

**GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE
 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2021-2022
 MANAGEMENT**

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Mr. John DeVore, Council staff, and had a discussion with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) on this agenda item, and offers the following comments and recommendations.

Harvest Specifications

The GAP finds the GMT-recommended alternative annual catch limit (ACL) values that differ from their respective default harvest control rules (HCR) are appropriate for analysis.

For Petrale sole, while the GAP finds the range of alternatives recommended by the GMT appropriate for analysis, we have some concerns about the effects of the constant catch 3,200 mt ACL in the GMT alternative. Petrale sole is one of the most highly attained and most valuable stocks in the groundfish fishery (94.13 percent average attainment 2015-2018, see Table 1 below, \$6,945,500 average revenue 2015-2018, see Table 2 below), particularly for the bottom trawl sector. The GAP highlights that the Five Year Review of the West Coast Trawl Groundfish Program indicated that this sector has not performed as well as others under the catch share program¹.

Table 1. Petrale Harvest Specifications and Attainment 2015-2018 (in metric tons (mt))

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL	Fishery HG	Total Mortality²	ACL Attainment %
2015	2,946	2,816	2,816	2,579	2,670	94.82%
2016	3,044	2,910	2,910	2,673	2,652	91.13%
2017	3,280	3,136	3,136	2,895	2,944	93.88%
2018	3,152	3,013	3,013	2,772	2,912	96.65%

Table 2. Petrale Revenue 2015-2018 (rounded to nearest thousand)³

Year	Revenue
2015	\$6,837,000
2016	\$6,933,000
2017	\$6,821,000
2018	\$7,191,000

¹ [West Coast Groundfish Trawl Catch Share Program Five-Year Review](#), December 2017.

² From [NMFS NWFSC mortality reports](#).

³ From PacFin commercial value tables.

Based on the projections from the last assessment, fishermen have been anticipating improved fishing opportunities relative to the 2019-2020 harvest specifications (see Table 3 below). While a constant catch ACL of 3,200 mt would be an increase from the 2019-2020 specifications, it would be significantly less than the default HCR (for 2021, it would result in a decrease of 915 mt from harvest control rule (HCR) (22 percent); for 2022, it would result in a decrease of 460 mt from HCR (13 percent) – see Table 4 below).

Table 3. Harvest Specifications 2019-2020 (in mt)

Year	OFL	ABC	ACL	Fishery HG
2019	3,042	2,908	2,908	2,587
2020	2,976	2,845	2,845	2,524

When compared with the default HCR, the constant catch ACL of 3,200 mt would reduce the total amount of Petrale sole available in the 2021-2022 period, and reduce the total amount of Petrale sole available over the entire 10-year projection (see summed totals in the shaded cells at the bottom of Table 4 below).

Table 4. 10-Year ACL Projections (in mt)

Year	ABC Under Default HCR ⁴	Constant Catch ACL	Difference: Constant Catch minus Default	Percentage Difference from Default HCR
	(A)	(B)	(C) = (B) – (A)	(D) = (C) ÷ (A)
2021	4,115	3,200	-915	-22%
2022	3,660	3,200	-460	-13%
2023	3,365	3,200	-165	-5%
2024	3,199	3,200	1	0%
2025	3,120	3,200	80	3%
2026	3,097	3,200	103	3%
2027	3,096	3,200	104	3%
2028	3,097	3,200	103	3%
2029	3,098	3,200	102	3%
2030	3,093	3,200	107	3%
Sum 2021 to 2030:	32,940	32,000	-940	-3%
Sum 2021 to 2022:	7,775	6,400	-1,375	-18%

For the November meeting, the GAP would like to see detailed information about the economic, social, and biological tradeoffs of the default HCR versus the constant catch 3,200 mt ACL alternative in the GMT report. The GAP would also be interested to see the results of a 10-year projection under a scenario where the 2021 acceptable biological catch (ABC)/ACL was decreased to 3,660 mt, or some other intermediary value.

The GAP appreciates the new database which lists the draft annual groundfish harvest specifications in a manner that should be easier to work with.

⁴ From Table g (page xv) in [Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 13, September 2019](#). Note that table g is specific to ABC projections, and the GAP is assuming ABC=ACL in each year for the purposes of comparison to the constant catch ACL measure.

Management Measures

The GAP supports the preliminary list of new management measures as presented by the GMT (Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Supplemental Report 1, September 2019), with one addition: retention of lingcod in the Oregon long leader fishery, which is already being caught but cannot be retained. The catch of lingcod in the regular long leader fishery is low, and this measure would not change any gear specifications.

PFMC
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