

**A CORRECTION TO THE ESTIMATED APPORTIONMENT OF COPPER ROCKFISH IN CALIFORNIA NORTH AND SOUTH OF 40°10' N LAT.**

Estimates of removals of copper rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat. were provided at the 2021 mop-up assessment review meeting ([Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, November 2021](#)). The estimated removals by area north and south 40° 10' N. lat. were calculated using California coastwide removals, not solely removals in the northern assessment model (i.e., the assessment area ranged from north of Point Conception to California/Oregon border). Whether the proportional removals north of 40° 10' N. lat. should be calculated using the north model area or across California was briefly discussed during this meeting; however, the implications of either approach for calculation was not discussed in detail. The estimate of 3.9 percent of removals occurring north of 40° 10' N. lat. in California was calculated based on statewide removals. If only considering recent removals in California north of Point Conception, the percent of removals north of 40° 10' N. lat. is 8.56 percent. The difference in percentage of removals north of 40° 10' N. lat. depending upon the area used is due to unequal fishing effort across the California coast. The current draft harvest specification for 2023-24 applied an allocation percent of 3.9 to set specification north of 40° 10' N. lat. in California using the estimated overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL) from the assessment model north of Point Conception. The correct percentage that should have been applied if using estimates from the assessment model north of Point Conception was 8.56 percent. The OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs from the two California assessment models are shown in Table 1. The current OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs in the draft harvest specification database for the area north of 40° 10' N. lat. are shown in Table 2. Finally, the corrected OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs allocations for the area north of 40° 10' N. lat. using 8.56 percent are shown in Table 3.

**Table 1. Estimated OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs in metric tons (mt) from the California assessments south and north of Point Conception.**

| Year | South of Point Conception |          |          | North of Point Conception |          |          |
|------|---------------------------|----------|----------|---------------------------|----------|----------|
|      | OFL (mt)                  | ABC (mt) | ACL (mt) | OFL (mt)                  | ABC (mt) | ACL (mt) |
| 2023 | 23.0                      | 20.102   | 9.93     | 93.44                     | 81.67    | 81.00    |
| 2024 | 26.4                      | 22.836   | 12.67    | 94.90                     | 82.09    | 81.64    |

**Table 2. Current OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs in metric tons (mt) allocations north of 40° 10' N. lat. in the draft harvest specification databased for north of 40° 10' N. lat. based on a 3.9 percent allocation.**

| Year | OFL (mt) | ABC (mt) | ACL (mt) |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2023 | 3.64     | 3.1814   | 3.1814   |
| 2024 | 3.7      | 3.2005   | 3.2005   |

**Table 3. Estimated OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs in metric tons (mt) allocations north of 40° 10' N. lat. based on the on the California assessment north of Point Conception using an allocation of 8.56 percent north of 40° 10' N. lat.**

| Year | OFL (mt) | ABC (mt) | ACL (mt) |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2023 | 8.00     | 6.99     | 6.93     |
| 2024 | 8.12     | 7.03     | 6.99     |

Appendix 9.3 from “The status of copper rockfish (*Sebastes caurinus*) in U.S. waters off the coast of California north of Point Conception in 2021 using catch and length data” ([Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 2, November 2021](#))

“9.3 Allocation of Yield Among Federal Management Areas

The 2021 northern California base model for copper rockfish represents U.S. waters between 34° 27' N. lat. and the California-Oregon border 42° 00' N. lat. Federal management of the Nearshore Rockfish complexes, which includes copper rockfish, is based on areas north and south of 40° 10' N. lat. Therefore, yield estimates from the California base model must be divided between the northern and southern management areas in order to determine the contribution of copper rockfish to the Nearshore Rockfish overfishing limits (OFLs).

Ideally, allocation by area would be based on calculations of habitat by area and/or estimates of biomass by area. Unfortunately, neither of these estimates were available for copper rockfish to inform allocations by area. In lieu of this information, historical catches by each region were used to recommend allocation percent by area. Total removals from the recreational and commercial fleets between 2005 - 2020 in California north of Point Conception, north and south of 40° 10' N. lat. were calculated. During this period, a total of 8.56 percent of all removals that occur north of Point Conception were from areas north of 40° 10' N. lat. Based on this, the recommend allocations of the OFLs from the northern California model should be 8.56 percent allocated to the northern Nearshore Rockfish complex and 91.44 percent to the southern complex.”