OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON BIENIENNAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

This Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) report has two sections: (1) modification of the canary rockfish allocation proposal from Table 3 in Agenda Item G.3.a, REVISED Supplemental ODFW Report, March 2016 and (2) revised Oregon recreational mortality projections to account for targeting of canary rockfish, and adoption of the new longleader opportunity.

Part 1. Modification to the ODFW canary rockfish allocation proposal

For the March 2016 Council meeting, ODFW issued a state report in regards to the 2017-2018 biennial harvest specifications. The first part of the report pertained to ODFW support and rationale for selecting alternatives where the annual catch limit (ACL) is set equal to the allowable biological catch (ABC) for canary rockfish (No Action) and widow rockfish (Alternative 1); ODFW's support for this remains the same. The second part of the report contained ODFW's strawman proposal for allocating canary rockfish in a manner to first buffer for the needs of the recreational and commercial fixed gear sectors (which may have limited capability to access canary rockfish due to yelloweye rockfish constraints); with the remainder to the trawl sectors, since canary rockfish may limit access to their more abundant target stocks (e.g., widow and yellowtail rockfishes, but also shelf flatfish such as dover, English, and rex soles per public testimony).

While there was positive input on the allocation proposal, as it is intended to better achieve optimum yield for all fisheries and sectors, there were concerns that the quantities available to the recreational and commercial fixed gear sectors under the Alternative 2 ACL for canary rockfish could be constraining, as they result in allocations similar to (within 1-2 mt of) those under the current canary rockfish rebuilding plan. To better provide for the recreational and commercial fixed gear sectors, **we suggest modifying the original proposal to provide the non-trawl sectors the same allocations in metric tons for all three ACL alternatives - no scaling down for the lesser ACLs as done with the original proposal).**

The recreational and commercial fixed gear constant allocations would be set to accomplish the following objectives: (1) allow access to target stocks; (2) allow for harvest of incidental catch and accommodate potential targeting; and (3) buffer for uncertainty in projections (due to either model-based assumptions or fishery variability). **ODFW would like to clarify that the allocations contained within the initial ODFW report were placeholder values needed to illustrate the general method and approach, and that the states and advisory are best positioned to provide the actual allocations.**

Part 2. Revised ODFW recreational mortality projections to account for targeting of canary rockfish in traditional groundfish fishery and adoption of the new longleader opportunity.

ODFW has revised its projection model to account for potential targeting of canary rockfish in the traditional recreational groundfish fishery and to account for implementation of the new longleader opportunity (Table 1). Since neither was accounted for in the original projections provided for the 2017-2018 harvest specifications and management measures, ODFW would like to replace the original projection tables (4-55, 4-73, 4-82) with those of Table 1 in this report.

To account for targeting of canary rockfish, ODFW calibrated the canary rockfish catch rate distributions (i.e., percent of anglers that caught 0-10 canary rockfish) from the current era (with avoidance) to mirror the distributions from the 1990's when targeting was permitted. This calibration accounted for the shelf, the primary canary rockfish habitat, now being closed (i.e., shelf trips were excluded from the historic dataset).

To account for impacts from the new longleader opportunity, ODFW assumed there would be 5,000 substitution long-leader trips (i.e., traditional recreational groundfish to long-leader) and 2,000 new long-leader trips (i.e., in addition to current traditional groundfish trips). Since actual longleader participation is uncertain, liberal trip projections were assumed. Per this analysis, no changes are needed to management measures for the alternative harvest specifications, as Oregon recreational fisheries would continue to remain within the respective sector allocation.

As shown in Table 1, the new longleader opportunity has the potential to shift impacts from the nearshore stocks to shelf stocks: impacts to black rockfish and greenlings could decrease, whereas yellowtail, canary, and widow rockfish impacts could increase. While yelloweye rockfish are predominately a shelf stock, their impacts are expected to decrease (even with the additional angler trips) because bycatch rates with the longleader fishery are less than those of the traditional recreational groundfish fishery. The concept for reducing yelloweye rockfish impacts by shifting focus away from the traditional recreational groundfish to the longleader fishery was discussed at the March 2016 Council meeting (both in the GMT report and on the Council floor).

Table 1 . Revised Oregon recreational mortality projections (metric tons) to account for targeting of canary rockfish in the traditional groundfish fisheries and to account for the new longleader opportunity.

Stock	Original Projected Mortality (mt)	Revised Projected Mortality (mt)	Difference (mt)
Canary Rockfish	17.1	47.1	30
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH	2.9	2.8	-0.1
Black Rockfish OR	353.2	336.7	-16.5
Greenlings a/	6.4	6.1	-0.3
Nearshore Rockfish North of $40^0$10' N. Lat. b/	35.6	35.9	0.3
Widow Rockfish c/	0.54	12.8	12.3
Yellowtail Rockfish c/	11.2	63.1	51.9

a/ Includes kelp and other greenlings

b/ Includes blue rockfish. The State of Oregon has a federal HG of Nearshore Rockfish North of $40^0$10' N. Lat. of 60.5 mt, which is shared between the Oregon commercial nearshore and recreational fisheries

c/ Original projection was not shown in original documentation tables, but both original and revised projections shown here as yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish will be the stocks most influenced by the new longleader opportunity