

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
MID-BIENNIUM ANNUAL CATCH LIMIT ADJUSTMENT AND REBUILDING HARVEST
RATE ADJUSTMENT POLICIES

The SSC reviewed a report (Agenda Item F.8 Attachment 1) by Ms. Chantel Wetzel and Dr. Owen Hamel (NWFSC) evaluating the implementation of a rebuilding harvest control rule revision to the rebuilding plans for Pacific ocean perch and yelloweye rockfish. Both stocks were below the minimum stock size threshold (MSST) and projections were run that replaced the current rebuilding harvest strategy with a hybrid strategy that used a 40-10 harvest control rule when spawning biomass was projected to increase above the MSST. The SSC endorses the analysis as the best available science to determine the effects of implementing the hybrid rebuilding strategies on rebuilding timing for Pacific ocean perch and yelloweye rockfish. Pacific ocean perch time to rebuild is expected to increase by 79 years and yelloweye rockfish by 98 years under the hybrid rebuilding strategy relative to the current rebuilding approach.

No analysis was presented to the SSC regarding the mid-biennium annual catch limit adjustment. The SSC emphasizes that in assessment years the planning priority should focus on producing the best assessment science and that it not be compromised to accommodate a mid-biennium policy.

PFMC
09/16/16