	253,852 (US. + Canada)	To be determined in 2010	135,939 (U.S.)	To be determined in 2010	67,970	135,939	404,318			
Sablefish - coastwide	9,914	9,217								
Sablefish N. of 36° N latitude			7,052	6,471	4,240	4,490	5,594	5,594	5,923	
Sablefish S. of 36° N latitude			1,371	1,258	998	873	1,316	2,632	1,152	
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	1,160	1,173	189	200	0	183	208	269		
Shortbelly	6,950	6,950	6,950	6,950	EC species					
WIDOW	7,728	6,937	522	509	0	200	400	600	1,000	3,000
CANARY	937	940	105	105	0	51	72	107	134	162
Chilipepper a/	3,037	2,576	2,885	2,447	2,013					
BOCACCIO S. of 40°10' N latitude	793	793	288	288	0	56	115	274	384	
Splitnose b/	615	615	461	461	145	291	618	1,236	Manage in complex	
Yellowtail N. of 40°10' N latitude	4,562	4,562	4,562	4,562	4,573					
Shortspine Thornyhead - coastwide	2,437	2,411								
Shortspine Thornyhead - N. of 34°27' N latitude			1,608	1,591	1,556	1,556				
Shortspine Thornyhead - S. of 34°27' N latitude			414	410	401	802				
Longspine Thornyhead - coastwide	3,766	3,671								
Longspine Thornyhead - N. of 34°27' N latitude			2,231	2,175	2,063	2,751				
Longspine Thornyhead - S. of 34°27' N latitude			395	385	366	731				
COWCOD (Con + Mon)	13	14	4	4	0	2	3	4	9	
DARKBLOTCHED	437	440	285	291	0	131	222	296	329	453
YELLOWEYE	31	32	17	17	0	9	13	17	20	21
Black Rockfish (WA)	490	464	490	464	435					
Black Rockfish (OR-CA)	1,469	1,317	1,000	1,000	1,000					
California scorpionfish	175	155	175	155	124	132				
Cabezon (CA)	106	111	69	79	105	156				
Cabezon (OR)	Managed under the Other Fish complex				29	48				
Dover Sole c/	29,453	28,582	16,500	16,500	16,500	F30% OFL				
English Sole	14,326	9,745	14,326	9,745	5,790					
PETRALE SOLE (1,200 mt 2010 OY)	2,811	2,751	2,433	1,200	0	624	1,125	1,279		
PETRALE SOLE (1,200 mt 2010 OY; no winter fishery)	2,811	2,751	2,433	1,200	0	732	1,192	1,369		
Arrowtooth Flounder	11,267	10,112	11,267	10,112	8,241					
Starry Flounder	1,509	1,578	1,004	1,077	1,166					
Longnose skate	3,428	3,269	1,349	1,349	1,349					

a/ Chilipepper rockfish are projected from the 2007 assessment based on the population occurring in waters off CA and OR. They were specified for south of 40 °10' N latitude in 2009-10, but should have been applied for the waters off CA and OR.

b/ Splitnose rockfish specifications in 2009-10 were for south of 40 °10' N latitude. The 2011-12 specifications are projected from the 2009 assessment and apply coastwide.

Schedule of Events

For more information on this meeting, please see our website (www.pcouncil.org/events/csevents.html) or call toll-free (866) 806-7204.

Groundfish Management Team
Purpose: To work on 2011-2012 harvest specifications and Amendment 23 (ACLs)
Dates: January 11-15, 2010
Location: Council office, Portland
Contact: Kelly Ames (kelly.ames@noaa.gov)

Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team
Purpose: To discuss Amendment 13 (ACLs) and scientific uncertainty
Dates: January 12-14, 2010
Location: Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, California
Contact: Mike Burner (mike.burner@noaa.gov)

Salmon Technical Team
Purpose: To draft the *Review of 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries*
Dates: January 19-22, 2010
Location: Council office, Portland
Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov)

The public comment deadlines for the March Council meeting are February 17 and February 25 (supplemental)! **(See p. 13 for more details)**

Salmon Plan Amendment Committee
Purpose: To address annual catch limit and accountability measure requirements for the Council's salmon plan
Dates: January 26, 2010
Location: Council office, Portland
Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov)

Salmon Technical Team
Purpose: To draft the *Preseason I Report: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries*
Dates: February 16-19, 2010
Location: Council office, Portland
Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting
Dates: March 6-12, 2010
Location: Doubletree Hotel Sacramento
Contact: Don McIsaac (donald.mcisaac@noaa.gov)

The Council is on Twitter!

Go to http://twitter.com/PacificCouncil for news on Council happenings, West Coast fisheries, and fish habitat.

Pacific Council News
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