



Pacific Council News

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Contents

Groundfish

Annual catch limits (Amendment 23)	1
Trawl rationalization regulations	2
Inseason adjustments	2
Groundfish stock assessment plan	3
2011-2012 specifications	3

Habitat & Ecosystem

Habitat report	4
EFH review	4

Salmon

Annual catch limits (Amendment 16)	5
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Coastal Pelagic Species

Mackerel fishery harvest specifications	6
Annual catch limits (Amendment 13)	7

Highly Migratory Species

Annual catch limits (Amendment 2)	8
Recommendations to international bodies	9
Washington albacore trip limits	9

Other Features

Appointments	1
Recipe: Sardines Naples style	6
Enforcement Corner	10
Acronyms & definitions	11
September Council agenda	14

Briefing book deadlines	Back cover
Events	Back cover

Council Adopts New System of Annual Catch Limits for Groundfish

In June, the Council adopted Amendment 23 to the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP), which incorporates new National Standard 1 guidelines for creating harvest specifications. Amendment 23 amends the harvest specification framework in the FMP to better meet new mandates in the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA) of 2006 to prevent overfishing.

The MSRA and amended National Standard 1 guidelines introduce new fishery management concepts including overfishing limits (OFLs), an acceptable biological catch (ABC) to incorporate a scientific uncertainty buffer in specifications, 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 proposed Amendment 23 action (under the Council's preferred alternative) is to adopt the harvest specification

framework recommended in the new National Standard 1 guidelines. Amendment 23 is scheduled for implementation in 2011 and was therefore used to set 2011-2012 harvest specifications (see article on page 3).

The essential elements of the preliminary preferred alternative chosen in March were affirmed in the Council's June action. The Council adopted the draft FMP language provided at the June meeting under Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 2 with slight modifications recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Council also directed Council staff and NMFS to make other changes to the draft FMP language consistent with their final action.



Council Chairman Dave Ortmann prepares for the final vote on Amendment 23. Photo: Don McIsaac

New and Returning Council Members, Appointments Announced

On June 23, the Secretary of Commerce announced the appointment of new and returning members to the nation's eight regional fishery management councils. For the Pacific Council, these included the appointment of Herbert "Herb" Pollard II to fill Idaho's obligatory seat, and the reappointment of Dan Wolford to California's

at-large seat.

Mr. Pollard, a former National Marine Fisheries Service biologist and Idaho Department of Fish and Game regional manager, replaces Dave Ortmann on the Council. He studied fisheries science at Oregon State University and has a M.S. in fishery management from the University of Idaho (1969). He worked

with Idaho Department of Fish and Game from 1969-1996, first as a research biologist and later as a fishery coordinator and regional supervisor. Later, he worked for ten years as a fishery biologist with National Marine Fisheries Service. He currently works as a consultant focusing on Snake River basin hatcheries.

Story continued on page 13

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Groundfish News

Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Deeming Nears Completion

In June, the Council reviewed draft regulations for implementing parts of the trawl rationalization program (Amendment 20 to the groundfish fishery management plan). The Council deemed that the version of the draft rules provided at the meeting was consistent with Amendment 20. However, some parts of the regulations were not complete, including the interim first receiver site licenses, interim catch monitor provisions, and rules on the reallocation of quota share (QS) if there are changes in the geographic subdivisions or species groupings for which individual fishing quotas are held. Additional work is also to be done on the mandatory economic data collection provisions.



The revised regulations were reviewed at a meeting of the Ad Hoc Regulatory Deeming Workgroup held June 30. Executive Director Don McIsaac will take into account the group's report when he determines whether the final draft of the regulations are consistent with Council intent.

Additionally, NMFS made the following announcements about the trawl rationalization program:

- The decision date for the Secretary of Commerce on the amendments is August 10, 2010.
- For the mothership and catcher/processor fleet, the deadline for acquiring and resolving discrepancies in data on deliveries has been extended until August 1, 2010.

- Presuming that the Secretary of Commerce approves Amendment 20, NMFS will hold workshops on applications, observer and catch monitoring requirements, and a demonstration of the QS and quota pounds accounting systems.

- National Marine Fisheries Service is working on a series of fact sheets on trawl rationalization that should be ready in the near future.

At its September meeting, the Council will address a trailing amendment on trawl rationalization. Topics that may be considered include, but are not limited to, criteria for community fishing associations, exemptions from the QS control limits (termed a "safe harbors" provision), use of the adaptive management QS, cost recovery, and modification to the Pacific halibut individual bycatch quota provisions. 

Inseason Adjustments for 2010 Groundfish Fisheries are Adopted

The Council met June 12-17, 2010 in Foster City, California to consider, among other matters, inseason adjustments for the 2010 groundfish fisheries.

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California Ruling

The Council received a briefing from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ruling in *Natural Resources Defense Council v. Locke*. NMFS provided further guidance to the Council specific to 2010 fisheries (Agenda Item

B.5.b NMFS Letter). The court ordered that the 2010 optimum yield (OY) for cowcod be set at the 2008 OY, which was 4 metric tons (mt) and is equal to the current OY. Current projected impacts of cowcod are 1 mt or 25 percent of the OY. As such, no inseason action is recommended by the Council to further restrict catches of cowcod. The court ordered that the 2010 OY for darkblotched rockfish be set at the 2008 OY, which was 330 mt. NMFS recommended that the Council's management measures be designed to keep the fishery within 290 mt, which

is equivalent to the 2007 OY and consistent with the court's underlying rationale in its opinion. Total projected impacts for all fisheries to darkblotched rockfish are 247.2 mt, approximately 43 mt below the new OY or 75 percent of the OY. As such, no inseason action is recommended by the Council to further restrict catches of darkblotched rockfish.

For yelloweye rockfish, the court ordered that the 2010 OY be reduced from 17 mt to 14 mt. At the April Council meeting, projected impacts to yelloweye

Story continued on page 12

Groundfish News

Council Adopts Plans for Groundfish Stock Assessments

At its June meeting, the Council adopted a list of groundfish species for assessment next year to inform management in 2013 and beyond. Besides Pacific whiting, which is assessed annually, the following species are recommended for a full assessment next year: widow rockfish, petrale sole, Pacific ocean perch, blackgill rockfish, sablefish, Dover sole, spiny dogfish, and greenspotted rockfish. These will be the first West Coast assessments for spiny dogfish and greenspotted rockfish.

There will also be updated assessments done next year for bocaccio, canary, darkblotched, and yelloweye rockfish. A status report for cowcod will also be

prepared since the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) has judged there is not enough data to justify a full or updated assessment.

The Council also requested a formal review of methodologies for determining harvest specifications for data-poor stocks. Such methods include catch-based approaches and

those that might be considered rudimentary assessments.

The Council recommends the following stock assessment review (STAR) panel schedule, but deferred to the science centers to collaborate with the SSC to make final logistical decisions on the timing and location of STAR panels. The Council also adopted a revised terms of refer-

ence for stock assessments and assessment reviews, and a terms of reference for groundfish rebuilding analyses. Additionally, the Council requested that National Marine Fisheries Service collaborate with Canadian scientists and managers to develop a separate terms of reference for reviewing next year's Pacific whiting assessment. 

	Dates	Species 1	Species 2	Location
Whiting	Feb	Whiting		Seattle
Panel 1	Early May	Methods for determining harvest specifications for data-poor species		Santa Cruz
Panel 2	Late June	Pacific ocean perch	Petrale sole	Seattle
Panel 3	Mid July	Widow rockfish	Spiny dogfish	Newport OR
Panel 4	Late July	Sablefish	Dover sole	Seattle
Panel 5	Early August	Greenspotted	Blackgill	Santa Cruz
Updates	Mid-June	Bocaccio, canary, cowcod (data report) darkblotched, yelloweye		Spokane
Mop-up	Late Sept / Early Oct	TBD		Seattle

2011-2012 Groundfish Harvest Spex, Rebuilding Plan Revisions, and Management Measures Adopted

In June, the Council adopted final harvest specifications and management measures for 2011 and 2012 groundfish fisheries. A new rebuilding plan was adopted for petrale sole, and slight modifications to existing rebuilding plans were also made (Table 1, page 14). New harvest specifications were developed using the Amendment 23 framework (see article, page 1) with annual catch limits (ACLs) set for each actively managed stock and stock complex (Table 2, page 15). New management measures were adopted that are predicted to provide fishing



Cowcod. Photo: Jean DeMarignac / Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

opportunity while staying within the adopted ACLs. The new measures include provisions to allow fixed gear vessels with active vessel monitoring system

units to bait and unbait gear while transiting the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA); year-round specification of the 100-fathom (fm) seaward

boundary of the non-trawl RCA north of 40°10' N lat.; and fishing opportunities out to 30 fm in the Cowcod Conservation Areas. The Council also adopted state-specific recreational harvest guidelines for canary and yelloweye rockfish.

These decisions were forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service as recommendations. New harvest specifications and management measures will be considered final when they are adopted by the Secretary of Commerce and published in the *Federal Register* later this year. 

Habitat & Ecosystem News

Habitat Committee Discusses Salmon Issues; Develops Council Letter on Wave Energy

The Habitat Committee (HC) met for two days in Foster City, California, immediately before the June Council meeting, to address a variety of issues and concerns.

The first morning consisted of a joint meeting with the Salmon Technical Team (STT) to discuss the Sacramento fall Chinook overfishing report, due this fall. The group reviewed the list of data used in the 2009 Lindley et al. report on the collapse of Sacramento River fall Chinook; voiced support for using the existing format of that report to guide the new overfishing report (triggered by three straight years of the stock failing to meet conservation objectives); and set a timeline for tasks and future meetings.

The HC then convened separately to discuss the draft overfishing report on Western Strait of Juan de Fuca (WSJF) coho salmon. The report makes three major recommendations, subsequently amended slightly by the Council to read: 1) Request a June 2011 update from the Washington Department of

Fish and Wildlife on efforts to improve the Hydraulic Project Approval process; 2) support achievement of Washington Department of Ecology Clean Water Act review milestones related to the Washington Forest Practices program; and 3) support future habitat restoration efforts in the WSJF that address limiting factors of coho salmon. A final report will be posted on the Council's website.

Mr. Morgan Knechtle, with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), presented information on population trends of Chinook and coho in the Mid-Klamath Basin. Information specific to the Scott and Shasta river runs indicate that Chinook and coho populations are critically low, with some cohorts functionally extinct. For example, certain cohort returns to the Shasta River show extremely low female to male sex ratios, very low wild to hatchery fish ratios, as well as severely declining returns in 2008 and 2009. The HC proposed drafting a letter of concern, but the Council declined to take action

at this point.

The HC then received an update on the essential fish habitat review for coastal pelagic species (CPS), which was initiated by the CPS Management Team in January, 2010. The HC issued a statement supporting the opportunity for continued input from interested parties, and the Council concurred by adding CPS essential fish habitat to the November meeting agenda.

At the request of the Council during the March, 2010 meeting, members of the HC drafted a letter on the proposed Ocean Power Technologies wave energy project off the central Oregon coast. The letter expressed concern that the pending settlement agreement (part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] licensing process) did not adequately address issues including electromagnetic field impacts, sound impact and thresholds on fish, baseline and monitoring studies, and the proposed adaptive management process. The Council adopted the letter but directed staff to consult with National Marine

Fisheries Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and to make editorial and technical edits before sending the letter to FERC.

Finally, the HC discussed CPS issues, including Pacific mackerel management measures and Amendment 13, which implements annual catch limits and other management requirements under the Magnuson Act. The HC expressed support for the conservative approach the Council has adopted toward mackerel and other coastal pelagic species, and recommended including forage fish considerations in CPS management as well as in the upcoming Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan. The HC recommended inclusion of about two dozen species that are listed as important forage species in section 4.1.1 of the draft Amendment 13 National Environmental Policy Act document (June 2010 Agenda Item F.2.a Attachment 1), and the Council ultimately included two of those species: Pacific herring and jacksmelt. (See related CPS articles on pages 6-7.) 

Periodic Reviews of Essential Fish Habitat Underway for all Fishery Management Plans

Council staff are currently reviewing essential fish habitat (EFH) for salmon and coastal pelagic species, and are planning for a review of groundfish EFH jointly with National Marine Fisheries Service and others. Councils and NMFS "should periodically review the EFH provisions of fishery management plans and revise or amend EFH provisions as warranted based on available information,"

according to NMFS regulatory guidance. These reviews should be conducted at least once every five years.

Pacific salmon EFH was first designated in 1999, and includes habitat for Chinook, coho, and Puget Sound pinks. EFH for each is generally described as currently viable water bodies and most historically accessible habitat. The major exceptions are for habitat areas

above impassible dams that lack effective fish passage. More information can be found in Amendment 14 to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan, available on the Council website. A report on the EFH review will be presented to the Council at the September meeting in Boise, Idaho.

Coastal pelagic species (CPS) EFH was designated in 1998 and was reviewed in

2005. That review concluded that newly-available information did not warrant changing EFH for the CPS fishery. CPS EFH is described as West Coast marine and estuarine waters with sea surface temperatures between 10° and 26°C. Due to seasonal and annual fluctuations, this means the northern boundary typically extends to the U.S.-Canada border during

Story continued on page 5

Salmon News

Progress Report on Amendment 16 (Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures)

In June, the Council received a progress report on alternatives for Amendment 16 to the salmon fishery management plan (FMP) from its ad hoc Salmon Amendment Committee (SAC). The report contained alternatives on the following topics:

- Classifying stocks in the FMP as in the fishery, out of the fishery, or ecosystem component stocks.
- Applying the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) international exception to specifying acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limits (ACLs), and accountability measures (AMs) for stocks managed under the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
- Establishing objective and measurable status determination criteria (SDC) for all relevant stocks in the FMP.
- Establishing a framework for application of overfishing limit (OFL)/ABC/ACL reference points.
- Determining appropriate accountability measures necessary to prevent ACLs from being exceeded, and to mitigate any overages that may occur.
- Establishing *de minimis* fishing provisions for stocks that don't have existing mechanisms absent an emergency rule when a

conservation alert is triggered.

The Council adopted alternatives for stock classification and application of the international exception to the ACL and AM requirements for salmon stocks currently identified in the salmon FMP. The Council also recommended the alternatives for SDC, OFL/ABC/AC frameworks, and *de minimis* fishery provisions to be included in the range of alternatives analyzed during preparation of a draft environmental assessment, which the Council will consider adopting for public review in September. Alternatives in addition to those presented in the SAC progress report may be developed during preparation of the environmental assessment.

The preliminary preferred stock classification alternative includes non-Endangered Species Act-listed far north migrating Chinook stocks and pink stocks as ecosystem components. This classification lists these stocks as not in the fishery, and they would therefore not require SDC or ACL/AM.

The preliminary preferred alternative for application of the international exception would apply to Puget Sound coho, Washington Coastal coho, Columbia River summer Chinook,



Male coho salmon. Source: USFWS

and Canadian coho and Chinook stocks. These stocks would not require ACL/AM, but would require SDC.

The range of alternatives for SDC included exploitation rate-based criteria for determining overfishing, and single and multi-year spawning escapement-based criteria for determining "overfished," "approaching overfished," and "rebuilt" status. The Council identified minimum stock size threshold alternatives of maximum sustained yield (MSY) spawning escapement (status quo), one-half MSY spawning escapement, and three-fourths MSY spawning escapement for assessing overfished status.

The OFL/ABC/ACL framework alternatives included catch and spawning escapement based approaches; however, the Council recommended an exploitation rate-based alternative

not be further analyzed based on National Marine Fisheries Service statements that Secretarial approval was unlikely. A tiered approach to accounting for scientific uncer-

tainty was accepted, although the Council directed that the basis for the tiers be thoroughly documented during preparation of the EA and reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee prior to the next Council meeting.

The Council recommended that alternatives for *de minimis* fishing provisions for Sacramento River fall Chinook be structured similarly to the Klamath River fall Chinook *de minimis* provision, and that at least one alternative include reducing allowed exploitation to zero at some stock level less than the minimum stock size threshold.

Finally, the Council recommended a modified schedule for the amendment process that would adopt alternatives for public review at the September 2010 meeting, and schedule final Council action for November 2010. 

Essential fish habitat, continued from page 4

the summer, but drops further south during the winter. The CPS Management Team took up review of CPS EFH in January, 2010, and will submit a report to the Council at the November meeting in Costa Mesa, California.

Groundfish EFH was established in 2006, and includes marine and estuarine waters less than 3500 meters in depth, up to the upper extent of saline intrusion in estuaries. Some seamounts seaward of the 3500m depth contour are also EFH. In

response to stakeholder desires to consider changes to groundfish EFH before the five-year review, the Council appointed a committee in 2008 to make recommendations for establishing the groundfish EFH review process and to serve as the initial

EFH review body. The committee and the Council reviewed the interim requests and the Council chose to delay further review and action to the full review in 2011. Initial planning for this review is scheduled to start at the September meeting in Boise. 

Coastal Pelagic Species News

Council Adopts Harvest Levels, Management Measures for 2010-2011 Mackerel Fishery

In June, the Council adopted management measures for the 2010-11 Pacific mackerel fishery, which runs July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. The measures are almost the same as those from 2009-2010, with the exception of an increase in the incidental set-aside, from 2,000 metric tons (mt) to 3,000 mt.

There was no updated assessment of mackerel biomass this year, so the Council depended on the 2009 full assessment, which produced an estimated biomass of 282,049 mt. Based on this assessment and the Pacific mackerel harvest control rule in the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan, the Council recommends an acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 55,408 mt, and an overall harvest guideline of 11,000 mt that includes a 3,000 mt set-aside for incidental

landings should the directed fishery close.



School of Pacific mackerel. Source: Aleph1, Wikimedia Commons

The Scientific and Statistical Committee expressed uncertainty about the ABC, which the Council considered in setting the harvest guideline for the directed fishery sub-

stantially below the ABC. The Council reviewed historic Pa-

cific mackerel landings that have rarely exceeded 20,000 mt over the last 20 years and have averaged approximately 6,000 mt in the last ten years. Additionally, the Council considered the

resiliency of the Pacific mackerel stock and industry reports of increasing Pacific mackerel availability at a time when opportunities for other CPS stocks may be declining.

Should the directed fishery attain the harvest guideline of 8,000 mt, the Council recommends National Marine Fisheries Service close the directed fishery and establish a 45% incidental catch allowance when Pacific mackerel are landed with other CPS, except that up to 1 mt of Pacific mackerel could be landed without landing any other CPS.

Full assessments for actively managed CPS stocks including Pacific mackerel typically occur every third year. A full assessment of Pacific mackerel is scheduled for 2011. 

Recipe: Fresh Sardines Naples Style

Ingredients

- 2 pounds fresh sardines
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 1 cup white wine
- 1/2 cup fresh mint leaves

Directions

Prepare the sardines by removing the heads and back bones. Rinse and pat dry. Dredge in flour, shaking off any excess.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot, fry the sardines a few at a time until brown and crispy. Remove to a large serving plate, and keep warm.

In another skillet over medium heat, heat a bit of the oil. Add garlic, and cook for about half a minute. Add the wine and vinegar, and allow the mixture to simmer, stirring occasionally. When the liquid has reduced by about half, pour the sauce over the sardines, and sprinkle with fresh mint. Let stand for about one hour before serving to allow the fish to marinate. Enjoy.

Sardines are managed under the coastal pelagic species fishery management plan. Sardines have been deemed a “nutritional powerhouse” rich in Omega-3 fatty acids, protein, and other nutrients. Fresh local sardines can be purchased from local seafood stores and also from some Asian grocery stores, like Uwajimaya. When buying fresh sardines, conduct the “clock test” to assess the level of freshness: 1) grasp the sardine by the head; 2) allow it to flop to one side, and; 3) relate the angle of the fish to a clock. While a firm sardine with a 12 o’clock reading is ideal, an angle between 12 o’clock and 3 o’clock is acceptable.

Coastal Pelagic Species News

Council Takes Final Action on Coastal Pelagic Species Amendment 13 (Annual Catch Limits)

In June, the Council took final action on Amendment 13 to the coastal pelagic species fishery management plan (CPS FMP), which implements new provisions of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act and the National Standard 1 guidelines. Like other Council FMPs, the CPS FMP is being amended to avoid overfishing through the use of mechanisms specified in the guidelines, such as overfishing limits (OFLs), annual catch limits (ACLs), annual catch targets (ACTs), and accountability measures (AMs). The Council reviewed a range of alternatives and analyses to implement new provisions of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act and the National Standard 1 guidelines and adopted the following as final action modifying the CPS FMP:

- All actively managed, monitored species, and prohibited harvest species (krill) in the FMP are to be categorized as “in the fishery” and would be subject to the new management provisions to prevent overfishing.
- Jacksmelt and Pacific herring are to be added to the FMP as ecosystem component species. The intent of this action is to monitor the catches of these species and report landings in the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation report, but to not develop status determination criteria or management measures for these stocks at this time.
- Modify the existing harvest control rules for actively managed species to include a buffer or reduction in accept-

able biological catch (ABC) relative to OFL to account for scientific uncertainty. This buffer will be determined though the annual management cycle via a combination of advice from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and a policy determination by the Council. These control rules both recognize the inherent precaution built into the existing harvest control rules while allowing flexibility to respond to any new estimates of scientific uncertainty and/or changes in environmental conditions. (See “Control Rules for Actively Managed Species,” this page).

- Maintain the default harvest control rules for monitored stocks as modified to specify the new management reference points. ACLs would be specified for multiple years until new scientific information becomes available or the species becomes actively managed. Monitored stocks are either landed at relatively low levels, or are managed at the state level. The control rule for monitored stocks sets the ABC at 25 percent of estimated maximum sustainable yield levels, making it more conservative than the control rules for actively managed species for which more data and current assessments exist. This reduction will remain in use

Control Rules for Actively Managed Species	
OFL	BIOMASS * F_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION
ABC	BIOMASS * BUFFER * F_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION
ACL	LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO ABC
HG	(BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION.
ACT	EQUAL TO HG OR ACL, WHICHEVER VALUE IS LESS

F_{MSY} The fishing mortality rate that maximizes catch biomass in the long term.
 ACL annual catch limit
 HG harvest guideline
 ACT annual catch target

Control Rules for Monitored Species	
OFL	STOCK SPECIFIC MSY PROXY
ABC	OFL * 0.25
ACL	Equal to ABC or reduced by OY considerations.

until changes are recommended by the SSC and approved by the Council. Under these control rules, ACLs are intended more as a decision point for moving the species into an actively managed category than to signal a conservation concern. (See “Control Rules for Monitored Species,” this page).

- Add sector-specific ACLs, ACTs, and AMs to the CPS FMP management framework for use in the annual harvest and management specification process. The Council currently sets aside portions of CPS harvest guidelines to account for incidental landings and management uncertainty. Council staff, in coordination with the CPSMT, will update the CPS FMP to describe how these new tools will be used to avoid overfishing.

- Add language to specify that the Council will consider ecological factors in developing status determination

criteria, ACLs, and ACTs for CPS.

- While not a change to the FMP, the Council confirmed that status determination criteria for the CPS FMP are to remain as currently specified with the exception of the northern subpopulation of Northern anchovy (for which no criteria currently exist). The Council is anticipated to adopt appropriate status determination criteria and harvest specifications for this subpopulation through the annual management cycle at its November meeting.

The Council expects to implement provisions of Amendment 13 by the November Council meeting, where specifications of OFL, ABC, ACLs, ACTs, and AMs will be adopted as necessary for Pacific sardine and the monitored species. Specifications for Pacific mackerel will be adopted by the Council in June 2011. 

Highly Migratory Species News

Council Takes Final Action on Amendment 2 (Annual Catch Limits) for Highly Migratory Species

In June, the Council took final action to adopt Amendment 2 to the highly migratory species fishery management plan (HMS FMP). Amendment 2, if approved, would incorporate changes to the FMP needed to address revised National Standard 1 Guidelines published by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in January 2009. The Council developed its preferred alternative based on a range of alternatives adopted at the April 2010 meeting. (The Spring 2010 issue of *Pacific Council News* describes the range of alternatives).

The Council considered four alternatives and chose a preferred alternative which, while not identical to any one of these alternatives, falls within the range of measures that were considered. The Council's preferred alternative contains the following elements:

- The number of management unit species would be reduced by two by moving bigeye and pelagic thresher shark to the newly created ecosystem component species category. The remaining managed species are: albacore tuna, bigeye tuna, skipjack tuna, bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, striped marlin, swordfish, blue shark, common thresher shark, shortfin mako shark, and dorado (dolphin).

- The bulk of species currently enumerated in the FMP for monitoring purposes would be dropped from the FMP with the remaining reclassified as ecosystem component species. Combined with the two shark species mentioned above, there

would be eight ecosystem component species in the FMP: bigeye thresher shark, common mola, escolar, lancetfishes, louvar, pelagic stingray, pelagic thresher shark, and wahoo.

- The "international exception" to the requirement in the Guidelines to set annual catch limits (ACLs) would be applied to all the managed species in the FMP. This provision applies to stocks managed under an international agreement to which the U.S. is a party. In the Pacific, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) are regional organizations chartered to manage HMS fisheries at the international level. In deciding to apply the international exception, the Council concluded that the IATTC and WCPFC have the authority to manage these species and have made efforts to do so. In addition, foreign fisheries accounts for the bulk of catch of these species, so unilateral action by the U.S. would be less effective than working through these RFMOs.

- The FMP would describe how the Pacific Council is to coordinate with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC) to determine the "primary FMP" for the managed species, because the

WPFMC also includes them in their Pelagics Fishery Ecosystem Plan. The Guidelines state that when a stock occurs in more than one Council's FMP, Councils should identify which FMP will be primary. Where stocks are managed separately in the western and eastern Pacific, the respective Councils' FMPs will be designated primary. In other cases, primary FMP designation would be based on the relative importance of the species in the fisheries managed by the respec-



Drs. Suzy Kohin and Stephen Stohs provide analytical advice to the Council prior to final decision making. Photo: Don McIsaac

tive FMPs. Stock definitions and the designation of primary FMP will not be "hard wired" in the FMP, because fisheries and scientific understanding of stock structure can change over time.

- The current description in the FMP of how maximum sustained yield (MSY), optimum yield (OY), and status determination criteria (SDC) are determined would be modified to ensure consistency with the revised Guidelines. Managed species would be categorized according to how much information is available relative to stock status. For example, regional fishery

management organizations such as the IATTC conduct stock assessments for many of the managed HMS species. Information in these assessments can be used to identify MSY and overfishing limits. Other stocks are not regularly assessed or have never been assessed. In these cases, methods based on catch history and other information would have to be used. Furthermore, for some stocks only a "local MSY" can be estimated, because stockwide catch data are unavailable. Also, new text would be added to the FMP describing the process for setting acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and ACLs while noting that under the international exception these reference points don't have to be identified. Adding these descriptions would provide the Council with greater flexibility should it decide to apply an ACL to a managed stock at some future date.

- The current biennial process for setting or adjusting management measures would be expanded so that the Council may adopt updated estimates of MSY, OY, and SDC for managed stocks. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) would have the opportunity to review and sign off on any changes to estimates adopted by the Council.

The Council intends to submit Amendment 2 to NMFS for review within the next few months so that the amendment can become effective by the end of this year, consistent with the deadline for establishment of a mechanism to determine ACLs, as set forth in the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act. 

Highly Migratory Species News

Council Makes Recommendations on U.S. Positions at International Fishery Management Meetings

In June, the Council considered recommendations for U.S. delegations to two upcoming regional fishery management organization (RFMO) meetings.

The Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC) will meet September 7 - 10 in Fukuoka, Japan, just before the Council meeting held on September 11-16, in Boise, Idaho.

The Northern Committee develops conservation measures for selected HMS stocks occurring primarily north of 20° N latitude in the Pacific, including North Pacific albacore, an important species in West Coast HMS Fisheries. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) will hold their annual meeting September 23-October 1 in 2010 in Antigua, Guatemala. The IATTC develops conservation measures for HMS occurring in the eastern Pacific. Under the recently signed memorandum of understanding on highly migratory species matters,

the Pacific Council has a clearer role with respect to involvement with U.S. delegations to RFMO meetings.



Bigeye tuna. Photo: NOAA

At their June meeting, the Council decided to postpone making recommendations for IATTC action on bigeye and yellowfin tuna until the September Council meeting, when updated stock assessments will have been released.

The Council made the following recommendations for action in the IATTC and/or WCPFC forums:

- The U.S. delegation to the IATTC should develop a proposal for managing the purse seine fishery through a total allowable catch limit.

- The U.S. delegation to the WCPFC Northern Committee should propose a more effective and comprehensive bluefin tuna conservation measure, specifically to address juvenile mortality, for adoption by the WCPFC.

- The United States should pursue participation in the coordination meeting on bluefin tuna conservation between Japan, Mexico and the IATTC secretariat scheduled for August 30, and encourage the IATTC to move forward with a proposal for a bluefin tuna conservation measure.

- The U.S. should support proposals that would increase compliance with IATTC management measures, especially those related to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

- The U.S. delegations to the IATTC and WCPFC should advocate for more comprehensive data reporting and collection by members of the IATTC and WCPFC.

The Council also asked National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region to work with

the Pacific Islands Region Office to reexamine regulations related to vessel monitoring system requirements for vessels that have a WCPFC Area Endorsement on their High Seas Fishing Compliance Act of 1995 permit in order to lessen their financial impact on West Coast albacore vessels.

The timing of the Northern Committee meeting is problematic because it occurs immediately before the September Council meeting. Developing recommendations at the June meeting is hampered because meeting materials are not available this far in advance. In addition, key science meetings feeding into the Northern Committee meeting occur later in the summer. For this reason the Council considered forming an ad hoc committee that would meet later in the summer to further refine any recommendations developed by the Council at the June meeting, based on additional information available at that time. Based on workload considerations, the Council decided not to take action at this time to form such a committee.

Council to Consider Trip Limit Proposals for Washington State Recreational Albacore Fishery

Every other year the Council has the opportunity to consider new management measures for West Coast highly migratory species fisheries. June 2010 commenced the third of these biennial management cycles since fishery management plan implementation.

Recently, the Council was presented with a proposal from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

to place a per-trip limit on the Washington recreational albacore tuna fishery. Working with the Westport and Ilwaco charter associations, WDFW was able to get state action in 2007 to create a program with a limited number of charter licenses, which are required for vessels for hire taking passengers to fish for albacore tuna or salmon. However, Washington is aware of actions at the international

level calling on nations to not increase fishing effort on albacore. For that reason they decided that pursuing a per-angler albacore trip limit would be prudent.

The Council decided to move the proposal forward. Therefore, consistent with the biennial process, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team will prepare a draft regulatory analysis to help the Council adopt a range of alternatives for

public review at the September Council meeting. Final action is scheduled for the November meeting. If approved by National Marine Fisheries Service after notice-and-comment rulemaking, regulations to implement the Council's proposal would then become effective on or after April 1, 2011, at which point Washington would have to adopt conforming measures for state waters.

Enforcement Corner

Local Coast Guard Districts involved in Deepwater Horizon oil spill response

The impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico are being felt nationwide, including within the seafood industry and organizations such as the Coast Guard, which is entrusted with monitoring safety and enforcement in the fishing industry.

Coast Guard response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill has been significant and is expected to continue for some time. The deployment of Coast Guard personnel and equipment has been, and will remain, an important part of the response operations associated with this national disaster. Currently Coast Guard Districts Eleven and Thirteen have supported the Deepwater Horizon Response by deploying approximately 445 active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel, as well as Coast Guard Cutter *Fir* from Astoria, Oregon, and Coast Guard Cutter *Aspen* from San Francisco. Both cutters are a regular presence off the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts, providing search and rescue support, servicing aids to navigation, and enhancing safety and regulatory compliance in the commercial fishing industry.

Throughout the spill response efforts, Coast Guard leadership on the West Coast will shift priorities and available resources as necessary to ensure that search and rescue, law enforcement and safety-related operations remain a top priority.

Observer Harrassment Case ends in probation, fine

In 2008 an investigation into a complaint of harassment

and threats to an observer was initiated. A National Marine Fishery Service observer was on board a fishing vessel 20 miles off of the Southern Oregon coast and called their supervisor claiming that a crew member was making threatening gestures and actions and that the observer feared for their life. The crew member was described as acting angry and deranged,

in Eugene, Oregon, and the suspect was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on one felony count of intimidation and interfering with a groundfish observer under the Magnuson Stevens Act. A warrant was issued for the suspect's arrest. The suspect fled the state, and a subsequent investigation tracked him to Nevada, where he was arrested and extradited back to Oregon.



Deputy Chief Mike Cenci (WDFW) and Dayna Matthews (NMFS) testify on enforcement issues at a Council meeting. Photo: Don McIsaac

slamming hatch covers, yelling at the observer, and making threatening gestures.

NW Region NOAA Agents located the fishing vessel using the vessel monitoring system, and directed the Coast Guard to the fishing vessel. A Coast Guard aircraft located the vessel, and a Coast Guard cutter removed the observer from the vessel. The cutter then escorted the vessel back to port. When the vessel arrived at port, the suspect was taken into custody by Oregon State Patrol officers and NOAA agents.

The case was presented to the U.S Attorney's office

On June 9th 2010, the suspect plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge of intimidation and interfering with a groundfish observer. The defendant was sentenced to three years probation and ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$2000; he is also prohibited from being employed on any commercial fishing vessels on the West Coast with groundfish observers onboard, and is to have no contact with the victim. In addition, the defendant must complete anger management training and avoid the use of illegal drugs and alcohol.

Next time, read the regulations

In June, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officer Corey Peterson checked recreational halibut, salmon, and groundfish boats along the north coast of Washington. In one case, he discovered three subjects on a boat with 17 closed-season canary rockfish and an undersized lingcod. After admitting they never read the regulations, they were cited and given a copy of the state fishing regulation pamphlet. In addition to publishing regulations in a pamphlet available at most sporting goods stores and providing information on the WDFW web site, the agency has been educating people at boat ramps about the possession of this prohibited species.

Coastal halibut patrol discovers illegal rockfish and lingcod

Several WDFW patrol boats were sent to Washington's north coast to monitor the halibut fishery and to be available to vessels in need. As they returned from the fishing grounds, they saw an 18' ski boat speed by with three men trying hard not to make eye contact. Since vessels typically wave at the patrol boats, the officers suspected something was occurring and boarded the vessel. The men showed Sgt. Dan Chadwick a five-gallon bucket of rockfish and one lingcod, and claimed that that was all the fish they had on board. Sgt. Chadwick began a more thorough inspection, and eventually found 93 bottomfish and a closed-season Chinook salmon. Fish

Continued on page 12

Acronyms and Definitions

ABC	acceptable biological catch. The ABC is a scientific calculation of the sustainable harvest level of a fishery and is used to set the upper limit of the annual total allowable catch.		
ACL	annual catch limit. An ACL is the level of annual catch of a stock or stock complex that, if met or exceeded, triggers accountability measures such as a seasonal closure or quota closure.		
ACT	annual catch target. The amount of catch that is the management target for a fishery and that accounts for management uncertainty to control catch to levels that are at or below annual catch limits (ACLs).		
AM	accountability measure. Management controls designed to prevent annual catch limits (ACLs) from being exceeded.		
CDFG	California Department of Fish & Game		
CPS	coastal pelagic species		
CPSMT	Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team		
EA	environmental assessment		
EFH	essential fish habitat. Those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.		
EIS	environmental impact statement		
EPDT	Ecosystem Plan Development Team		
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Regulates hydropower operations and ocean energy in state waters.		
FMP	fishery management plan. A plan, and its amendments, that contains measures for conserving and managing specific fisheries and fish stocks.		
HC	Habitat Committee		
HMS	highly migratory species		
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tunas Commission		
MPA	marine protected area. A marine protected area is a "geographic area with discrete boundaries that has been designated to enhance the conservation of marine resources" (Ocean Studies Board). For example, a marine protected area might prohibit activities like oil and gas drilling, while allowing fishing.		
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Act (or MSRA, below)		
MSRA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006		
mt	metric tons. 1000 kilos or 2,204.62 pounds.		
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service. A division of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NMFS is responsible for conservation and management of offshore fisheries (and inland salmon). The NMFS Regional Director is a voting member of the Council.		
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration		
OFL	overfishing limit. OFL is an annual estimate of the maximum yield a stock can withstand without being put in jeopardy of overfishing.		
		OSP	Oregon State Police
		OY	optimum yield. The amount of fish that will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems. The OY is developed on the basis of the Maximum Sustained Yield from the fishery, taking into account relevant economic, social, and ecological factors. In the case of overfished fisheries, the OY provides for rebuilding to a level that is consistent with producing the Maximum Sustained Yield for the fishery.
		QP	quota pounds
		QS	quota share. A share of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) allocated to an operating unit such as a vessel, a company or an individual fisherman (individual quota) depending on the system of allocation. Quotas may or may not be transferable, inheritable, and tradable. While generally used to allocate total allowable catch, quotas could be used also to allocate fishing effort or biomass.
		RCA	Rockfish Conservation Area
		RFMC	regional (international) fishery management organization (for highly migratory species)
		SAC	Salmon Amendment Committee
		SDC	status determination criteria. SDCs enable the Council to monitor each stock or stock complex in an FMP and determine annually, if possible, whether overfishing is occurring and whether the stock or stock complex is overfished.
		SPR	Spawning potential ratio. The ratio of spawning potential per recruit under a given fishing regime, relative to the spawning potential per recruit with no fishing.
		SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee. An advisory committee of the PFMC made up of scientists and economists. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that each council maintain an SSC to assist in gathering and analyzing statistical, biological, ecological, economic, social, and other scientific information that is relevant to the management of Council fisheries.
		STAR	Stock Assessment Review (Panel)
		STT	Salmon Technical Team
		TCW	Tule Chinook Workgroup
		VMS	vessel monitoring system
		WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
		WDFW	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
		WSJF	Western Straits of Juan de Fuca (salmon)
		YRCA	Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area

Inseason adjustments, continued from page 2

rockfish were 17 mt and, as such, inseason action at the June Council meeting was necessary. The Council considered the latest information on 2010 estimated catches in research and exempted fishing permits (EFPs) as well as inseason adjustments to ongoing fisheries in order to constrain catches to 14 mt. In response to the court's order as well as concerns surrounding the survey design (Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental Attachment 3, March 2010), the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife cancelled their 2010 enhanced rockfish surveys. This reduced the total 2010 research impacts to yelloweye rockfish to 1.3 mt.

The Council recommended five non-whiting EFPs and associated overfished species caps for 2010 (see Winter 2009 Newsletter). In response to the lower yelloweye OY and past performance (lack of participation, low target catch, lack of funding, etc.), NMFS cancelled the trolled longline for chilipep-

per rockfish EFP and the California recreational chilipepper EFP. The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), along with the applicants of the Oregon recreational yellowtail EFP, recommended that the yelloweye rockfish cap be reduced since no yelloweye rockfish were caught during the same EFP in 2009. As such, the Council recommended that NMFS reduce the yelloweye rockfish cap for this EFP from 0.2 to 0.1 mt. The remaining EFPs will be issued with the caps specified in November, and the total 2010 EFP impacts to yelloweye rockfish will be 0.2 mt.

The Council considered comments from its advisory bodies and the public regarding restrictions to fishery management measures that would reduce the total projected impacts to yelloweye rockfish to 14 mt. Commercial fishery models were updated based on the latest West Coast Groundfish Observer Program data and landings. Specifically, the limited entry trawl sector

and the nearshore commercial fisheries were estimated to have lower yelloweye rockfish impacts compared to the start of the year estimates. Recreational fisheries in all three states were also projecting impacts lower than the harvest guidelines currently in regulation. Therefore, the Council recommended that NMFS reduce the yelloweye harvest guideline for Washington and Oregon from 5.1 to 4.9 mt, reducing each state's share by 0.1 mt. For California, the Council recommends that NMFS reduce the yelloweye recreational harvest guideline from 2.8 mt to 2.7 mt for 2010. All three states will take action to keep yelloweye rockfish impacts to within the harvest guidelines.

Routine Inseason Management Measures

Limited entry trawl model projections estimate overages of the sablefish trawl allocation and the petrale sole OY. As such, the Council recommended the trip limit reductions shown at <http://tinyurl.com/246s4bb>

(NMFS link) for implementation on July 1, 2010. Sablefish and petrale sole trip limits were reduced from May 1, 2010 trip limits, along with Dover sole and other flatfish in periods 4, 5, and 6, in order to achieve the necessary reductions. The rockfish conservation area boundaries remain unchanged.

The GAP requested an increase in chilipepper rockfish trip limits south of 40° 10' N. lat. in order to better utilize the chilipepper OY. There is some potential for increased impacts on bocaccio rockfish (a rebuilding species), since they co-occur. However, only a few vessels will target chilipepper, and only in the area south of 38° N. lat. The GMT also estimated that the additional bocaccio impacts would be well within the OY. As such, the Council recommends that NMFS increase the chilipepper bimonthly trip limit from 12,000 to 17,000 pounds per two months, to be implemented by July 1, 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter. 

Enforcement Corner, continued from page 10

had been hidden in the open bow, the ski locker, and the engine compartment. The vessel was seized for forfeiture proceedings and secured at the USCG station.

CDFG, NOAA conduct offshore patrol during recreational rockfish opener

In June, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) wardens and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement special agents conducted an offshore patrol aboard the P/B *Albacore*. The detail targeted the recreational rockfish opener off the coast of California near Shelter Cove. Surveys and data collected by CDFG biologists suggested that this area should be scrutinized for yelloweye rockfish bycatch. These findings have been reported to the Council in a variety of ways. Enforcement Consultants attending the Council meetings discussed and planned for additional patrol to address these concerns.

Several contacts were made, and most subjects contacted were in compliance with state and Federal regulations. However, during

the course of the two-day operation, citations were issued to recreational anglers for retention of yelloweye rockfish, undersize lingcod, and over-limits of rockfish.

In addition to the state violations, one vessel was contacted that was actively longlining for sablefish. The boarding team discovered several Federal gear violations and a deckhand without the proper state license, as well as an active arrest warrant. Fortunately for the deckhand, the arrest warrant was eligible for a citation and release, and the team did not take him in to custody.

USCG, Oregon State Police look into illegal angling in Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area

June 17-19, 2010 was an all-depth halibut opener for anglers fishing off the central Oregon coast. USCG and Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers from the Newport office patrolled the Stonewall Banks Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) closure area located 15 miles off the port of Newport, responding to complaints

Continued on page 13

Appointments, continued from page 1

Mr. Pollard enjoys boating, travel, fishing, hunting, bluegrass music, and cooking.

Council Officers Appointed

In June, the Council appointed officers for the August 11, 2010-August 10, 2011 term. The new Chair is Mr. Mark Cedergreen (Westport, Washington). Mr. Cedergreen is serving his third term on the Council, which will expire in August 2011. He has been a commercial fishing crew member, a commercial salmon troller, and a charterboat operator. He has served on Council advisory panels for salmon and groundfish and is a past board member of the Pacific Marine Conservation Council. He is currently employed as the Executive Director of the Westport Charterboat Association.

The two Vice Chair positions will be held by Mr. Dan Wolford (California) and Ms. Dorothy Lowman (Oregon). Mr. Wolford is beginning his second term. He has been a recreational fisherman all his life, first in Oregon and for the past 30 years in California. Since retiring in 2001 as an aerospace systems engineering manager, he has been a volunteer advocate for recreational fishermen in support of science-based fisheries management. He has served on the Council's Salmon Advisory Subpanel and ad hoc Salmon Amendment Team.

Ms. Lowman is serving her first term. As a fisheries consultant, she works with both industry and environmental organizations on fishery management issues in the Pacific and North Pacific regions. With an undergraduate degree in oceanography and a master's in marine resource management, her prior work experience includes working on staff at the University of Washington Oceanography Department and for the Pacific, North Pacific and Western Pacific Councils. She has served on the Council's Trawl Individual Quota Committee as well as the Secretary of Commerce's Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Advisory Body Vacancies Filled

The Council made the following appointments to fill advisory body vacancies:

- Dr. Richard Scully to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game

position on the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT)

- Ms. Angelika Hagen-Breaux to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) position on the Model Evaluation Workgroup
- Dr. Sean Matson to a NMFS Northwest Region position on the Groundfish Management Team (replacing Ms. Sarah Williams)
- Ms. Heidi Hermsmeyer to a NMFS Southwest Region position on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (replacing Mr. Lyle Enriquez)
- Mr. Charles (Sonny) Peterson to the Tribal Fisher position on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (replacing Mr. Roger Bain)

In reviewing long-standing unfilled vacancies on advisory bodies, the Council decided to eliminate the Tribal at-large position on the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel. The currently vacant Tribal position on the Ecosystem Plan Development Team will be maintained and may be filled at an appropriate time in the future.

The Council established a new ad hoc committee, the Tule Chinook Workgroup (TCW), to help explore abundance-based approaches to setting allowable fishing rates in the long-term to protect Lower Columbia River tule Chinook. Mr. Chuck Tracy will staff the committee.

Members of the committee are: Tom Cooney, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center; Larrie LaVoy, NMFS Sustainable Fisheries; Mark Sherrill, NMFS Protected Species Division; Guy Norman, WDFW; Cindy LeFleur, WDFW; John North, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW); Tom Stahl, ODFW; Hap Leon, Makah Tribe; and Stuart Ellis, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

The Council took no action at this time regarding establishing an ad hoc committee to develop positions on highly migratory species matters prior to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee meetings in mid-September, on the basis of workload management concerns.

The Council Chair also appointed Dr. Geoff Shester, Oceana, to replace Mr. Santi Roberts on the ad hoc Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee. 

Enforcement Corner, continued from page 12

of anglers fishing inside the YRCA. During two days of ocean patrol, eighteen boats with fifty-seven anglers were contacted either near or within the closure area. Eleven of the boats were cited for "Angling Closed Area," with thirty-one individual warnings given for the same violation. Two anglers were cited for "Fail to Validate Harvest Tag," one of which had been cited earlier in the week by the same trooper for exceeding

the daily shellfish possession limit. Four additional warnings were given for failing to validate angling harvest tags, and failing to allow inspection of gear.

Oregon State Police find illegally caught sockeye salmon

During June 2010, OSP Trooper Schwartz (St. Helens) conducted a routine gillnet compliance patrol near Clatskanie. After inspecting several vessels, Schwartz began checking sport anglers in the area,

issuing citations for angling using a prohibited method (using two lines instead of one as required). While contacting several individuals camped near Mayger Beach on the Columbia River, Schwartz then observed a cooler in the bed of one vehicle. The cooler was partially opened, revealing the snout of what appeared to be a salmon. Schwartz gained consent to search the cooler, and found 20 sockeye salmon. The owner of

the vehicle admitted to working on a gillnet boat the night before, and accepted the sockeye as payment. Subsequently, the individual was cited and released for unlawful possession of commercially-caught sockeye salmon. Schwartz contacted the vessel owner the following day, citing and releasing him for unlawful taking of commercial sockeye salmon during a closed season. The 20 sockeye salmon were seized as evidence. 

Groundfish Table 1. Rebuilding plan specifications for eight depleted groundfish species adopted in June 2010 under the Council's preferred alternative for 2011-2012 harvest specifications and rebuilding plan revisions.

Species	B ₀	B _{MSY}	T _{MIN} a/	T _{MAX}	T _{F=0} a/	P _{MAX}	T _{TARGET}	Harvest Control Rule (SPR Harvest Rate)
Bocaccio	7,946 B eggs	3,178 B eggs	2018	2031	2019	86.8%	2022	F77.7%
Canary	25,993 mt	10,397 mt	2024	2046	2024	75.0%	2027	F88.7%
Cowcod	2,183 mt	873 mt	2059	2097	2060	66.2%	2071	F79.0%
Darkblotched	32,800 mt	13,112 mt	2012	2037	2016	85.2%	2025	F64.9%
POP	37,780 mt	15,112 mt	2017	2045	2018	89.7%	2020	F86.4%
Widow	40,547 M eggs	16,219 M eggs	2008	2035	2010	100%	2015	F91.7% b/
Yelloweye	994 M eggs	398 M eggs	2044	2089	2047	52.3%	2084	F72.8%
Petrale	25,334 mt	6,334 mt	2014	2021	2014	82.0%	2016	NA c/

a/ T_{MIN} is the shortest time to rebuild from the onset of the rebuilding plan or from the first year of a rebuilding plan, which is usually the year after the stock was declared overfished. The shortest possible time to rebuild the stocks with rebuilding plans under consideration in June 2010 was T_{F=0}, which was the median time to rebuild the stock if all fishing-related mortality were eliminated beginning in 2011.

b/ The preferred ACL alternative for 2011-2012 is a constant catch of 600 mt. This level of catch corresponds to an SPR harvest rate of F91.7% in 2011.

c/ The preferred rebuilding plan for petrale sole is to apply a variable harvest rate strategy after 2011 using the 25-5 harvest control rule.

Coming Up at the September 2010 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Boise, Idaho on September 11-16, 2010. The advance Briefing Book will be posted on the Council website in late August (www.pcouncil.org).

Groundfish

- Amendment 20 (trawl catch shares) & Amendment 21 (intersector allocation): status update and final follow-up
- Trailing amendments to Amendment 20 (trawl catch shares): identify priorities and plan
- Exempted fishing permits
- NMFS groundfish report
- Inseason adjustments
- Five-year EFH review process planning

- (Amendment 16): adopt proposed alternatives for public review
- Mitchell Act Hatchery EIS: provide comments
- Salmon essential fish habitat five-year review: adopt for public review

Halibut

- Proposed changes to Halibut Catch Sharing Plan
- Review procedure for estimating halibut bycatch in groundfish fisheries
- Proposed changes to halibut catch and bycatch allocation

Habitat and Ecosystem Management

- Current habitat issues
- Briefing on National Habitat Assessment Improvement Plan
- National MPA Registry: review and comment
- Briefing on marine spatial planning
- Ecosystem FMP: Initiate development

Coastal Pelagic Species

- Terms of reference for stock assessment and methodology review panels

Highly Migratory Species

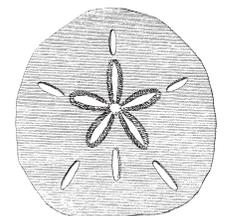
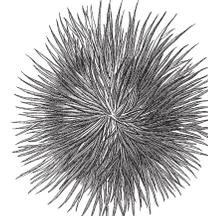
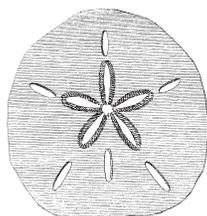
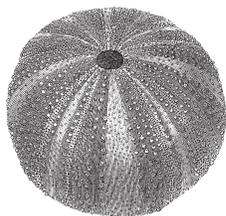
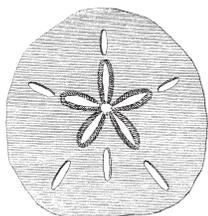
- NMFS report
- Routine HMS management measures
- Results of WCPFC Northern Committee meeting and recommendations to IATTC

Other

- Washington State fishery enforcement report
- Legislative matters
- Appointments

Salmon

- Methodology review
- Annual catch limits



Groundfish Table 2. Specified ABCs and OYs (metric tons) under the No Action alternative and final preferred 2011 and 2012 OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs (mt) (overfished stocks in CAPS; stocks with new assessments in bold).

Stock	No Action Alternatives		Final Preferred Alternatives							
	2010 ABC	2010 OY	2011 OFL	2012 OFL	2011 ABC	2012 ABC	2011 ACL	2012 ACL	2011 ACT	2012 ACT
OVERFISHED STOCKS										
BOCACCIO S. of 40°10' N lat.	793	288	737	732	704	700	263	274		
CANARY	940	105	614	622	586	594	102	107		
COWCOD S. of 40°10' N lat.	14	4	13	13	10	10	4	4		
DARKBLOTCHED	440	330 a/	508	497	485	475	298	296		
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	1,173	200	1,026	1,007	981	962	180	183	157	157
WIDOW	6,937	509	5,097	4,923	4,872	4,705	600	600		
YELLOWEYE	32	14 a/	48	48	46	46	20	20	17	17
PETRALE SOLE	2,751	1,200	1,021	1,279	976	1,222	976	1,160		
NON-OVERFISHED STOCKS										
Lingcod - coastwide	4,829	4,829	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
Lingcod N. of 42° N lat. (OR & WA)	NA	NA	2,438	2,251	2,330	2,151	2,330	2,151		
Lingcod S. of 42° N lat. (CA)	NA	NA	2,523	2,597	2,102	2,164	2,102	2,164		
Pacific Cod	3,200	1,600	3,200	3,200	2,222	2,222	1,600	1,600		
Sablefish (coastwide)	9,217	NA	8,808	8,623	8,418	8,242	NA	NA		
Sablefish N. of 36° N lat.	NA	6,471	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,515	5,347		
Sablefish S. of 36° N lat.	NA	1,258	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,298	1,258		
Shortbelly	6,950	6,950	6,950	6,950	5,789	5,789	50	50		
Chilipepper S. of 40°10' N lat.	2,576		2,073	1,872	1,981	1,789	1,981	1,789		
Splitnose S. of 40°10' N lat.	615	461	1,529	1,610	1,461	1,538	1,461	1,538		
Yellowtail N. of 40°10' N lat.	4,562	4,562	4,566	4,573	4,364	4,371	4,364	4,371		
Shortspine Thornyhead (coastwide)	2,411	NA	2,384	2,358	2,279	2,254	NA	NA		
Shortspine Thornyhead - N. of 34°27' N lat.	NA	1,591	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,573	1,556		
Shortspine Thornyhead - S. of 34°27' N lat.	NA	410	NA	NA	NA	NA	405	401		

Longspine Thornyhead (coastwide)	3,671	NA	3,577	3,483	2,981	2,902	NA	NA		
Longspine Thornyhead - N. of 34°27' N lat.	NA	2,175	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,119	2,064		
Longspine Thornyhead - S. of 34°27' N lat.	NA	385	NA	NA	NA	NA	376	366		
Black Rockfish (WA)	464	464	445	435	426	415	426	415		
Black Rockfish (OR-CA)	1,317	1,000	1,217	1,169	1,163	1,117	1,000	1,000		
California scorpionfish	155	155	141	132	135	126	135	126		
Cabazon (CA)	111	79	187	176	179	168	179	168		
Cabazon (OR)	NA	NA	52	50	50	48	50	48		
Dover Sole	28,582	16,500	44,400	44,826	42,436	42,843	25,000	25,000		
English Sole	9,745	9,745	20,675	10,620	19,761	10,150	19,761	10,150		
Arrowtooth Flounder	10,112	10,112	18,211	14,460	15,174	12,049	15,174	12,049		
Starry Flounder	1,578	1,077	1,802	1,813	1,502	1,511	1,352	1,360		
Longnose skate	3,269	1,349	3,128	3,006	2,990	2,873	1,349	1,349		

STOCK COMPLEXES										
Minor Rockfish North	3,678	2,283	3,767	3,821	3,363	3,414	2,227	2,227		
Minor Nearshore Rockfish North	NA	155	116	116	99	99	99	99		
Minor Shelf Rockfish North	NA	968	2,188	2,197	1,940	1,948	968	968		
Minor Slope Rockfish North	NA	1,160	1,462	1,507	1,324	1,367	1,160	1,160		
Minor Rockfish South	3,382	1,990	4,302	4,291	3,723	3,712	2,341	2,341		
Minor Nearshore Rockfish South	NA	650	1,156	1,145	1,001	990	1,001	990		
Minor Shelf Rockfish South	NA	714	2,238	2,243	1,885	1,890	714	714		
Minor Slope Rockfish South	NA	626	907	903	836	832	626	626		
Other Flatfish	6,731	4,884	10,146	10,146	7,044	7,044	4,884	4,884		
Other Fish	11,200	5,600	11,150	11,150	7,742	7,742	5,575	5,575		

a/ A federal court ruling in April 2010 remanded the cowcod, darkblotched, and yelloweye rockfish rebuilding plans to the versions adopted under Amendment 16-4. In response to that ruling, NMFS changed the 2010 darkblotched and yelloweye OYs to those adopted under Amendment 16-4. The darkblotched OY of 330 mt is higher than the original OY of 291 mt specified in regulations. NMFS increased the OY to meet the court order, but requested that fishery impacts not exceed 291 mt. The original yelloweye harvest rate ramp-down strategy called for a 14 mt OY in 2010. The Council and NMFS changed that OY to 17 mt in 2010 to avoid significant negative socioeconomic impacts to fishing communities while still maintaining the rebuilding time period. The court ruling and subsequent NMFS action reverts that OY back to 14 mt.

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.

Ecosystem Plan Development Team

Purpose: Work session to review comments of the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel and draft a report on initial development of an Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan

Dates: July 21, 2010

Location: Council office, Portland

Contact: Mike Burner (mike.burner@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dates: September 11-16, 2010

Location: Doubletree Hotel Boise - Riverside

Contact: Don McIsaac (donald.mcisaac@noaa.gov)

September Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held September 11-16, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel Boise - Riverside in Boise, Idaho. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on August 25** will be included in the briefing books mailed to Council members prior to the September meeting. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on September 2** will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the September meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

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Pacific Council News
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