

HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2021-2022 MANAGEMENT

In June, the Council adopted a process and schedule for deciding harvest specifications and management measures for 2021-2022 groundfish fisheries (see [Agenda Item I.6, Attachment 1, June 2019](#)). The sequence of decision-making is scheduled so that the new regulations can be implemented on January 1, 2021. Based on this schedule, the Council will begin deciding groundfish harvest specifications and providing input on new management measures for 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 fisheries.

Harvest Specifications

Amendment 24 established default HCRs that are applied to the best available scientific information to determine the 2021 and 2022 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 H.8, Supplemental 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 2019 and final preferred ACLs in April 2020, for those stocks where the Council departs from the HCR.

Agenda Item H.8, Supplemental Attachment 1 contains the proposed 2021 and 2022 OFLs, the 2021 and 2022 ABCs based on the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) default sigmas for each stock category and overfishing probabilities (P*s) from the 2019-2020 management cycle, ACLs that comport with the Council's default HCRs, and a description of the HCR. The SSC will review the proposed OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values, and make their recommendations 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 departing from current HCRs. The Council should note that not all OFLs for actively managed stocks may be proposed at this meeting. There may also be assessments or new projections the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee need to revisit resulting from their August 20-21 meeting.

Preliminary Range of New Management Measures

Under Agenda Item H.8, the Council is also scheduled to provide initial fishery management guidance, including adopting for analysis a preliminary range of new management measures necessary to keep catch within or attain a specification, or to address habitat or protected resources concerns. 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 (GMT), in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, to assess the analytical requirements and anticipated workload at the October GMT meeting. At the November 2019 Council 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 2019 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 2020 Council meeting and final action is scheduled for June 2020.

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.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt those 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 P*s/ABCs and ACLs for more detailed analysis.**
- 3. Adopt a preliminary range of new management measures.**

Reference Materials:

- 1. Agenda Item H.8, Supplemental Attachment 1: 2021 and 2022 Groundfish Harvest Specifications under Default Harvest Control Rules.*

Agenda Order:

- H.8 Initial Harvest Specifications and Management Measure Actions for
2021-2022 Management John DeVore, Todd Phillips
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Overfishing Limits, a Range of P*/Acceptable Biological Catches, and Annual Catch Limits for Stocks That May Depart from Default Harvest Control Rules; Adopt a Preliminary List of Potential Management Measures Necessary to Implement Harvest Specifications to be Included in the 2021-2022 Regulation Process

PFMC
08/19/19