

INITIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ACTIONS FOR 2023-2024 MANAGEMENT

In June, the Council adopted a process and schedule for deciding harvest specifications and management measures for 2023-2024 groundfish fisheries (see [Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 1, June 2021](#)). The sequence of decision-making is scheduled so that the new regulations can be implemented on January 1, 2023. Based on this schedule, the Council will begin deciding groundfish harvest specifications and providing input on new management measures for 2023-2024 groundfish fisheries at this meeting. Specifically, the Council is tasked with adopting overfishing limits (OFLs), a range of acceptable biological catches (ABCs), 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 2023-2024 fisheries.

Harvest Specifications

Amendment 24 established default HCRs that are applied to the best available scientific information to determine the 2023 and 2024 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 C.8, 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 2021 and final preferred ACLs in April 2022, for those stocks where the Council departs from the HCR.

Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 1 contains the proposed 2023 and 2024 OFLs, the 2023 and 2024 ABCs based on the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) default sigmas for each stock category and overfishing probabilities (P*s) from the 2021-2022 management cycle, ACLs that comport with the Council's default HCRs, and a description of the HCR. Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 2 provides projections for 2023 and beyond using the new sigmas that were implemented beginning in 2020 for select stocks where projections were missing. The SSC will review the proposed OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values, and make their recommendations to the Council.

The Council is scheduled to review and adopt the OFL values 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 17, 2021 meeting.

Preliminary Range of New Management Measures

The Council is additionally scheduled to provide initial guidance on and adopt a preliminary range of new management measures for analysis under this agenda item. New measures are those where the impacts have not been previously analyzed and/or have not been previously implemented in

regulation. In the past, these measures have included such items as stock complex restructuring, protected resources mitigation measures, and changes to rockfish conservation areas. Agenda Item C.8.a, ODFW Report 1 recommends some preliminary alternative harvest specifications and management measures for consideration.

Adopting a preliminary range of new management measures and providing initial guidance at this meeting will allow the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), to assess the analytical requirements and anticipated workload at the October GMT meeting. The preliminary analyses findings for the preliminary range of new management measures will be brought forward for Council review and revision, as appropriate, at the November 2021 Council meeting. For Council reference, the GMT has provided a report (Agenda Item C.8.a, GMT Report 1) summarizing new management measures the Council has discussed to-date for this biennial cycle.

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 Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

At the November 2021 meeting, the Council is scheduled to provide guidance on adjustments to routine measures, including two-year allocations, to be analyzed over the winter. Selection of the preliminary preferred management measures is scheduled to occur at the April 2022 Council meeting and final action is scheduled for June 2022

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt 2023-2024 OFLs, stock categories, and P*s.**
- 2. In the event the Council chooses to depart from the default HCR, adopt a preliminary range of 2023-2024 P*s/ABCs and ACLs for more detailed analysis.**
- 3. Adopt a preliminary range of potential new management measures.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 1: 2023 and 2024 Groundfish Harvest Specifications under Default Harvest Control Rules.
2. Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 2: Harvest Specification Projections for Select West Coast Groundfish Stocks in 2023 and Beyond Informed by the New Sigmas Implemented in 2020.
3. Agenda Item C.8.a, ODFW Report 1: ODFW Report on 2023-2024 Preliminary Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures.
4. Agenda Item C.8.a, GMT Report 1: Groundfish Management Team Report on 2023-24 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.8 Initial Harvest Specifications and Management Measure Actions for
2023-2024 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 2023-2024 Regulation Process

PFMC
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