

or both of the parameters defined in regulation should be revised, the revision will be implemented through the Federal rulemaking process, and the updated values codified in the Federal regulation. Generally, the target year should only be changed in unusual circumstances. Two such unusual circumstances include (1) if, it is determined, based on new information, that the existing target year is later than the maximum rebuilding time (T_{MAX}), (2) or if the harvest control rule calculated from the new information is estimated to result in such a low OY as to cause substantial socio-economic impacts. Any change to a harvest control rule must be fully supported by a corresponding analysis and updated through the Federal rulemaking process which would include opportunity for public notice and comment.

An approved rebuilding plan will be implemented through setting OYs and establishing management measures necessary to maintain the fishing mortality within the OYs to achieve objectives related to rebuilding requirements.

At the Council's June 2003 meeting, rebuilding plans for lingcod, canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, and POP were adopted and include the parameters listed below. When making the recommendation to implement these rebuilding plans, the Council sought to balance the rebuilding risks to each stock with the short and long-term socio-economic costs borne by groundfish buyers, commercial harvesters, and recreational operators as a result of constraining the fisheries to reduce total mortality of these overfished species.

Amendment 16-2 will be followed by Amendment 16-3. A notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published on September 12, 2003 (68 FR 53712) for Amendment 16-3. If approved, Amendment 16-3 will contain rebuilding plans for bocaccio, cowcod, widow rockfish and yelloweye rockfish. The Council is scheduled to take final action on the Amendment 16-3 rebuilding plans at its April 2004 meeting. A Draft EIS is scheduled for publication in June 2004.

Lingcod

Lingcod are irregularly distributed coastwide in hard bottom areas and around rocky reefs and are encountered in a variety of commercial and recreational fisheries. Lingcod is also an important recreational species coastwide. North of 40°10' N. lat., limited entry trawl and limited entry fixed gear vessels have historically

landed a substantial portion of the lingcod landings in that area. The open access sector, which is comprised of many types of fixed gear and uses a variety of strategies, has also accounted for a substantial portion of the lingcod mortality.

Date declared overfished: March 3, 1999.

Status of the stock when declared overfished: In 1999 the biomass was believed to be at 10 percent of its unfished biomass level. A coastwide assessment was conducted in 2000 and confirmed that the stock was overfished coastwide.

B_0 : 22,882 mt north and 20,971 mt south

B_{MSY} : 9,153 mt north and 8,389 mt south

T_{MIN} : 2007

T_{MAX} : 2009

P_{MAX} : 60 percent

T_{TARGET} : 2009

Harvest control rule: $F=0.00531$ north and $F=0.061$ south

Rebuilding strategy at the time of rebuilding plan adoption: Management measures intended to limit bycatch of lingcod include the use of Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) to restrict fishing in areas where overfished species are most likely to occur, and the use of cumulative trip limits. Small trip limits are allowed in the trawl fishery to accommodate true incidental catch. Lingcod landings by the limited entry fixed gear and open access fisheries are severely limited during the summer months and have been prohibited during the winter months. Lingcod are vulnerable to these gears during the winter nesting period, but have a high rate of survival when released alive. In addition to recreational bag limits, similar season restrictions have been used in the California and Washington recreational fisheries during the winter months.

Canary rockfish

Canary rockfish prefer rocky areas on the continental shelf (shelf) and are encountered in a wide variety of commercial and recreational fisheries. Limited entry vessels targeting flatfish and arrowtooth flounder have accounted for a large portion of the landed catch north of 40°10' N. lat. Smaller amounts are taken during the primary whiting season and DTS (Dover sole-thornyhead-sablefish complex) trawl fishery, as well as by fixed gear vessels targeting groundfish on the shelf. Recreational vessels, mainly off the coast of northern California, account for most of the recreational catch of canary rockfish.

Date declared overfished: January 4, 2000 (65 FR 221)

Status of the stock when declared overfished: 22 percent of its unfished biomass level north of Cape Blanco and 8 percent of its unfished biomass level south of Cape Blanco.

B_0 : 31,550 mt

B_{MSY} : 12,620 mt

T_{MIN} : 2057

T_{MAX} : 2076

P_{MAX} : 60 percent

T_{TARGET} : 2074

Harvest control rule: $F=0.022$

Rebuilding strategy at the time of rebuilding plan adoption: Management measures intended to limit bycatch of canary rockfish include the use of RCAs and cumulative trip limits. Bottom trawling is prohibited in the trawl RCA, which covers depths where canary rockfish have been most frequently caught. Cumulative limits are structured to discourage targeting while allowing very low levels of incidental take to be landed. In addition, differential trip limits have been used for large and small footrope trawl gear. By allowing greater limits for large footrope gear and prohibiting its use in nearshore areas, there is an incentive for vessels to fish in deeper waters, beyond the range of canary rockfish.

Recreational fisheries are managed through bag limits, size limits and seasons. As necessary, seasons can be shortened and bag limits reduced to stay within the OY.

Darkblotched rockfish

Darkblotched rockfish occurs on the outer shelf and continental slope (slope), mainly north of Point Reyes (38° N. lat.). Because of their deeper distribution, they are caught exclusively by commercial vessels. Most landings have been made by bottom trawl vessels targeting flatfish on the shelf, and rockfish and the DTS species on the slope.

Date declared overfished: January 11, 2001 (66 FR 2338)

Status of the stock when declared overfished: following a 2000 stock assessment the coastwide stock was believed to be at 22 percent of its unfished biomass level.

B_0 : 29,044 mt

B_{MSY} : 11,618 mt

T_{MIN} : 2014

T_{MAX} : 2047

P_{MAX} : 80 percent

T_{TARGET} : 2030

Harvest control rule: $F=0.027$

Rebuilding strategy at the time of rebuilding plan adoption: Management measures intended to limit bycatch of darkblotched rockfish include the use of RCAs and cumulative trip limits. The boundaries of the RCAs vary by season and fishing sector and may be modified in response to new information about