

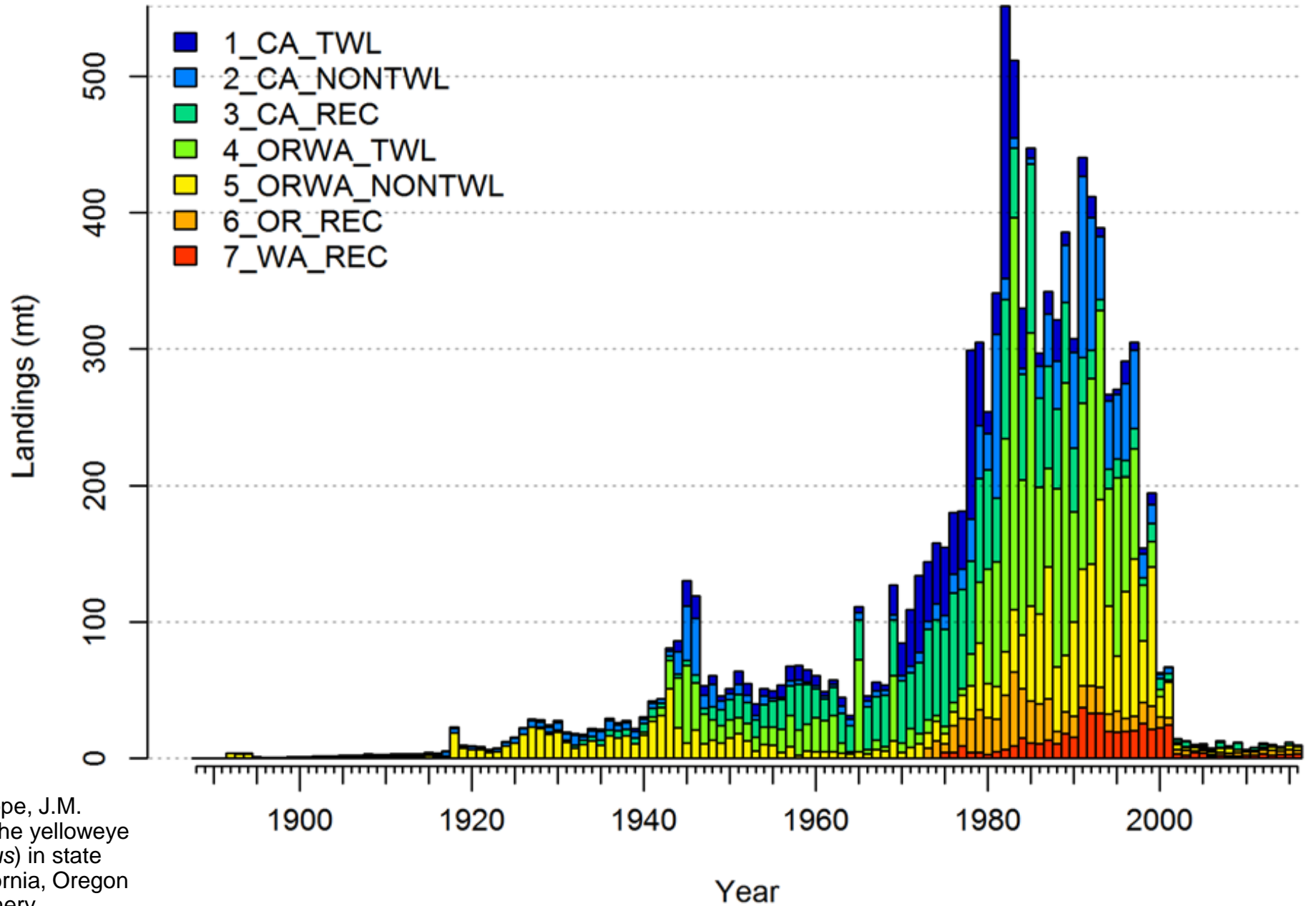
Yelloweye Rockfish:

***Why Has Catch Been So Far Below
the Annual Catch Limit?***

Yelloweye Rockfish

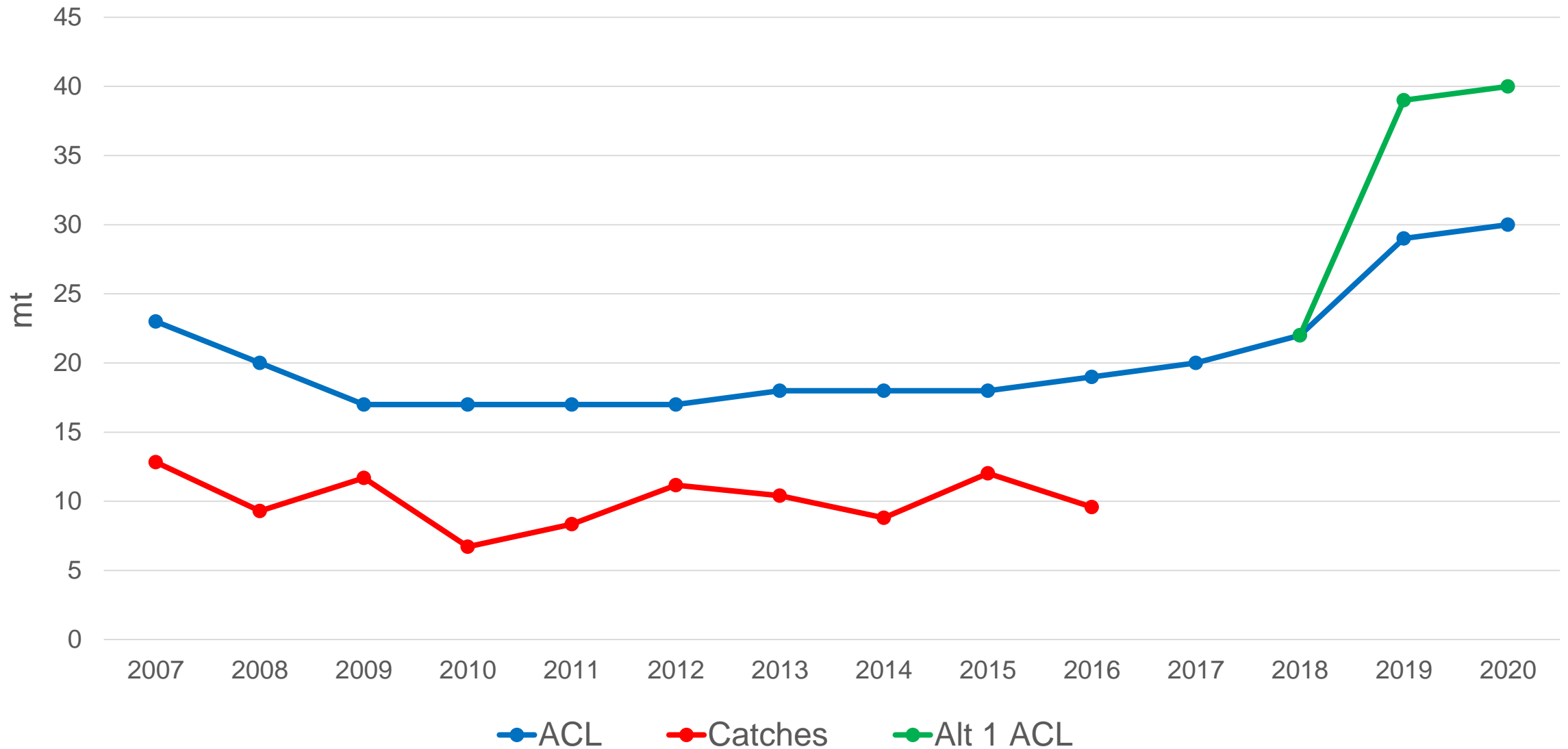
- **Stock Assessment Indicating Overfished: 2001**
 - **Retention Prohibited in Recreational Fisheries: 2002**
 - **Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area: 2003**
 - **Depth Restrictions in Recreational Fisheries: 2003**
- **Initial Rebuilding Year (TTarget): 2086**
- **Updated TTarget: 2027-2028**

Historical Yelloweye Rockfish Catches



Source: Gertseva, V. and Cope, J.M. 2017. Stock assessment of the yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) in state and Federal waters off California, Oregon and Washington. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, OR.

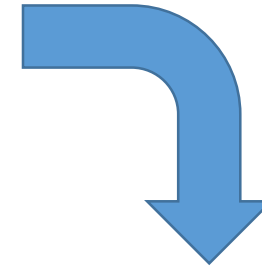
Yelloweye Rockfish Catch Limits and Catches



Short Answer:

Uncertainty

- Catch Projections and Estimated Impacts
 - Outdated Data
 - Stock Availability
- Unpredictability
 - Effort
 - Fishing Behavior

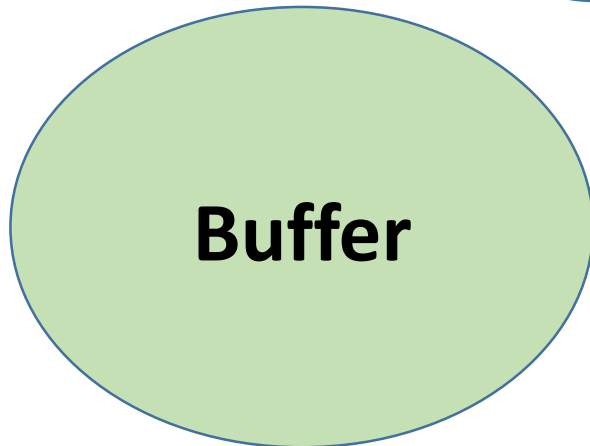


Precautionary Approach

- What's at Risk?
- Avoid, Rather Than React
- Inseason Actions



Buffer



Overarching – Management Context

- What's at Stake?
 - Fishing Opportunities—Current and Future—and Credibility/Trust
- Share Common Annual Catch Limit
 - Actions Affect Others Within a Sector and Potentially All Other Sectors
- High Demand
 - Taken in Every Sector
 - Competition for Allocation (i.e., Use It or Lose It)
- Council's Precautionary Approach
 - Research Proposals: No "Extra" Fish for Biological Sampling
 - Fisheries: Hesitant to Ask for More Liberal Measures

Uncertainty (GMT)

- Lack Recent Data to Precisely Estimate Catch Projections
 - Old Data; Previously Targeted; Public Education
 - New Entrants—Increased Effort and Inexperienced
- Current Biomass and Distribution Compared to When Data Collected
- High Variability Around Average
- Build a Strong Record and Demonstrate Need of Fishing Communities
- Council's Precautionary Approach
 - If Too High, Change Not Approved
 - If Too Low, Can't Demonstrate Need...And There is Competition
- Integrity

Recreational and Commercial Fishers

- Go Where the Fish Are
- Avoid or Stop Economic Loss (Individual, Business, Community)
 - Economic Trade-Offs
- Old Data/Information and New Entrants (Inexperience)
 - Unlimited Effort (Recreational and Open Access)
 - Regulations Need to Work for Everyone
- Commercial:
 - Fulfilling Market Commitments and Buying and Processing Infrastructure

The Management System

- Biennial Management Process and Deadlines
 - High Standards for Quantity and Quality of Information
 - Limit Number and Scope of Proposed Management Changes
 - Limitation of Staff Resources Available
 - Work/Life Balance
- Council Discussions and Schedule
 - Full Agendas, Need for Brevity
 - Complex Issues – Information Overload
- Rulemaking Process and Timeline
 - Decisions 6-9 Months in Advance of Effective Date
 - Increased Internal Scrutiny
 - Legally Defensible

Precautionary Approach (The Council)

- Balancing NS 1 and NS 8
 - “It Doesn’t Matter What I Believe, It Only Matters What I Can Prove”
- Fairness
 - Police Each Other
- Tribal Treaty Rights
 - Conservation and Future Fishing
- Stakeholders
 - Creating False Expectations, Avoiding Disappointments
 - Fishery and Community Stability, Avoiding Inseason Actions

Buffer (Insurance)

- Sectors Include Buffers Against Uncertainty Resulting in Requests/Set Asides/Harvest Guidelines/Catch Projections that, in the Aggregate, are Higher than What is Likely a “Reasonable Expectation” of Catch
- In Other Words, What Fishing Communities “Need” are Limited Additional Opportunity for Economic Relief and Buffers Against the Uncertainty
- Other Examples:
 - Canary Rockfish (2017), Darkblotched and POP (2017 and 2018)
 - Sardines (i.e., Set Asides, Live Bait, and Incidental Catch – Set ACL at 8,000 mt, “Reasonable Expectation” is Likely 4,000-5,000 mt)
 - Chinook Bycatch in Trawl Fisheries – Inclusion of a 3,500 Chinook Reserve

Yelloweye Rockfish Rebuilding Alternatives

- There Would be Sufficient Yelloweye Rockfish to Accommodate Proposed Management Measures Under Alt. 1 (and, in Many Cases, Under No Action)
- Selecting Alt. 1 Would Provide a Limited Amount of Relief to Fishing Communities that Have Been Highly Constrained by Yelloweye for Over 15 Years While Likely Providing a Buffer Against Uncertainty in Catch Projections
- Selecting Alt. 2 Would Provide Additional Buffer Over Alt. 1
- Increased Buffers Would Allow Managers to Collect Much-Needed Data to Better Assess Proposed Management Measures in the Future