

FINAL ACTION TO ADOPT BIENNIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS
FOR 2017-2018 FISHERIES

In September and November 2015, the Council adopted 2017 and 2018 harvest specifications (overfishing limits [OFLs], acceptable biological impacts [ABCs]), and annual catch limits (ACLs) for most of the actively-managed groundfish stocks and stock complexes. Final preferred harvest specifications are to be decided under this agenda item. In March, the Council received a briefing ([Agenda Item G.3, Supplemental Agenda Item Overview PowerPoint](#)) on selected analyses and predicted effects of alternative ACLs to inform decision-making under this agenda item. Materials informing this decision include the draft analytical document (Attachment 1), excerpted harvest specification tables from Attachment 1 (Attachment 2), and the draft Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document (provided electronically in Attachment 3).

Council staff is soliciting comments and edits on the draft SAFE document. Please provide comments to John DeVore (John.DeVore@noaa.gov) by May 20, 2016. A final draft of the SAFE document will be posted on the Council's web site at www.pcouncil.org when the June briefing book becomes available.

At the March 2016 meeting, the Council forwarded the 2017-2018 commercial jig fishing exempted fishing permit (EFP) application ([Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1, March 2016](#)) for public review and possible final adoption at its June 2016 meeting with the following modifications: 1) include monitoring options of (a) 30 percent observer coverage, (b) 100 percent observer coverage; and (c) 30 percent observer coverage augmented by electronic monitoring; 2) extend the southern boundary for the EFP to Point Conception, and 3) add up to three additional vessels to the EFP. The Council adopted set-asides as specified in 2015-2016 and reduced the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife research set-aside for yelloweye by the amount needed for this EFP (0.03 mt). The re-calculated fishery harvest guidelines and allocations will be provided in the supplemental materials (Supplemental Attachment 4).

At the March 2016 meeting, the Council approved an alternative that would allow midwater long-leader recreational groundfish fishing seaward of a line approximating the 40 fathom depth curve exclusively off the coast of Oregon from April-September to target abundant and healthy midwater species while avoiding or minimizing interactions with overfished rockfish species. Supplemental analysis is underway to inform revised groundfish mortality estimates for the Oregon recreational fisheries in 2017-2018, assuming National Marine Fisheries Service approval. Attachment 1 will be revised accordingly for the June Council meeting.

The Council will receive recommendations from Council advisory bodies; state, Federal, and tribal agencies; and the public to aid in making these decisions.

Council Action:

Adopt final preferred alternative for 2017 and 2018 harvest specifications for groundfish stocks and stock complexes.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1: 2017-2018 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Including Changes to Groundfish Stock Designations (Amendment 27 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan): Description and Analysis for Council Decision-making.
2. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 2: 2017 and 2018 Groundfish Harvest Specifications.
3. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 3: Draft of the 2016 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document (*Available Electronically Only*).
4. Agenda Item F.3, Supplemental Attachment 4: Revised Fishery Harvest Guidelines and Allocations.

Agenda Order:

- F.3 Final Action to Adopt Biennial Specifications
for 2017-2018 Fisheries John DeVore, Kelly Ames
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Harvest Specifications for 2017-2018 Fisheries

PFMC
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