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May 19, 1992 F/SWC:WHL

MEMORANDUM FOR: Richard D. Methot
FROM: William H. Lenarz
SUBJECT: Update of widow rockfish assessment

As we agreed during last years stock assessment meeting, a full assessment of widow rockfish is not planned until 1993. For this year, we have compiled the preliminary 1991 landings data provided by the three state agencies, incorporated changes in the 1990 landings data provided by WDF and compared age composition data collected during the past five years. The age composition data for 1991 are preliminary and incomplete. It was necessary to assume that the age composition landings from the Columbia area by Washington vessels was the same as landings made by Oregon vessels.

In contrast to 1990 when landings (11,799 mt) exceeded ABC (8,900 mt) and OY (9,800 - 10,000 mt), 1991 landings (6,091 mt) were below OY and ABC (7,000 mt), Table 1. The distribution of landings is similar to last year, except that proportion coming from the Vancouver area increased while there was a decrease from Columbia area, Table 1 and Figure 1.

For the first time since 1988, the 1981 yearclass, while still important, did not dominate the landings, Figure 2. It still appears that the 1982 and 1983 yearclasses are relatively weak as was indicated in the last assessment. While the 1984 yearclass is stronger than the preceding two, either the selectivity curve has changed considerably or it is weaker than the 1981 yearclass. The 1985 yearclass appears to be relatively strong.

The data do not suggest a need to adjust ABC prior to the 1993 assessment.

Table 1. Landings (mt) of widow rockfish by area and year for 1979-1991. Data for 1991 are preliminary.

Year	Van.	INPFC Area			Eureka	Mon.-Con.	Total
		North	South	Total			
1979	329	432	1894	2326	2166	120	4941
1980	143	9426	5781	15207	4736	304	20390
1981	1991	7969	12301	20270	3430	2000	27691
1982	3969	4625	6929	11554	3993	6997	26513
1983	1596	2490	2129	4619	2442	1554	10211
1984	594	2086	3747	5833	2256	988	9671
1985	446	2128	2993	5120	2313	977	8857
1986	557	3508	2662	6170	1632	971	9330
1987	501	6603	2689	9292	1598	799	12190
1988	272	4222	3589	7811	1340	535	9958
1989	700	4532	4822	9356	1323	627	12004
1990	1066	2899	5751	8650	1145	938	11799
1991	1001	1373	2640	4013	502	575	6091
Total	13165	52293	57927	110221	28876	17385	169646

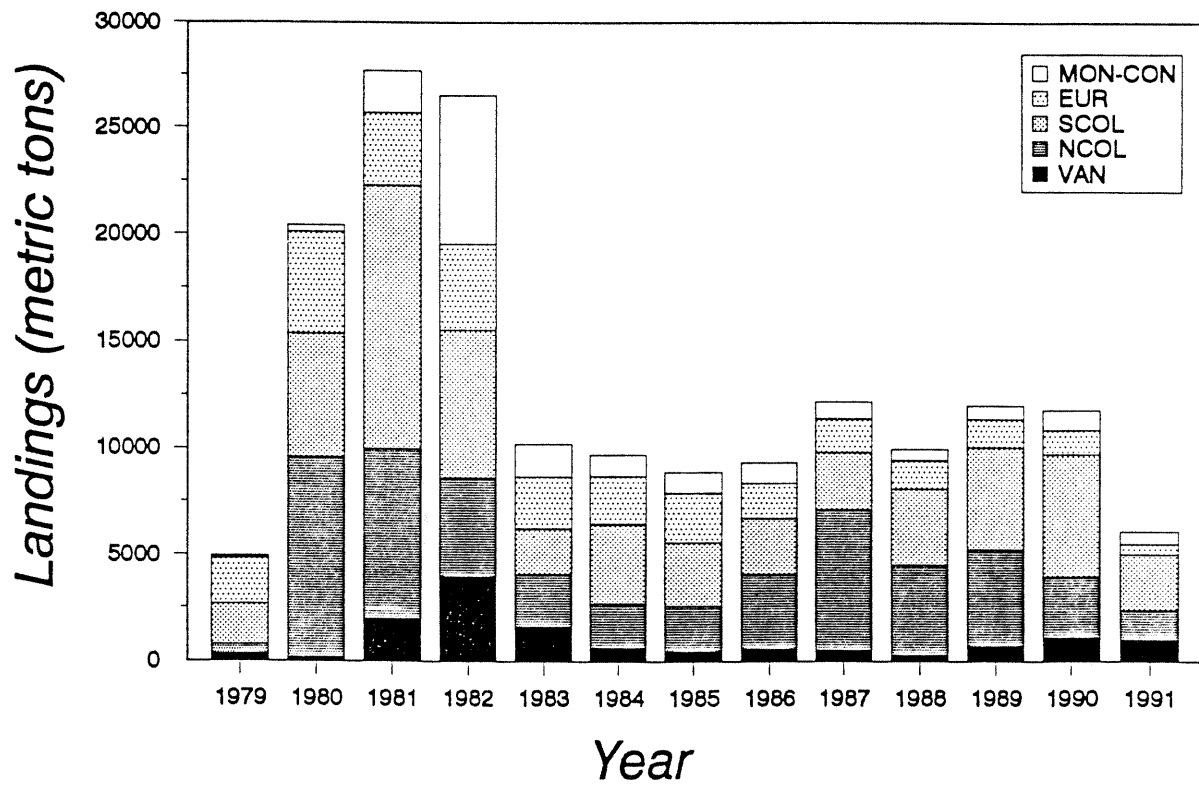


Figure 1. Landings (mt) of widow rockfish for the Vancouver (VAN), northern and southern Columbia (NCOL, SCOL), Eureka (EUR), and Monterey-Conception (MON-CON) INPFC areas from 1979 to 1991. Estimates for 1991 are preliminary.

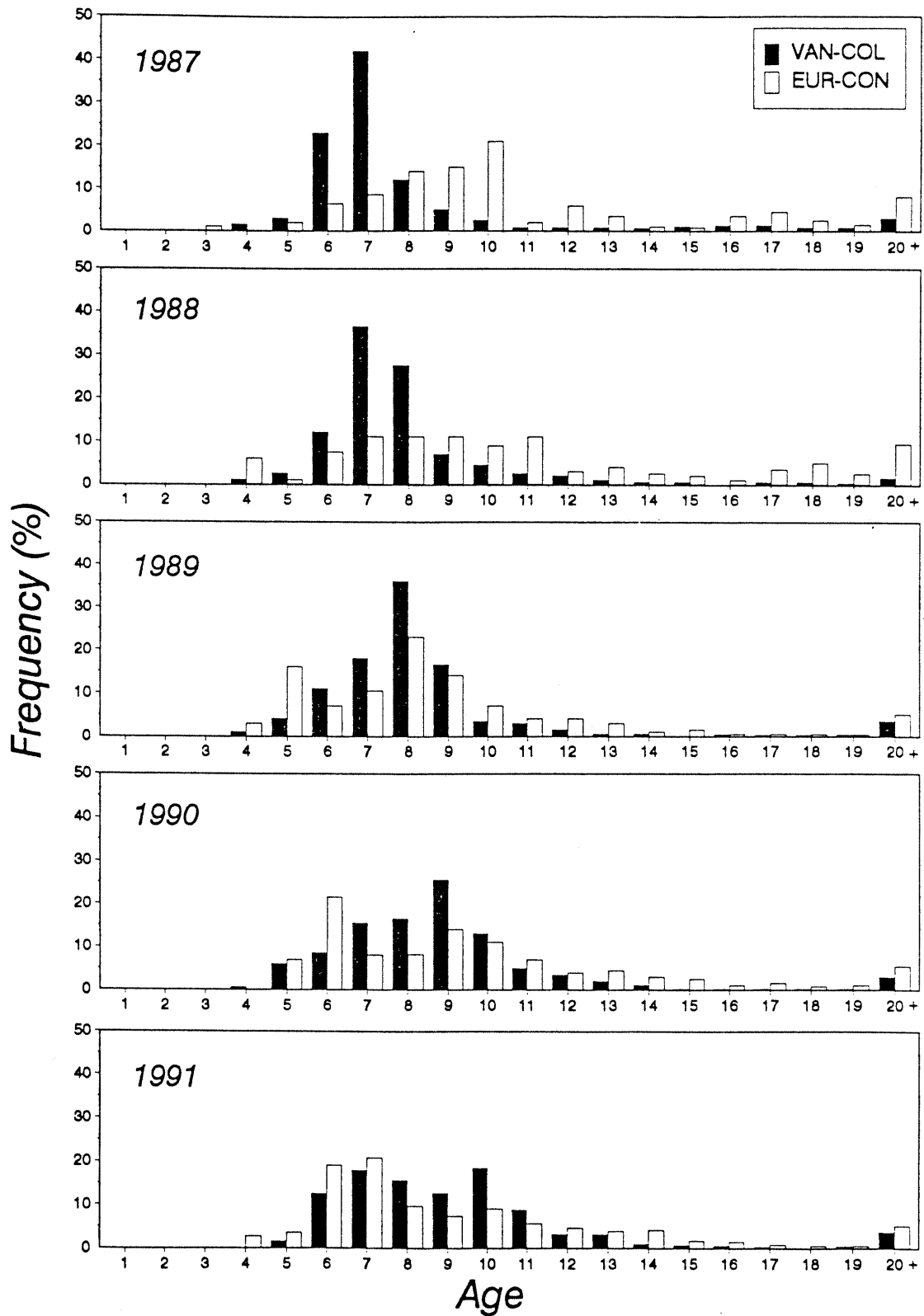


Figure 2. Age composition of 1987-1991 widow rockfish landings for the VAN-COL and EUR-CON areas treated as separate fisheries in the most recent stock assessment. Estimates for 1991 are preliminary.