

TENTATIVE ADOPTION OF HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS, REBUILDING PLAN
REVISIONS, AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2011-2012 FISHERIES

Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to take preliminary action to: 1) adopt 2011-2012 harvest specifications including overfishing limits (OFLs), acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and annual catch limits (ACLs); 2) adopt new and revised rebuilding plans for overfished groundfish stocks; and 3) adopt management measures for 2011-2012 fisheries. This tentative adoption will be followed by further review and analysis by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) followed by final adoption under Agenda Item B.7 on Thursday.

A key element for the 2011-2012 process has been restructuring the alternatives to better understand the implications of decisions on overfished species ACLs, which, like in past management cycles, will constrain fishing opportunity in 2011-2012. Agenda Item B.3.a Attachment 1 contains a set of integrated alternatives and preliminary analysis, including:

- an analytical scenario that explains how the alternative is structured,
- strategic combinations of overfished rockfish species ACLs,
- ranges of petrale sole ACLs,
- sector allocations of overfished species,
- management measures necessary to stay within the sector allocations or ACLs (e.g., alternative seasons, size and bag limits, specific areas closed or open to fishing, trip limits, gear restrictions, etc.), and
- management measures analyses.

The Council will also need to consider the recent Court Order related to groundfish. On April 23, 2010, the US District Court for the Northern District of California issued a ruling in response to the latest in a series of complaints filed in Natural Resources Defense Council v. Locke, challenging the rebuilding provisions in the groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The Court remanded the 2009-2010 Specifications and ordered the agency “within one year of the date of issuance of the Order on Remedy,” to establish new Specifications for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery that “are based on the ‘best scientific information available’ within the meaning of Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) National Standard 2, 16 U.S.C. § 1851(a)(2); and establish rebuilding periods for darkblotched rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish that are ‘as short as possible’ within the meaning of MSA Section 304(e)(4)(A)(i), 16 U.S.C. § 1854 (e)(4)(A)(i).”

In addition to the Council’s preliminary preferred alternative for overfished species ACLs, intermediate and lower options are analyzed to better demonstrate the tradeoffs between the shortest time to rebuild the overfished species and the needs of the fishing communities. The intermediate alternative was developed in consideration of the Court Order.

Attachments 2 through 4, as well as Supplemental Attachment 5, provide information and analysis that will be further developed and incorporated into a finalized draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) that must be produced as part of the overall Federal decision-making process. These attachments provide information so the Council may further understand the interconnected consequences of these decisions: biological – effects on living marine resources; physical – effects on habitats and the marine ecosystem; and socioeconomic – effects on fishermen, processors and, fishing communities. The attachments describe the 2011-2012 harvest specifications alternatives, rebuilding alternatives, and integrated alternatives (Attachment 2); illustrate baseline conditions through a series of tables and figures showing landings of groundfish and other species and associated ex-vessel revenue by fishery, season, month, and port as well as fishery participation measured by numbers of vessels making landings and vessel length (Attachment 3); and describe the baseline conditions of west coast communities (Attachment 4). Supplemental Attachment 5 will further evaluate the effects of the integrated alternatives on west coast marine species, habitat, and fishing communities.

Agenda Item B.3.b, GMT Report 1 evaluates the Council’s preliminary preferred decision on harvest specifications. The Council should review the GMT recommendations and provide any modifications as necessary.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted a report detailing recommended management measures for the Washington recreational groundfish fisheries (Agenda Item B.3.b, WDFW Report). The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife summarized public comment regarding the proposed 2011-2012 commercial and recreational management measures (Agenda Item B.3.b, ODFW Report). California Department of Fish and Game provided comments on the proposed management measures as well as notice that state reports on management measures will arrive as a supplemental report (Agenda Item B.3.b, CDFG Report). Oregon and California also submitted a joint report recommending the status quo sharing of the black rockfish ACL between the states (Agenda Item B.3.b, Joint ODFW/CDFG Report).

Public comment received at the Council office by the June briefing book deadline are included in Agenda Item B.3.c, Public Comment. Since the recent Court Order also affects inseason actions under consideration by the Council at this meeting, public comment that may also be relevant to the 2011-2012 harvest specifications and management measures decision can be found under Agenda Item B.5.c, Public Comment.

The Council should consider the state and tribal proposals and preliminary DEIS analyses, as well as advice from advisory bodies and the public before adopting 2011-2012 harvest specifications, rebuilding plan revisions, and management measures. The Council may want to request additional analyses by the GMT and GAP under this agenda item. Results for any requested analyses can be provided on Thursday under Agenda Item B.7, when the Council is scheduled to take final action on harvest specifications, rebuilding plan revisions, and management measures for the 2011-2012 fisheries.

Council Action:

1. **Tentatively Adopt Overfishing Limits, Acceptable Biological Catches, and Annual Catch Limits.**
2. **Tentatively Adopt Rebuilding Plan Revisions.**
3. **Tentatively Adopt Management Measures for 2011-2012 Fisheries.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 1: Preliminary Analysis of the Integrated Alternatives and Management Measures for 2011-2012 Groundfish Fisheries.
2. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 2: Description of Harvest Specifications Alternatives, Rebuilding Alternatives, and 2011-2012 Management Measures.
3. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 3: Appendix F: Historical Landings and Revenue in the Groundfish Fisheries.
4. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 4: Update of the 2006 Community Vulnerability Analysis.
5. Agenda Item B.3.a, Supplemental Attachment 5: Additional Impact Analysis of the Integrated Alternatives.
6. Agenda Item B.3.b, GMT Report 1: Groundfish Management Team Report on Harvest Specifications for Complexes and Sub-Complexes.
7. Agenda Item B.3.b, WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Management Measure Alternatives for the 2011-2012 Washington Recreational Groundfish Fisheries.
8. Agenda Item B.3.b, ODFW Report: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report Summarizing Public Comment Received Regarding 2011-12 Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Management Measures.
9. Agenda Item B.3.b, CDFG Report: Proposed Changes to the California Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Fishery Management Measures for the 2011-2012 Season.
10. Agenda Item B.3.b, Joint ODFW/CDFG Report: Oregon and California Departments of Fish and Wildlife Joint Proposal on Management Measures for 2011-2012 Fisheries.
11. Agenda Item B.3.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview **Kelly Ames and John DeVore**
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Tentatively Adopt Overfishing Limits, Acceptable Biological Catches, Annual Catch Limits, Rebuilding Plan Revisions, and Management Measures for 2011-2012 Fisheries

PFMC
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