

# Shortbelly Rockfish

## Supplemental GMT Presentation 2

### June 2020

# Reconsideration of FPA

- New information about strong recent recruitments (Schroeder et al. 2018)
- Limited effectiveness and high cost of any potential management measure
- MSA criteria for stocks that require conservation and management under a Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

# MSA Factors for Consideration of Ecosystem Component (EC) Species Designation

Is the stock:

- An important component of the marine environment? (Yes)
- Caught by the fishery? (Yes)
- A target of a fishery? (No)
- Important to commercial, recreational, or subsistence users? (No)

# MSA Factors for Consideration for EC Species (cont.)

- Whether an FMP can improve or maintain the condition of the stock
- The needs of a developing fishery
- The extent to which the fishery is already adequately managed

# Can FMP improve or maintain stock condition?

- Anticipate increases in population biomass due to large recent recruitments
- Not overfished, no overfishing (~20% of ABC)
- Best available science supports that both forage and conservation objectives for shortbelly rockfish could be accomplished even if the full Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) was taken in 2021-22
- Not likely to become overfished and needing of additional management
- Amount and type of catch that occurs in Federal waters is not expected to be a significant contributing factor to the stock's status

# Developing a targeted fishery not feasible

- High cost fishery (labor, gear, monitoring, cost recovery, buyback fees, etc)
- Low (or no) ex-vessel value
- No identified product form except limited use as fishmeal
- Higher value trawl target fisheries (Pacific whiting, midwater rockfish, DTS, etc.)

## Extent to which fishery is already adequately managed

- MSA suggests Council consider degree to which fishery adequately managed by industry self-regulation, consistent with the requirements of the MSA and other applicable law
- Financial, operational incentives to minimize incidental catch of shortbelly rockfish expected to continue to be effective

## **GMT Recommendation**

Designate shortbelly rockfish as an Ecosystem Component (EC) species in the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) through the 2021-22 biennium.



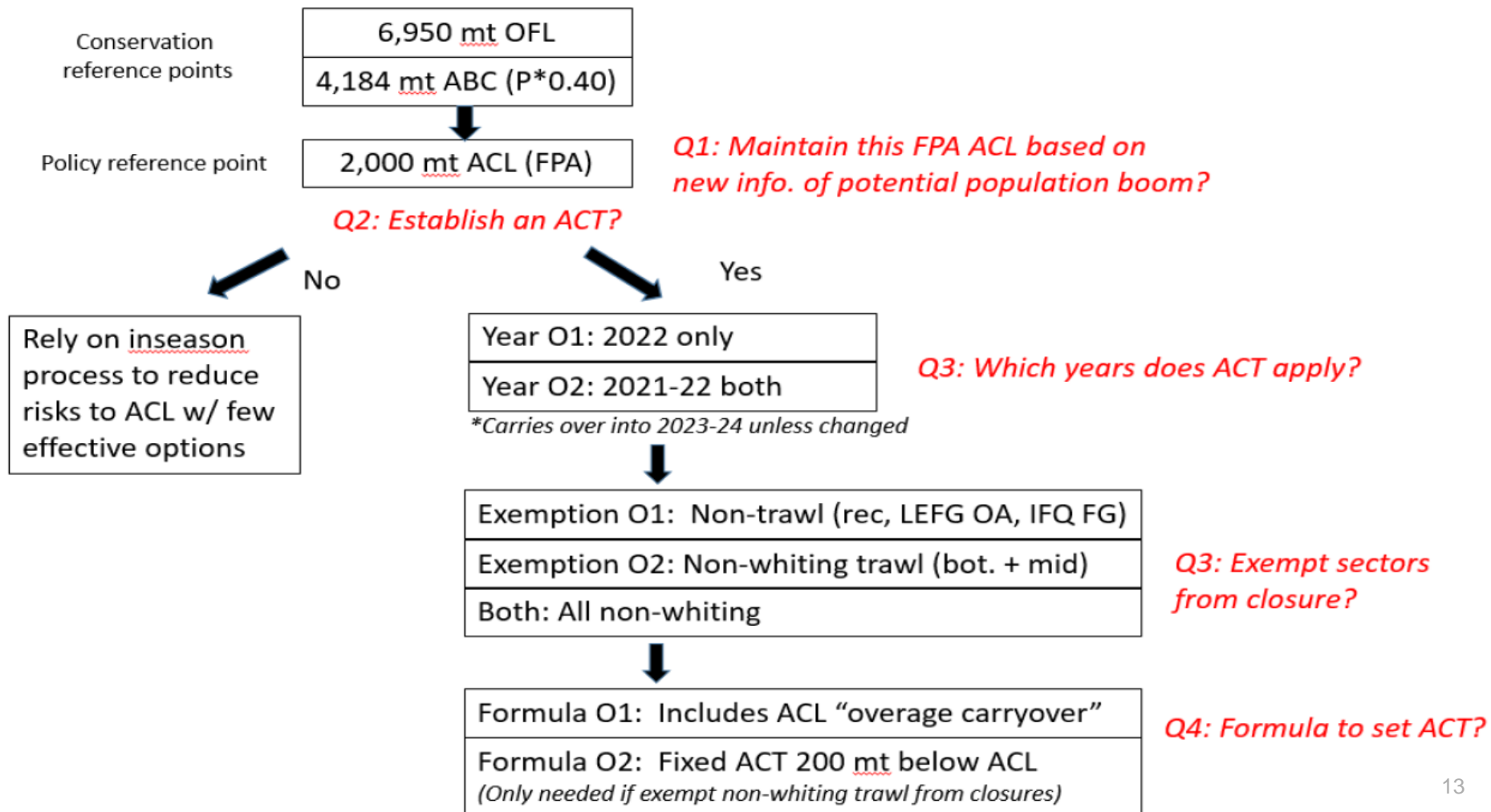
# Policy Considerations

- (1) Prevent a targeted fishery from developing
- (2) Reduce bycatch for forage purposes
- (3) Not constraining fisheries
- (4) Managing to annual catch limits

Questions?

# ACL Management Backup Slides

If the Council prefers to manage shortbelly rockfish to an ACL rather than designating it as an EC species:



# Confirm or modify FPA ACL of 2,000 mt?

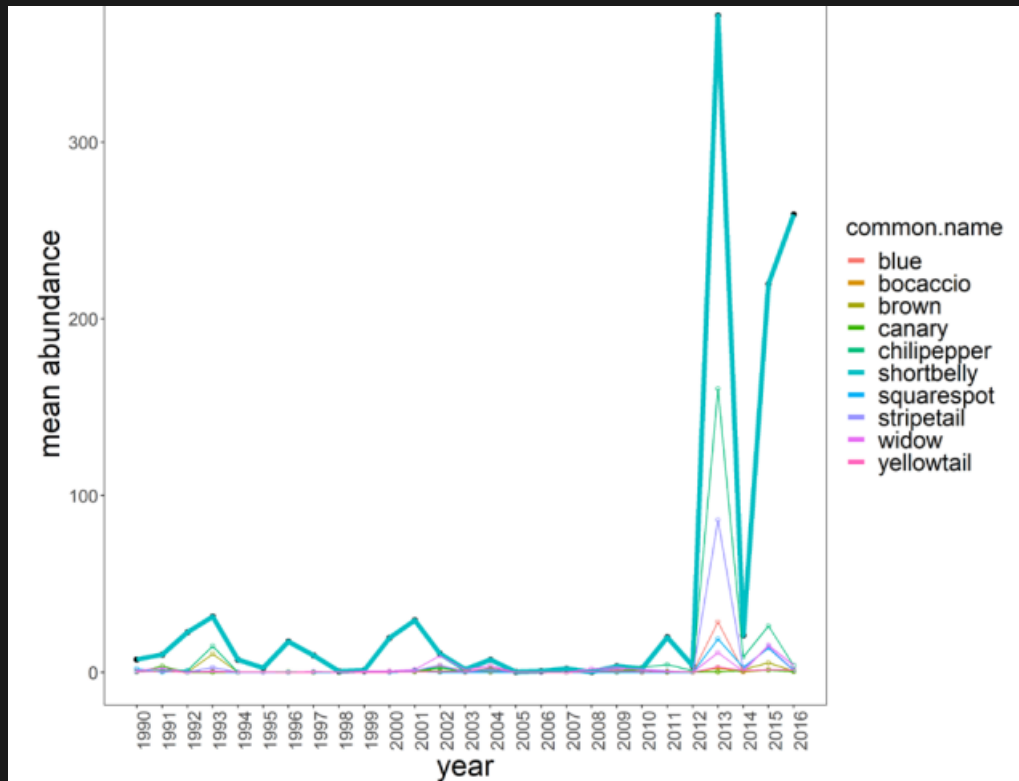


Figure 2. Mean yearly abundances, based on number of individuals per 15 minute tow time, from 1990-2016 for the ten rockfishes analyzed by Schroeder et al. (2018). The heavy, turquoise line depicts shortbelly rockfish.

- New research of surge in recruitment
- Several very strong year classes
- Catching full ABC of 4,184 mt would meet forage and conservation goals

# Set an ACT that could close select trawl fisheries?

## No:

- Inseason only - limited tools
- Area closures might not work
- Higher risk of exceeding ACLs
- Ambiguity if reach ACL inseason

## Yes:

- Can still use inseason
- Closure points as back-stops
- Need to pre-specify conditions
- Lower ACL risk; better transparency

# Which years does ACT apply?

Year Option #	Description
1	ACT only in 2022
2	ACT in both 2021 and 2022

*ACT carries over into future biennium as default regulations unless changed*

## Option 1:

- Ambiguity if reach 2021 ACL
- No AMs in 2021
- Could close fisheries when no known conservation concern (only 2022)

## Option 2:

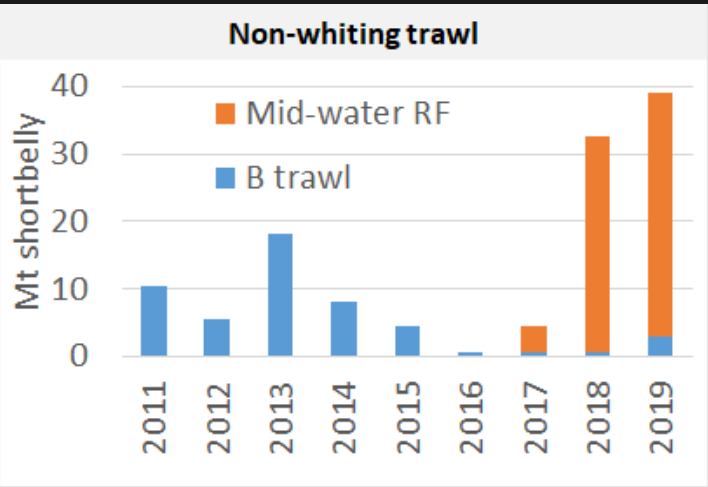
- AM in both years
- Could close fisheries when no known conservation concern (2021 and 2022)



# Sector exemptions?

Exemption Option	Description	Rationale
1	All non-trawl fisheries	Negligible impact (<0.1 mt)
2	Non-whiting trawl	Low impact; whiting = 92.4% bycatch

*Can select both*



## GMT suggests 200 mt overall deduction

- 30 mt off-the-top
- 170 mt for non-whiting trawl (Exemption O2)
- Buffers for population boom and RCA reopening

# Formula for setting ACTs?

Exemption Option	Description
1	Includes carryover of ACL overage*
2	Fixed at 200 mt below ACL

*1,687 mt ACT = 2,000 mt ACL - 30 mt off-the-top - 283 mt ACL overage*

## Option 1:

- Keeps multi-year catch at ACL
- Overage carryover not needed for conservation
- Difficult to plan for exemptions

## Option 2:

- Better facilitates sector exemptions
- Transparent number for public