

INITIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ACTIONS FOR 2019-2020 MANAGEMENT

In June, the Council adopted a process and schedule for deciding harvest specifications and management measures for 2019-2020 groundfish fisheries (see [Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 1, June 2017](#)). The sequence of decision-making is scheduled so that the new regulations can be implemented on January 1, 2019. Based on this schedule, the Council will begin deciding groundfish harvest specifications and providing input on new management measures for 2019-2020 groundfish fisheries at this meeting. Specifically, the Council is tasked with adopting overfishing limits (OFLs), a range of acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and a preliminary range of annual catch limits (ACLs) to be further analyzed if there is a desire to depart from default harvest control rules (HCRs); and a preliminary range of new management measures for 2019-2020 fisheries.

Harvest Specifications

Amendment 24 established default HCRs that are applied to the best available scientific information to determine the 2019 and 2020 OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs. No action is needed if the Council intends to implement the remaining harvest specifications based on the default HCRs described in Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 1. In the event the Council would like to change the default HCR, the Council should adopt a preliminary range of ABCs based on their P* choice and any additional ACL HCRs for more detailed analysis under this agenda item before deciding on a final range of ACLs in November. Selection of preliminary preferred ACLs is scheduled for November 2017 and final preferred ACLs in April 2018, for those stocks where the Council departs from the HCR.

Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 1 contains the proposed 2019 and 2020 OFLs, a range of 2019 and 2020 ABCs based on the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) default sigmas for each stock category and overfishing probabilities (P*s) from the 2017-2018 management cycle, ACLs that comport with the Council's default HCRs, and a description of the HCR. Catch-only updates of 2015 assessments for canary and chilipepper rockfish are provided to correct errors in the historical catch time series and inform new OFLs for those stocks (Agenda Item E.9, Attachments 2 and 3). The SSC will review the proposed OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values, and make their recommendations to the Council. The SSC may be changing the sigma values used to determine ABCs (Agenda Item E.9, Attachments 4 and 5). If so, new sigma values and associated ABCs under default HCRs will be provided in their report to the Council.

The Council should review and adopt the OFL values recommended by the SSC and adopt a range of HCRs to analyze for those stocks the Council is contemplating a departure from current HCRs. The Council should note that not all OFLs for actively managed stocks will be proposed at this meeting. 2019 and 2020 OFLs for yelloweye rockfish will be based on a new rebuilding analysis, which is scheduled for review in late September at the mop-up panel meeting (proposed as a one-day webinar). Likewise, new OFLs for starry flounder, gopher rockfish in California, and cabezon in Washington are proposed to be based on a data-poor methodology, such as depletion-based

stock reduction analysis, which will be reviewed at the mop-up panel. Those new OFLs will be scheduled for Council adoption in November.

Preliminary Range of New Management Measures

Under Agenda Item E.9, the Council is also scheduled to provide initial fishery management guidance, including adopting a preliminary range of new management measures necessary to keep catch within or attain a specification, or to address habitat or protected resources concerns for analysis. New measures are those where the impacts have not been previously analyzed and/or have not been previously implemented in regulation. Adopting a preliminary range of new management measures at this meeting will allow the Groundfish Management Team, in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, to assess the analytical requirements and anticipated workload at their October meeting. At the November 2017 meeting, initial considerations and preliminary analysis for new management measures will be brought forward which will allow the Council to further refine the range of new management measures for more detailed analysis. At the November 2017 meeting, the Council is also scheduled to provide guidance on adjustments to routine measures, including two-year allocations, to be analyzed over winter. Selection of the preliminary preferred management measures is scheduled to occur at the April 2018 Council meeting and final action is scheduled for June 2018.

In September 2016, the Council took action to change the at-sea whiting sector allocations of darkblotched rockfish and Pacific ocean perch (POP) to set-asides, while maintaining the allocation formulas in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for these two stocks to determine the set-aside amounts (see Agenda Item E.7, Attachment 4). The Council may wish to consider preserving the Council intent of managing darkblotched rockfish and POP impacts in the at-sea whiting fishery using set-asides but amending the FMP to remove the allocation formulas. Set-asides for darkblotched and POP would then be established biennially based on best available information, as is done for all other stocks managed with set-asides from the trawl allocation.

In April 2017, the Council's Groundfish Endangered Species Act (ESA) Workgroup (ESWG) provided updated estimates of the incidental take of ESA-listed non-salmonid species. The ESWG did not recommend any particular management measures be developed in the 2019-2020 harvest specifications and management measures process. However, the ESWG recommended the Council receive a presentation on the new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seabird biological opinion. The Council also noted the potential to allow development of additional seabird mitigation measures, as appropriate, through the 2019-2020 harvest specifications and management measures process. Additionally, the Council recommended developing and considering a range of management measures to address the bycatch of Chinook salmon in groundfish fisheries (see page 21 of the [Council Meeting Record, April 2017](#)). The seabird and salmon consultation presentations are a candidate agenda item for the November 2017 Council meeting (Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 2).

Furthermore, several new management measures have been identified for Council consideration during the trawl catch share review. Follow on action that have been identified as potential candidates for inclusion in the 2019-2010 harvest specifications and management measures can be found in Table 8 of Agenda Item E.7, Attachment 3.

The Council should carefully consider the list of potential new management measures and available resources when deciding which issues are the highest priorities for more detailed analyses. Establishing a manageable range of alternatives for analysis will increase the likelihood

that harvest specifications are implemented January 1, consistent with the FMP. The Council will reconsider those measures deemed ineligible for consideration in the biennial process at the June 2018 meeting during the omnibus prioritization process.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt those 2019-2020 OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values recommended by the SSC.**
2. **In the event the Council chooses to depart from the default HCR, adopt a preliminary range of 2019-2020 P*s/ABCs and ACLs for more detailed analysis.**
3. **Adopt a preliminary range of new management measures.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 1: 2019 and 2020 Groundfish Harvest Specifications.
2. Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 2: The Status of Canary Rockfish (*Sebastes Pinniger*) in the California Current in 2017: A Catch-Only Update.
3. Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 3: A Catch-only Update of the Status of the Chilipepper Rockfish, *Sebastes Goodei*, in the California Current for 2017.
4. Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 4: Projection Uncertainty: Assessing the Change in Uncertainty During Projection Periods Based on Decision Table States of Nature.
5. Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 5: Estimating Among-Assessment Variation in Overfishing Limits.
6. Agenda Item E.9.b, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

- E.9. Initial Harvest Specifications and Management Measure Actions for
2019-2020 Management John DeVore, Kelly Ames
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Overfishing Limits and Sigma Values, a Range of P*/Acceptable Biological Catches, and a Preliminary Range of New Management Measures

PFMC
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