

BIENNIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES PROCESS FOR 2021-2022 FISHERIES

The Council is scheduled to adopt a detailed process and schedule governing the development of harvest specifications and related management measures for 2021-2022 groundfish fisheries (Agenda Item I.6, Attachment 1). The process accommodates several important sequential decision-making steps, including scientific peer review of data and analyses used for management decision-making; preparation of an appropriate analytical document as required by applicable law, including the National Environmental Policy Act; the opportunity for constituent meetings sponsored by state agencies to solicit public input on preferred management alternatives; and full notice and comment rulemaking to implement new biennial regulations. All of these steps need to be timed so that the new regulations can be implemented on January 1, 2021.

Harvest Specifications Considerations

Amendment 24 established default harvest control rules (HCRs) that are applied to the best available scientific information to determine the 2021-2022 overfishing limits (OFLs), acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and annual catch limits (ACLs). No action is needed if the Council intends to implement the harvest specifications based on the default HCRs. In the event the Council would like to change the default HCR, the Council should adopt a range of ABCs based on their P* choice in September 2019 and any additional ACL HCRs in November 2019. Final preferred harvest specifications are scheduled to be adopted in April 2020.

The Council is scheduled to scope and discuss approaches for phasing in ABCs in cases where there is a dramatic decline in the available harvest of a key stock under Agenda Item D.5. The Council should consider the associated workload and schedule, and provide guidance on whether these topics should be included as part of the 2021-2022 analysis and rulemaking. When deciding which harvest specification alternatives to include in the biennial analysis, the Council should consider whether the harvest specifications need to be implemented on January 1, 2021.

Management Measures Considerations

Agenda Item I.6, Attachment 1 proposes that any new management measures be identified in September 2019, with a range of alternatives adopted in November 2019, selection of preliminary preferred alternatives in April 2020, and final preferred alternatives in June 2020. When deciding which new management measures to include in the biennial analysis, the Council should consider whether the measures need to be implemented on January 1, 2021.

Three Council Operating Procedures (COPs) guide the schedule for developing 2021-2022 harvest specifications and management measures. [COP 9](#) details the overarching milestones by month and [COP 25](#) details the procedures for the review and Council approval of groundfish impact analyses and methodologies that inform stock assessments. Finally, [COP 19](#) details the process and schedule for exempted fishing permits. The Council should consider the overarching processes outlined in the COPs and anticipated workload when adopting the detailed schedule provided in Attachment 1.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt a schedule governing the development of 2021-2022 harvest specifications and management measures.**
2. **Discuss and provide guidance on any biennial management issues that should be considered when the Council decides final alternatives for analysis in November.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.6, Attachment 1: Proposed Schedule for Developing the 2021-2022 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures.
2. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#))

Agenda Order:

- I.6 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Process for 2021-2022 Fisheries John DeVore/Todd Phillips
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Initial Scoping of Issues and Adoption of a Process for Developing Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for 2021-2022 Fisheries

PFMC
05/24/19