GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON BIENNIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2019-2020

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with Mr. John Devore to discuss the biennial harvest specifications for 2019-2020, and offers the following comments and recommendations.

Lingcod

The GAP continues to recommend Alternative 1, changing the P* from 0.4 to 0.45 for the southern lingcod stock (off of California), since lingcod was relisted as a category 1 stock. This would result in preliminary preferred annual catch limits (ACLs) for 2019 and 2020 as follows.

	2019 ACL (mt)	**2020 ACL (mt)**
Lingcod N of 40°10' N lat.	4,713	4,466
Lingcod S of 40°10' N lat.	847	750

California Scorpionfish

The GAP recommends Alternative 1, setting the ACL equal to the annual biological catch (ABC), in order to provide for year-round fisheries for recreational and commercial fixed gear sectors. This would result in preliminary preferred ACLs for 2019 and 2020 as follows.

	2019 ACL (mt)	**2020 ACL (mt)**
California Scorpionfish	313	307

Pacific Ocean Perch (POP)

The GAP supports the Groundfish Management Team statement (F.6.a, GMT Report 1), which recommends the default harvest control rules for POP (ACL=ABC, P* of 0.45), and that additional alternatives for analysis are not needed. This would result in preliminary preferred ACLs for 2019 and 2020 as follows.

	2019 ACL (mt)	**2020 ACL (mt)**
POP	4,340	4,229

Yelloweye Rockfish

The GAP appreciates the assessment and analysis information as presented in the *Rebuilding Analysis for Yelloweye Rockfish* (Sebastes ruberrimus) (F.4, Attachment 2). The assessment informs the modification of the current model as compared to the previous model used in assessments.

With regard to the yelloweye ACL, the GAP notes that the current default spawning potential ratio (SPR) of 76 percent is higher than the 72.9 percent SPR used in 2011, and 71.9 percent used in 2010. Since the SPR is a Council policy consideration, **we request that a range of SPR from 60 percent to 76 percent be considered at full attainment with 50 percent probability of rebuilding at a T_{target} of 2061**. The current model is more robust than the previous model, indicating that a 76 percent SPR may be more restrictive than current analyses would indicate is necessary. Considering information provided in Tables 4 and 9 (of F.4, Attachment 2), a minor change in rebuilding time would have substantial impact to the various sectors. The median catches as listed in Table 9 demonstrate dramatic differences from the status quo 76 percent position.

For illustration: a 70 percent SPR would allow for an increase from the current 29 mt an SPR of 76 percent to 39.6 mt with only a one year change in T_{target} rebuilding time from 2027 to 2028. Considering the constraint that yelloweye has on the current fisheries, the economic benefit across the fishing sectors is substantial with a minor change to the rebuilding time. And, since uncertainty has been reduced with much more informative data and a more robust model, changes from the status quo 76 percent SPR should be considered.

If the Council desires, an annual catch target could be set at 29 mt and an ACL at 39.6 mt.

Other Species
For all species not called out above, the GAP recommends the default harvest control rules and the resulting preliminary preferred ACLs.

PFMC
11/17/17