

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON BIENNIAL HARVEST
SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2019 AND 2020

Overfishing Limit (OFL) Determinations for the 2019-2020 Harvest Specifications

At the September 2017 meeting, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) evaluated, and the Council adopted, OFLs for most stock and area combinations ([Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1, November 2017](#)). However, OFL values were not yet available for several stocks, as those values depended on the outcome of additional analyses that were subsequently reviewed at the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee (GFSC) September 2017 webinar. The recommended OFLs for those stocks are reported here.

For lingcod, the stock assessment team (STAT) provided a revised set of 2020 OFLs for the southern (California) model (Table 1 in [Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 4, November 2017](#)) to address technical issues that arose during the September meeting. The final 2020 OFLs also depend on Council decisions regarding the alternative treatments for uncertainty in the southern (California) lingcod assessment, specifically whether the acceptable biological catch (ABC) is based on the default P* (probability of overfishing) harvest control rule value of 0.40 (leading to an ABC of 91.3% of the OFL), or a revised P* of 0.45 (leading to an ABC of 95.6% of the OFL). With a southern assessment P* of 0.40 (corresponding to the values reported in Table 1) to determine 2019 removals, the 2020 OFL for the southern assessment is 1,136 metric tons (mt) and the subsequent 2020 OFLs for the northern and southern management areas (north and south of 40°10') are 4,701 and 894 mt, respectively. With a southern assessment P* of 0.45, the southern assessment OFL is 1,129 mt, and the 2020 OFLs are 4,699 and 888 for the northern and southern management areas, respectively. In both cases, the northern assessment model P* was maintained at 0.45.

For Pacific ocean perch (POP), the SSC recommends adoption of the revised OFLs reported in the most recent revised assessment for 2019 and 2020 of 4,753 and 4,632 mt, respectively. The 2020 OFL assumes 2019 ABC removals of 4,340 mt. The 2019-2020 management specifications include a change for POP in that there is now a coastwide OFL for this stock, without explicit OFL designations north and south of 40° 10' (the southern OFL was previously a contribution to the southern slope rockfish complex).

For starry flounder, a data poor assessment using Depletion-Based Stock Reduction Analysis ([DB-SRA], [Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 3, November 2017](#)) was reviewed at the September GFSC webinar and recommended for adoption. The recommended coastwide OFL for starry flounder is 652 mt for both 2019 and 2020.

For cabezon off Washington, a data poor assessment using DB-SRA ([Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 2, November 2017](#)) was reviewed and recommended for adoption by the SSC. The recommended 2019 and 2020 OFLs are 5.5 and 5.4 mt, respectively. These would lead to “Other Fish” OFLs of 480 and 465 mt for 2019 and 2020, respectively.

For yelloweye rockfish, the rebuilding analysis ([Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 2, November 2017](#)) was reviewed and recommended for adoption by the SSC. Based on this analysis, and the assumption of 65% annual catch limit (ACL) attainment in 2017 and 2018, the 2019 OFL is 81.2 mt. The 2020 OFL depends on the ACL adopted for 2019. Assuming the default rebuilding spawning potential ratio of 76% is used to inform the 2019 ACL, the 2020 OFL is 83.9 mt. (based on the assumption of full 2019 ACL attainment).

Stock Assessment Category Designations and Sigma Values for the 2019-2020 Harvest Specifications

The category designations in Table 1 ([Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1, November 2017](#)) have been confirmed by the SSC as consistent with the approach used to determine OFLs, with the exception that POP should have been reported as a category 2 stock, not a category 1 (the OFL values are correct for a category 2 designation).

The SSC notes that the OFLs endorsed here can be used as stand-alone OFLs or as contributions to stock complexes, including those currently under consideration for this management cycle (Table 6 in [Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1](#); [Agenda Item F.6.a, WDFW Report 1](#); [Agenda Item F.6.a, GMT Report 1](#), November 2017).

The SSC would like to thank the assessment teams for the high quality of additional analyses that were conducted in time to inform final stock status and OFL determinations for the 2019-2020 management cycle.

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