

Consideration of Changes to the Yelloweye Rockfish Rebuilding Plan



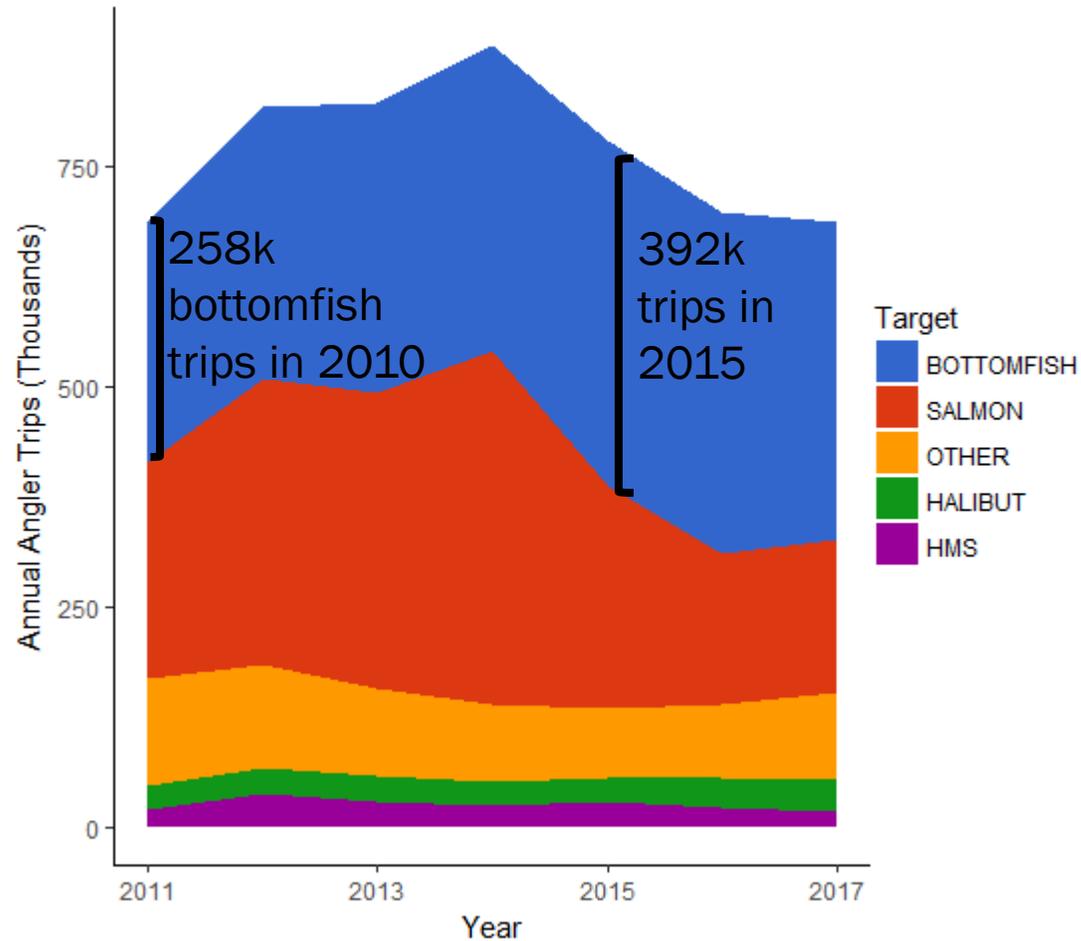
Agenda Item E.4
June 4, 2018

West Coast fishing communities depend on a portfolio of opportunities

- Many West Coast targets have boom/bust cycles (crab, shrimp, salmon)
- Businesses depend on predictability/stability/year-round operations
- Since last rebuilding plan revision (2011), changing environmental conditions, conservation challenges, and changes in management have negatively impacted stability of non-groundfish coastwide commercial landings and recreational effort
- Groundfish used to be “the glue that holds fishing communities together”, but rockfish rebuilding has left fishing communities increasingly vulnerable to environmental and conservation challenges.

Recreational Sectors

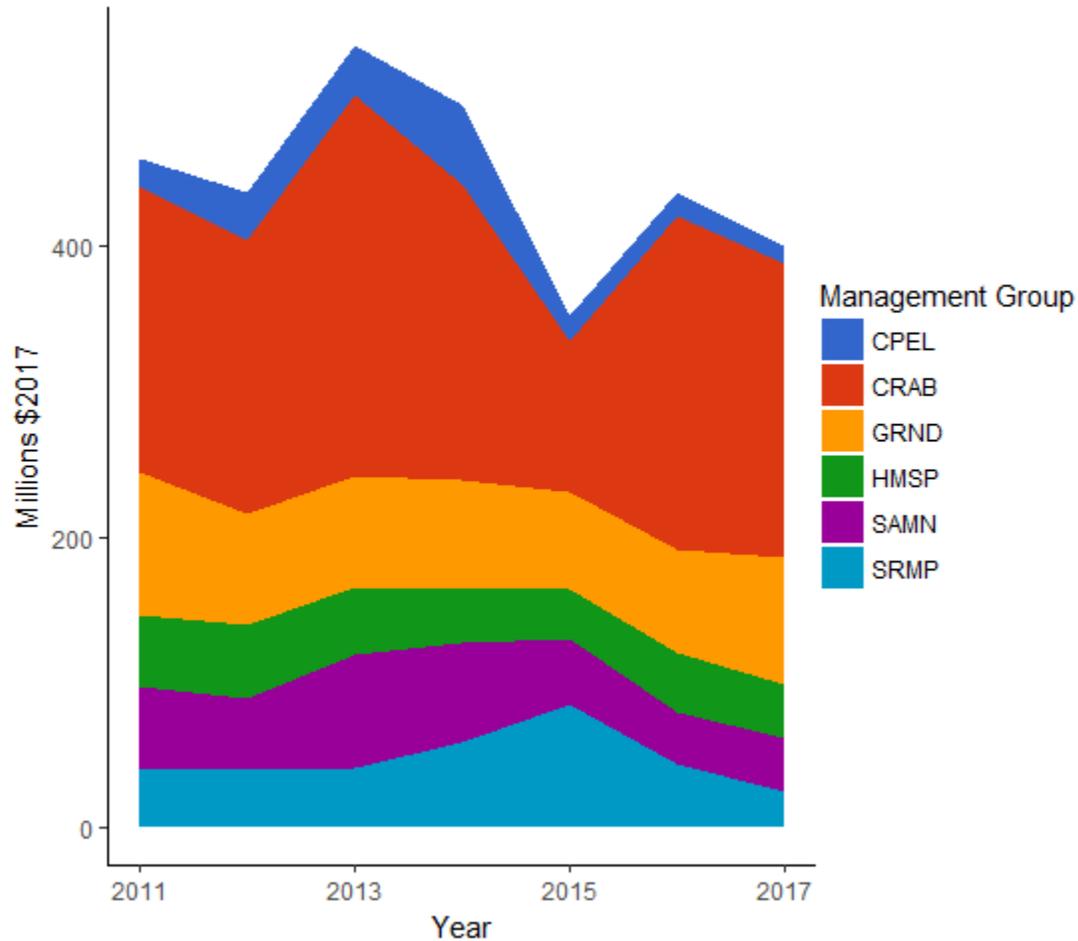
West Coast Annual Angler Trips by Target
North of Point Conception (2011-2017)



- Declines in HMS, salmon, other recreational opportunities
- Displaced effort moves to bottomfish, then higher yelloweye rockfish impacts result in closures/management restrictions in Oregon (2016/2017) and California (2017)
- Net loss of trips and associated revenue/income/jobs for recreational communities in 2015-2017
- Declines notable particularly in Neah Bay, WA; Winchester Bay, OR; and Fort Bragg, CA, all of which are considered both vulnerable and highly dependent on recreational opportunity

Commercial Sectors

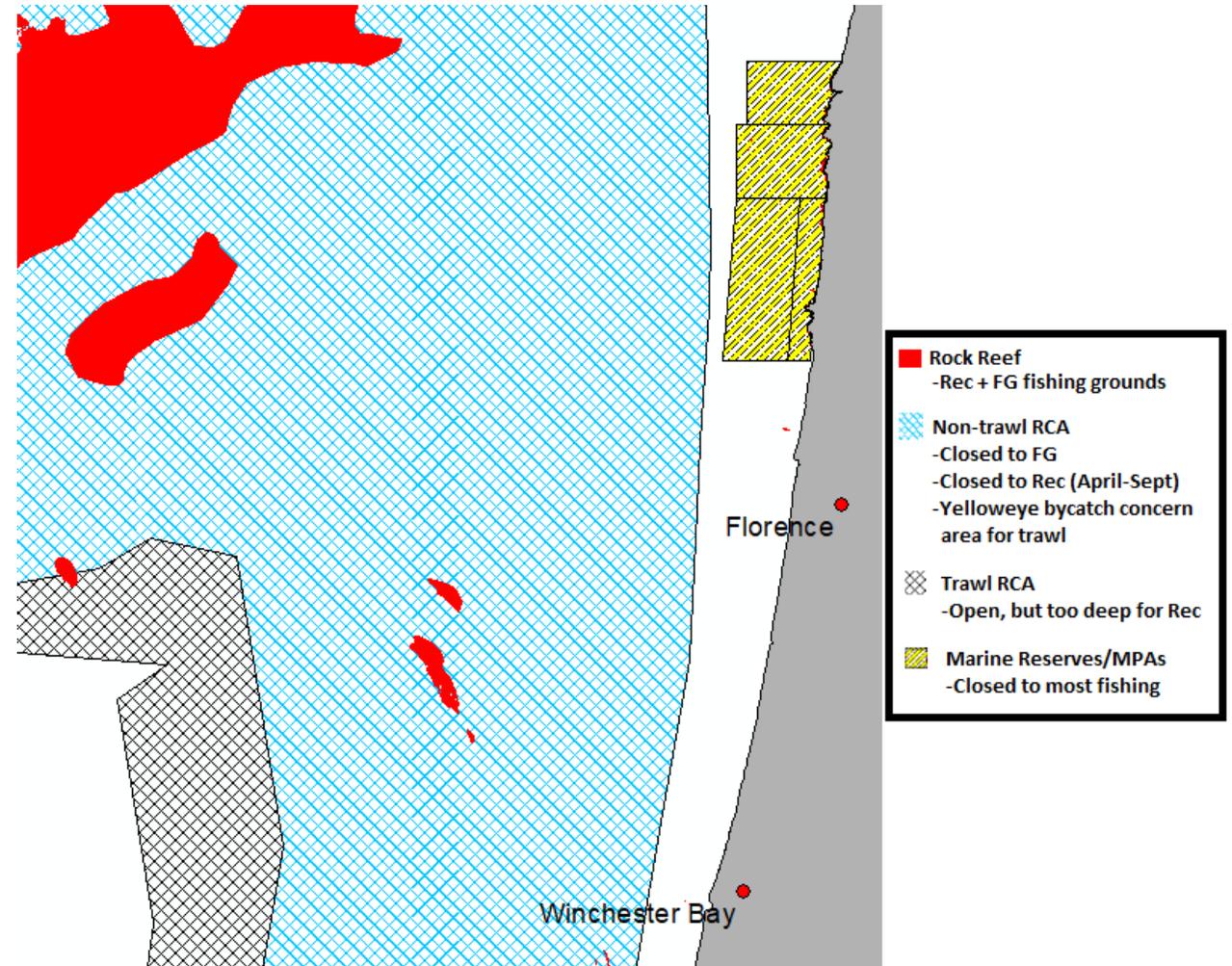
West Coast Shoreside Commercial Revenue (\$2017) by Management Group North of Point Conception (2011-2017)



- Revenue across the West Coast for many species groups has been generally lower than that of the 2000s/in decline since 2011
- Disasters declared in a number of West Coast fisheries
- Loss of infrastructure to support commercial fishing in many communities
- Westport, WA, Coos Bay, OR, and Fort Bragg, CA highly vulnerable and dependent on commercial fisheries

Winchester Bay, OR

- High dependence on commercial and recreational fisheries
- Fluctuations in crab and lack of substitutes can lead to 80 percent annual changes in ex-vessel revenue
- Shelf rocky reef (habitat for rockfish/lingcod) closed (non-trawl RCA, and April-Sept 40 fathoms for rec.)
- 12-15 charter vessels out of business, loss of hundreds of private vessel trips per year



Management Challenges

- Difficult to predict actual impacts, uncertainty about effort/rare catch events lead to intrasector buffering and precautionary management
- 7 of the last 11 years, the Council has implemented additional restrictions, or complete closures, in recreational sectors
- And yet, recent years averaged mortality **57 percent of the ACL**, with a high of 68 percent in 2012, when the WA rec fishery closed in the north coast management area after labor day after attainment of HG.
- This unpredictability inseason closures/restrictions generate instability for businesses

Management Impacts

- Degree to which additional opportunities can be provided in each sector depends on the “buffer” between projected mortality and allocations
- Buffer at the ACL level provides greater certainty that if a sector (or sectors) exceeds the allocation(s), the ACL will not be exceeded.
- Under Alternative 1 and 2, there is additional allocation for managers to provide stability to their constituents in each sector to accommodate unanticipated yelloweye rockfish bycatch

No Action*: 2019-2020 impacts

- **Commercial**

- Median catch share quota owner receives an additional 6 lbs of yelloweye.
- Modest increase to lingcod trip limits north of 40° 10' N for non-nearshore and Oregon nearshore fisheries, CA trip limits remain status quo with little room for new effort

- **Tribal**

- Buffer against set aside would not increase.
- No additional opportunities for lingcod-directed fisheries.

- **Recreational**

- Seasonal depth restrictions relaxed
- “Cushion” of 0.3 mt over WA rec HG, +1,600 additional trips over 2017 level

[*Description of Alternatives in E.4 Attach. 5 Table B-1](#)

Alternative 1: 2019-2020 impacts

- **Commercial**

- Median catch share quota owner receives an additional 11 lbs of yelloweye
- Modest increase to lingcod trip limits north of 40° 10' N for non-nearshore and Oregon nearshore fisheries, CA trip limits remain status quo with room for new entrants

- **Tribal**

- Buffer against tribal set aside would increase to enable increased opportunities for lingcod-directed fisheries.

- **Recreational**

- Seasonal depth restrictions could be eased in OR (precautionary restrictions likely June-August), delayed in WA.
- CA proposed to be open year-round at all depths in all areas.
- Expanded access to midwater rockfish/deep water lingcod in WA.
- “Cushion” of 2.86 mt over WA rec HG, +200 additional angler trips over No Action

Alternative 2: 2019-2020 impacts

- **Commercial**

- Median catch share quota owner receives an additional 16 lbs of yelloweye
- Modest increase to lingcod trip limits north of 40° 10' N for non-nearshore and Oregon nearshore fisheries, CA trip limits remain status quo with room for new entrants

- **Tribal**

- Buffer against tribal set aside would increase
- Increased opportunities for lingcod-directed fisheries

- **Recreational**

- Washington recreational fisheries would be open at all depths Mar.-Oct.
- Oregon and California open all depths year round
- Oregon retention restrictions during halibut fishing eased
- “Cushion” of 2.76 mt over WA rec HG, up to +3600 additional angler trips over No Action

Long Term Impacts

Year	ACL (mt) under Alternative		
	No Action	Alt1	Alt2
2019-2026	29.1-34.9	38.6-45.5	47.4-55
2027	109	46.2	55.8
2028	109	109	56.6
2029	109	109	109
Cumulative	584.4	602.2	633.6

2019-2029 ACLs (mt) under each alternative, ten year cumulative sum; MSY = 109 mt, 2017-18 baseline=20 mt.

- Set of strong year classes expected to join the spawning population ~ 2020
 - Minimal difference (two years) in changes to the rebuilding timeline between Alternatives
- Median time to rebuild under No Action: **2027**
- Alt 1 provides additional **17.8 mt** over next nine years compared to No Action
- Median time to rebuild under Alternative 1: **2028**
- Median time to rebuild under Alternative 2: **2029**
- Alt 2 provides additional **49.2 mt** over next ten years compared to No Action

Long Term Impacts

Year	ACL (mt) under Alternative		
	No Action	Alt1	Alt2
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2027	109	46.2	55.8
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2019-2029 ACLs (mt) under each alternative, ten year cumulative sum; *MSY* = 109 mt.

- Under No Action, continuation of 2019-2020 modest increases to trip limits and recreational access expected
- Research opportunities for improved understanding of stock status and biology; innovation via EFPs under Alternatives 1 and 2
- Council could consider adjustments/elimination of non-trawl RCA under Alternative 1 or 2, and higher trip limits in future bienniums.
- Increasing utilization of lingcod and mid-water rockfish could restore \$43.6 million in income and 2,300 jobs to West Coast communities

Conclusion

- **No Action:** increase over the 2017 Baseline provides some opportunities to communities; e.g. fewer recreational depth restrictions, more QP on the IFQ market to facilitate trading/increase attainment of underutilized co-mingling species, some non-trawl trip limit increases.
- **Alternative 1** expansion on opportunity under No Action would bring needed benefits to the recreational sector as effort continues to shift away from salmon trips to lingcod and rockfish. Cushion between management measures and catch limits may increase stability. Possible opportunity to support higher trip limits and reopening of the non-trawl RCA would benefit commercial sectors in future bienniums compared to Alternative 1.
- **Alternative 2** provides larger cushion from which to increase set asides for research and experimental fishing in commercial, recreational, and tribal sectors. Increased opportunity to support higher trip limits and reopening of the non-trawl RCA would provide additional benefits to commercial sectors in future bienniums compared to Alternative 1 and No Action. Largest cumulative ACL for communities.