



Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission
December 8, 2017
Exhibit F

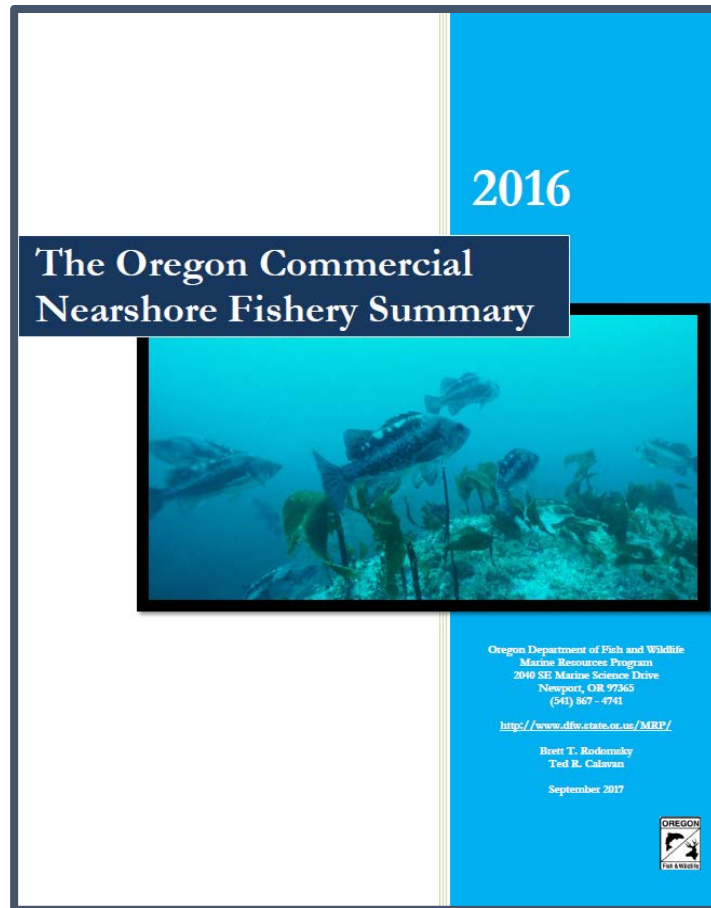
Nearshore Logbook Report
Commercial & Recreational Fishery
Regulations

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2016 Commercial Nearshore Logbook Report



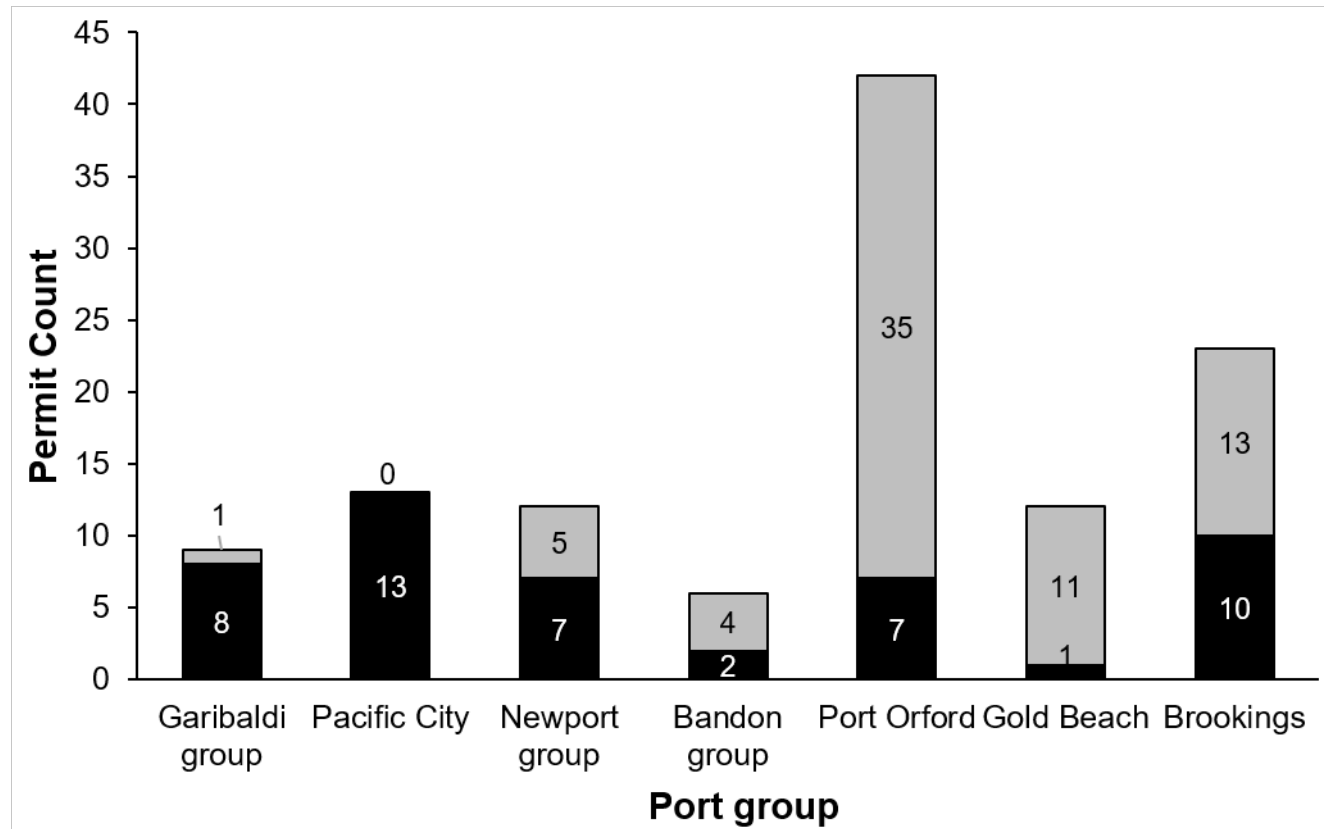
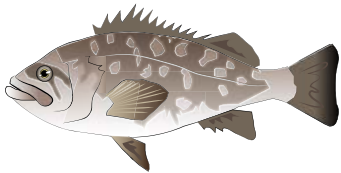
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/publications/>

2016 Commercial Nearshore Logbook Report

Geography of the fishery: permit home port

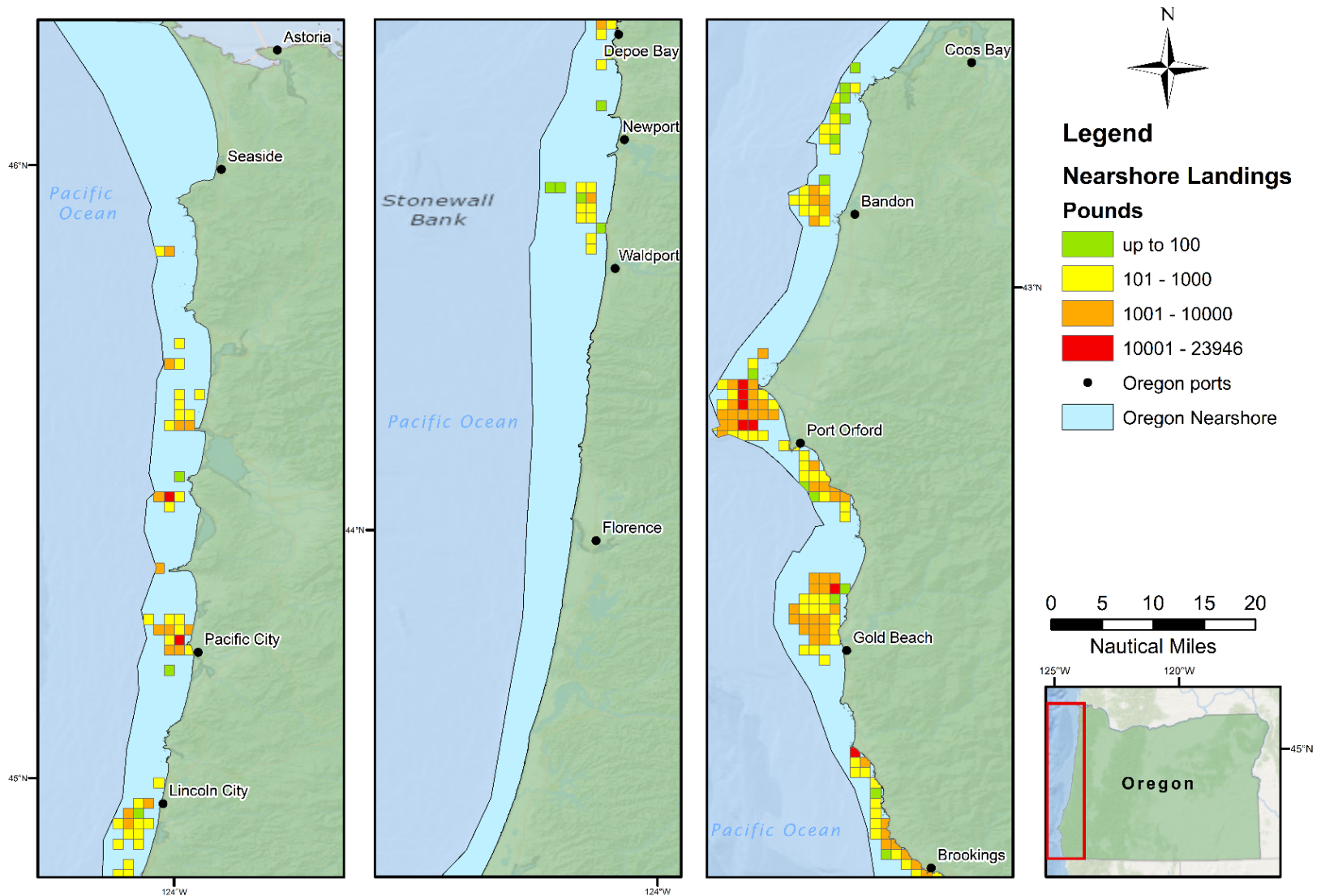
49 black/blue
rockfish permits
without nearshore
endorsement

69 with NS
endorsement



2016 Commercial Nearshore Logbook Report

Distribution of catch from logbook records





2016 Commercial Nearshore Logbook Report

Logbook return rate

Nearshore landings (Ticket lbs.), number of trips submitting logs (Submissions), and logbook return rate (Compliance).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tickets lbs</u>	<u>Submissions</u>	<u>Compliance</u>
2016	468,955	2,070	83%
2015	569,958	2,575	90%
2014	491,674	2,141	84%
2013	531,488	2,644	96%
2012	483,373	2,418	95%
2011	464,364	2,478	95%
2010	425,743	2,037	83%
2009	549,626	1,920	64%
2008	472,438	1,790	69%
2007	438,244	1,697	71%
2006	389,390	1,949	80%
2005	421,246	2,264	84%



2018 Fishery Regulations

Topics:

1. Annual quotas for commercial & recreational fisheries
2. Commercial fishery rules
 - Nearshore trip limits
 - Dressed weight conversion factors
3. Recreational bottomfish rules



Annual Quotas

- Total annual harvest limits for all Oregon fisheries are established in federal rule on a 2-year cycle (2017-2018 already adopted in OAR)
- Values are based on most recent stock assessment
- Commission allocates these quotas to Oregon's commercial & recreational fisheries as sector harvest guidelines
 - Based on proportions used since the early 2000's, with only minor adjustments
 - Staff recommend status quo proportions for 2018 allocations



Federal Annual Quotas for nearshore groundfish (metric tons)

Stock	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Black Rockfish (OR HG 2013-2016; OR ACL 2017-2018)	580.0	580.0	526.4	520.0	-10%
Nearshore Rockfish (OR HG)	36.2	36.2	46.1	45.7	
Cabezon (OR ACL)	47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0	
Greenling (OR contribution to "Other Fish complex" ACL)	28.6	28.6	226.2	192.2	



Federal Annual Quotas for nearshore groundfish (metric tons)

Stock	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Black Rockfish (OR HG 2013-2016; OR ACL 2017-2018)	580.0	580.0	526.4	520.0	-1.2%
Nearshore Rockfish (OR HG)	36.2	36.2	46.1	45.7	
Cabazon (OR ACL)	47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0	
Greenling (OR contribution to "Other Fish complex" ACL)	28.6	28.6	226.2	192.2	

Informational only: Federal limits for 2018 were adopted last year



State quotas for commercial and recreational groundfish (metric tons)

Stock	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black Rockfish				
Commercial HG (24.0%)	139.2	139.2	126.3	124.8
Recreational HG (76.0%)	440.8	440.8	400.1	395.2
Nearshore Rockfish				
Commercial HG (71.8%)	10.2	10.2	13.0	12.9
Recreational HG (28.2%)	26.0	26.0	33.1	32.8
Cabezon				
Commercial HG (64.3%)	30.2	30.2	30.2	30.2
Recreational HG (35.7%)	16.8	16.8	16.8	16.8
Greenling				
Commercial HG (75.1%)	23.4	23.4	169.9	144.3
Recreational HG (24.9%)	5.2	5.2	56.3	47.9

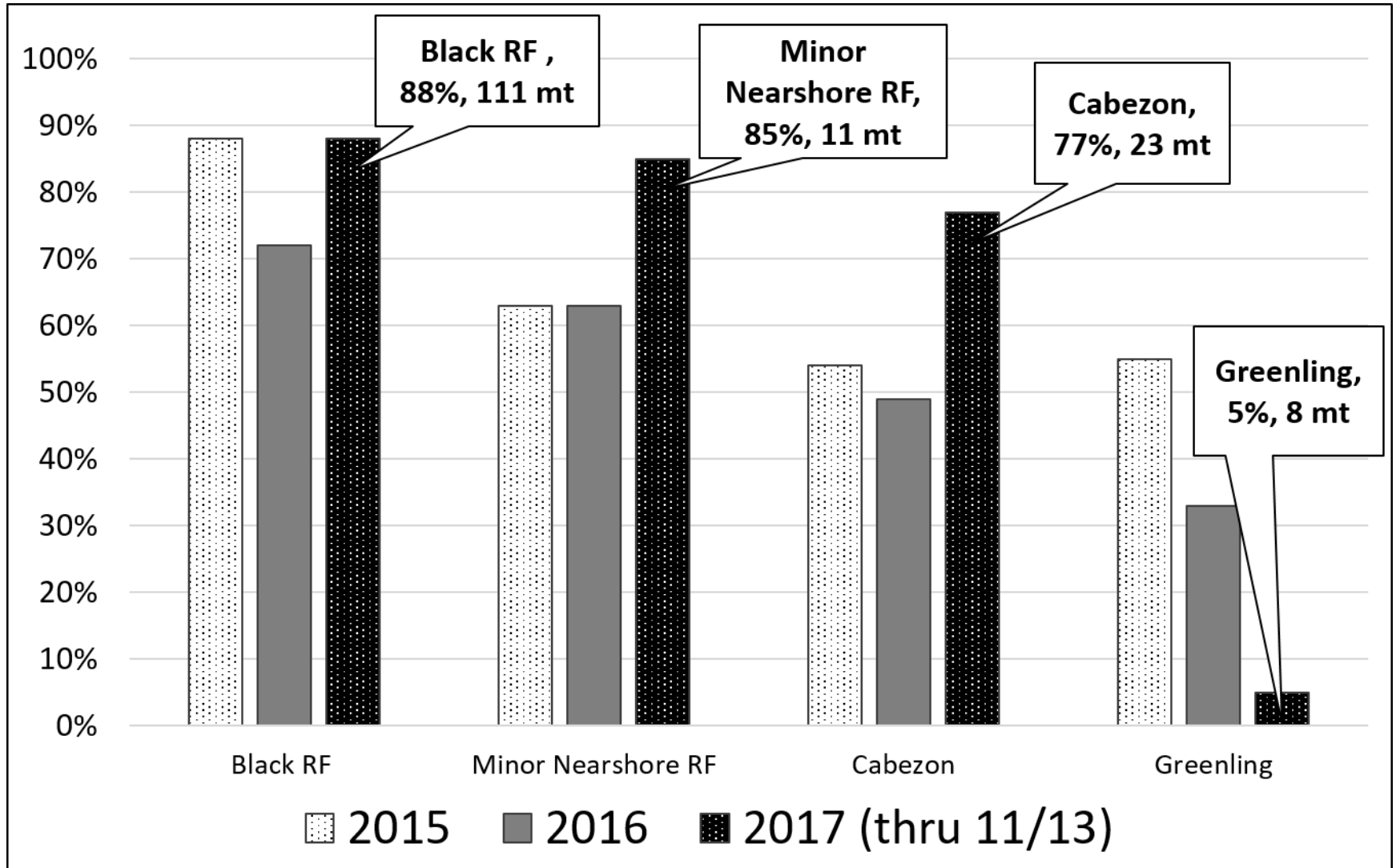
Staff recommendation: Adopt 2018 Harvest Guidelines as shown



Commercial Nearshore Fishery 2018 Trip Limits

- OFWC action: adopt 2-month trip limits (aka “period limits”) for the commercial nearshore fishery in 2018
- Public meetings in Brookings, Port Orford, and Pacific City (29 participants) reiterated consistent fishery goals:
 - Stability and predictability
 - Year-round season
 - Raise black rockfish trip limits in winter to maintain markets
 - Raise cabezon & greenling trip limits
- Trip limits should provide opportunity to harvest the commercial HG’s while meeting industry goals

2017 Trip Limit Performance: Harvest Guideline Attainment





2018 Commercial Nearshore Trip Limits

Staff recommendation: adopt the following 2018 trip limits:

Species group	2017 Outset	2017 w/ In-season changes	2018
Black RF			
P1 (Jan-Feb)	1,200	1,200	<u>1,500</u>
P2 (Mar-Apr)	1,500	1,500	<u>1,500</u>
P3 (May-Jun)	1,800	1,800	<u>1,800</u>
P4 (Jul-Aug)	1,800	2,400	<u>1,800</u>
P5 (Sep-Oct)	1,500	2,100	<u>1,500</u>
P6 (Nov-Dec)	1,200	1,800	<u>1,500</u>
Blue RF	300	300	300
Other NS RF	450	450	450
Cabezon			
P1 & 2	2,000		2,000
P3 - 5		2,500	<u>2,500</u>
P6			<u>2,000</u>
Greenling	600	600	<u>800</u>



Commercial Sharks & Swordfish Dressed-weight Conversion Factors

- Used to estimate round (whole) weight when fish are landed dressed
- When there is no conversion factor in OAR, fish must be landed round
- Swordfish and many shark species are not marketable in the US unless they are dressed at sea
- Existing conversion factors for swordfish and shark were adopted by temporary rule in August, 2017

Staff recommendation:

Adopt conversion factors in Att. 3 in permanent rule

Recreational Bottomfish Fishery

1. Descending Devices
2. 2017 Season Recap
3. 2018 Bag Limits & Season
 - Public Input, Fishery Goals
 - Modeling & Risk Analysis
 - Alternatives



Descending Devices

- Required beginning in 2017 when releasing rockfish >30 fm
- 90+% use rate
- Public requests to expand requirement to all ocean waters
- Costs could outweigh benefits:
 - Fewer rockfish need recompression inside 30 fm
 - Unnecessary handling can result in injury/mortality

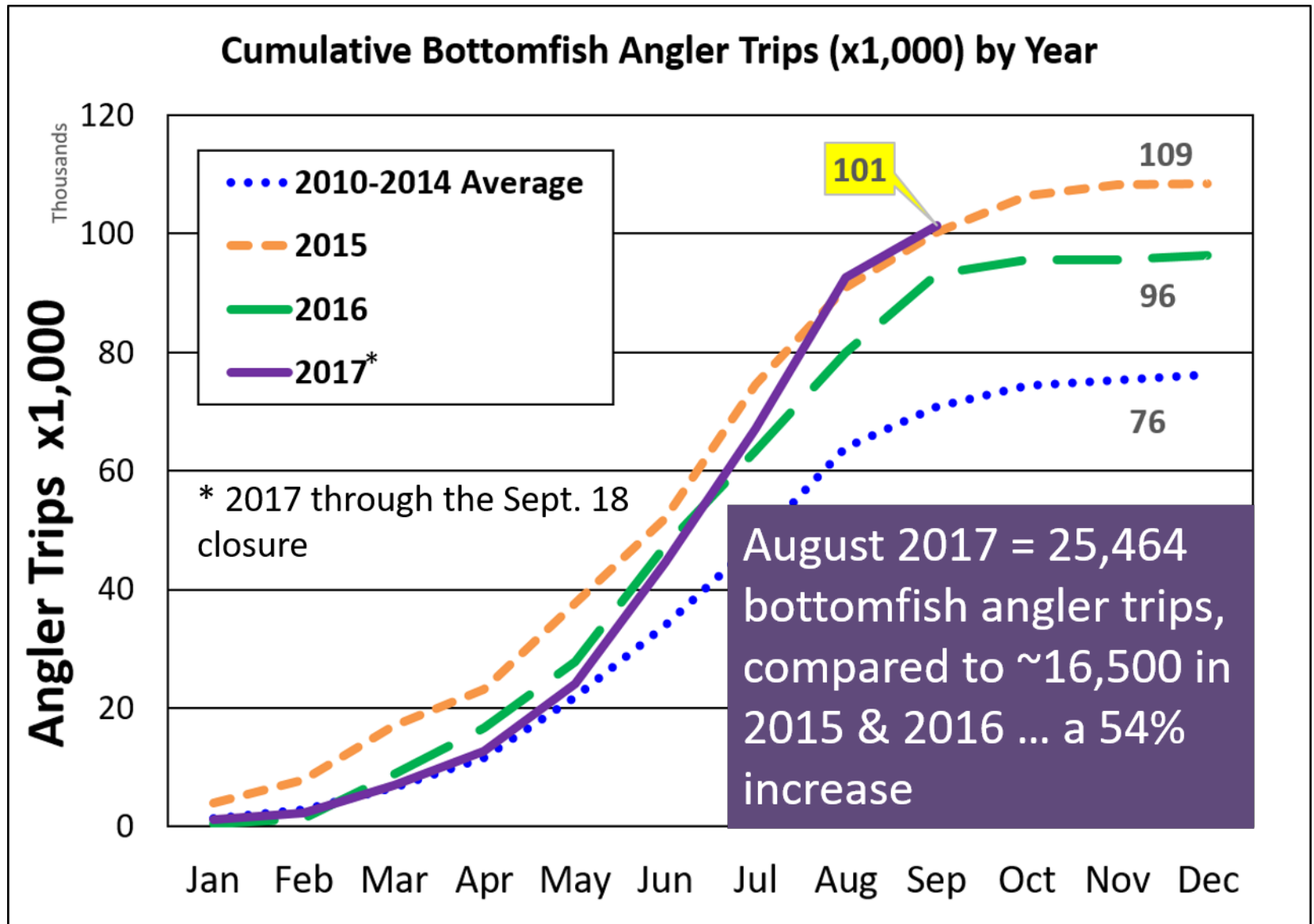


Staff recommendation:

Status quo rule (voluntary use inside 30 fm)

Staff will continue outreach to educate anglers on how to determine when a fish requires recompression, and on minimizing time on deck and proper handling

2017 Season: Record Bottomfish Effort





2017 Bottomfish Closure

- Preliminary catch estimates available ~1 wk after end of month
- August effort and catch much higher than expected
- HG's for black, minor nearshore, and yelloweye RF, and cabezon, reached by early September
- Bottomfish closed Sept. 18 (announced 9/12)
 - Flatfish remained open and extended to all depths
 - Lingcod spearfishing open
 - Public outreach: printed & online FAQ's for anglers & staff, materials describing fisheries that remained open, etc.



Why didn't ODFW reduce the bag limit instead of closing?

- By August, need for inseason bag limit reduction was apparent. Two options appeared equally likely to keep catch under annual quotas:
 - Reduce marine fish bag from 7 to 4 (total) in mid-August
 - Reduce marine fish bag from 7 to 3 (total) after Labor Day
- Based on substantial public input from prior years, staff opted to wait to reduce the bag limit until after Labor Day
 - Deferred a potentially disruptive change until after an important fishing weekend
 - If catch was lower than projected in August, bag limit reduction could be later or less severe



Limited Reopening October 1, 2017

- Some rockfish stocks (yellowtail, widow, canary) remained far under quotas – opportunity to provide some fishery access, if possible without additional impacts to over-quota stocks
- Offshore (>40 fm) longleader fishery opened Oct. 1
 - Couldn't open before 10/1 due to delayed fed. longleader rule
 - Required use of longleader gear
 - Raised bag limit to 10 fish
 - No black, nearshore, yelloweye RF allowed
 - No lingcod allowed – not enough yelloweye left after high catches just prior to closure



2018 Bottomfish Season Planning: Public Input

- **Methods:**

- Public meetings (including webinar)
- Sportfishing Advisory Committee meetings
- Phone, in-person, email

- **Major messages:**

- Bottomfish fishery is vital to coastal communities and diverse businesses in many ports
- Year-round fishery very important, although some ports have little winter fishing
- Bag limits must be high enough to attract anglers



2018 Bottomfish Fishery Goals

- Predictability & stability – avoid unplanned closure
- Year-round opportunity
- Consider public needs in developing marine fish bag limits
- Offer new offshore longleader fishery with higher bag limit
- Continue flatfish fishing at all depths
- Keep lingcod open in the fall if possible

2018 Bottomfish Rules: Lingcod

Staff recommendation:

- Maintain lingcod bag limit of 2 fish
- Yelloweye rockfish bycatch will continue to limit access to lingcod in 2018.
- Increasing lingcod bag to 3 fish would likely result in reaching the yelloweye rockfish harvest guideline earlier.



2018 Bottomfish Rules: Flatfish

Staff recommendation:

- Maintain 25 flatfish bag limit
- Adopt permanent rule allowing fishing for flatfish at all depths

Flatfish trips may not be combined with longleader trips, but may be combined with traditional bottomfish and other trip unless specified otherwise inseason.

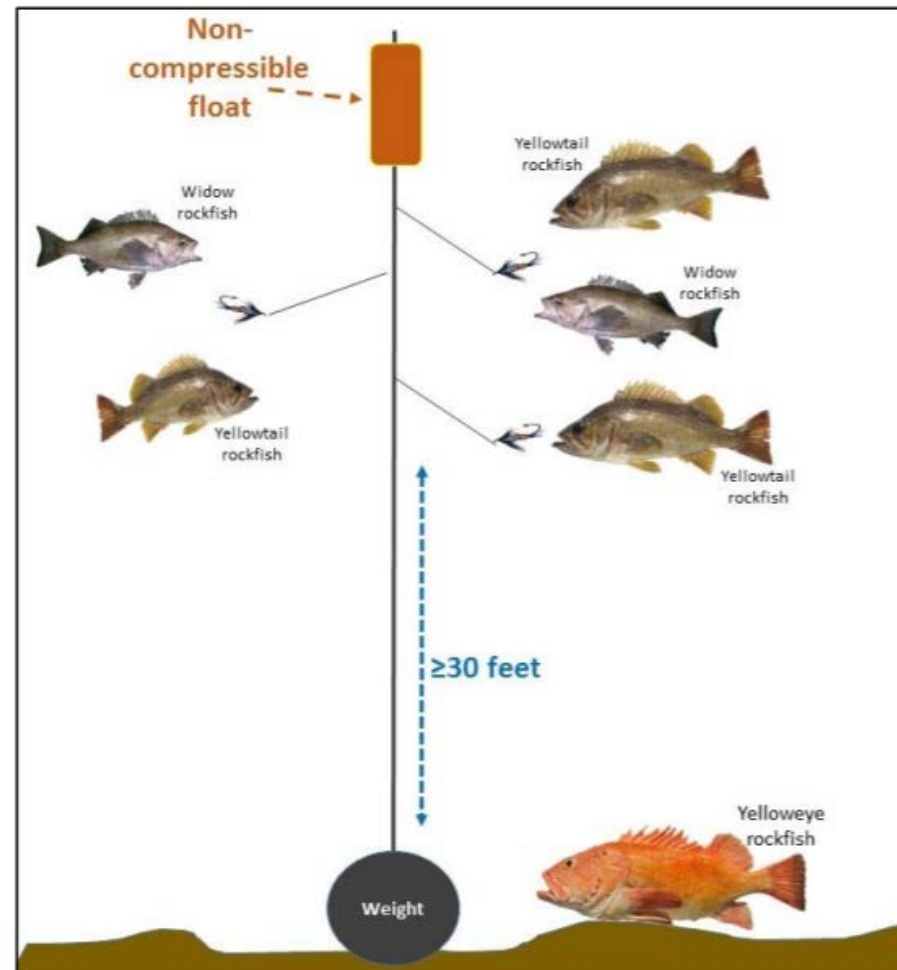


2018 Bottomfish Rules: Offshore Longleader Fishery

- “Longleader” gear catches midwater rockfish, avoids yelloweye rockfish
- Gear is legal in areas/ times open to bottom-fish fishing
- Federal authorization is required to allow fishing >40 fm April-Sept with longleader gear. Expected by April 2017, but rule has been delayed.



Longleader gear schematic (not to scale)





2018 Bottomfish Rules: Offshore Longleader Fishery

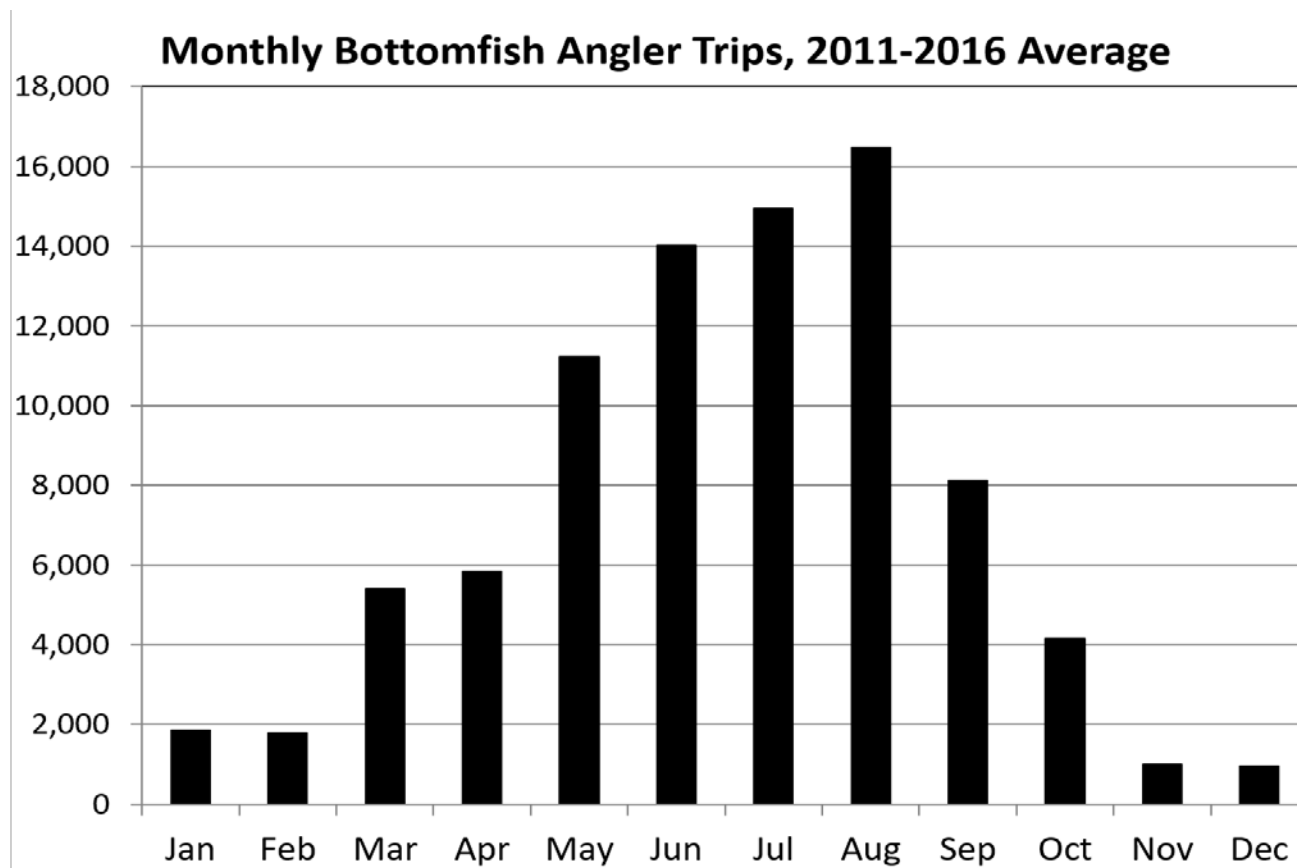
Staff recommendation:

- Adopt the definition of longleader gear in rule
- Adopt a 10 fish bag limit for offshore (>40 fm) longleader trips
 - Select species only: yellowtail, widow, canary, redstripe, greenstriped, silvergray, chilipepper, bocaccio rockfishes
 - Yelloweye, black, nearshore RF, and lingcod not allowed
 - May not be combined with traditional bottomfish, flatfish, or halibut trips
 - Effective January 1
- Approve fishing seaward of 40 fm using longleader gear from April 1 – Sept. 30 (expected fed. rule)
 - OAR adopting federal rule by reference to be filed when final federal rule is effective (per NMFS, before Apr. 1, 2018)



2018 Marine Fish Bag Limit/Season Development

- Seasonal pattern: most effort occurs May-September
 - More people are fishing in summer, catch accumulates rapidly
 - Bag limit reduction has to include summer months to have much effect



2018 Marine Fish Bag Limit/Season Alternatives

- Staff developed 5 alternatives for 12-mo. season to meet goals:
 - Predictability & stability, year-round opportunity, adequate bag limits
- One additional alternative with a 6-month season was also included in original analysis based on public input

6 fish	4 fish	6 fish
6 fish	4 fish	6 fish
5 fish		
4 fish		
CLOSED	5 fish	CLOSED
3 fish	5 fish	3 fish

This table represents *nearshore* bottomfish fishery only. Offshore longleader fishery & flatfish could also be open. 2-lingcod bag limit in addition to those shown here.



2018 Marine Fish Bag Limit/Season Alternatives: Risk Analysis (1/2)

- Recreational angler/fishing community needs:
 - Avoid unscheduled closure
 - Avoid significant bag limit reduction
 - Avoid shortened season (majority)
- Analysis focused on risk of not meeting those needs
 - Does not address potential risk that very low bag limits may deter anglers
 - Does not predict possible changes such as temporal effort shift with varying bag limit or short season



2018 Marine Fish Bag Limit/Season

Alternatives: Risk Analysis (2/2)

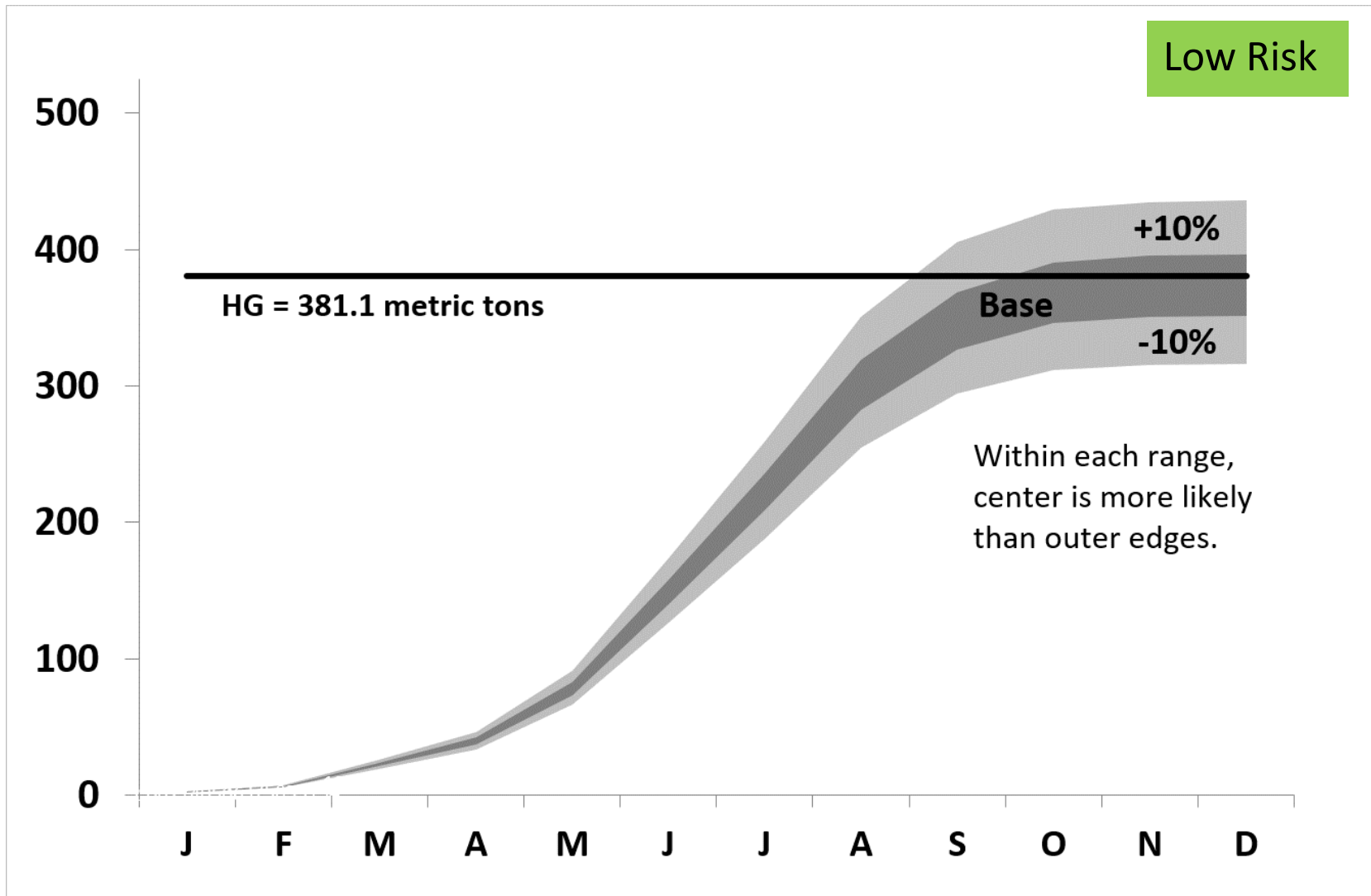
- Emphasis on black rockfish
 - Account for ~75% of total catch in the recreational bottomfish fishery
 - Primary driver/limiting factor for bottomfish fishing
- Other stocks are also potentially constraining
 - Exceeded four recreational HG's in 2017
 - Minor nearshore rockfish – OK with same bag limit that works for black RF
 - Yelloweye RF managed by depth and/or gear restrictions
 - Cabezon managed with non-retention when HG is reached (very high post-release survival)



New Bottomfish Forecasting Approach for 2018

- 2017 (& prior) model:
 - Input: rolling 3-year average effort
 - Output: point estimate
 - False confidence in precision of point estimates
 - Underestimated effort and risk of exceeding HG's
- New 2018 preseason forecasting model:
 - Uses 2017 (high) effort as “base case”
 - Output: range, better represents probability
 - Additional projections assuming 10% +/- effort than 2017
- Comparison of 2018 vs. 2017 models:
 - Midpoint of 2018 base case range is ~8% higher than point estimate based on 3-yr average
 - 2018 model better buffers risk of early closure

2018 Model Output: Graphic Representation of Cumulative Black RF Impacts





2018 Marine Fish Bag Limit/Season Alternatives & Risk

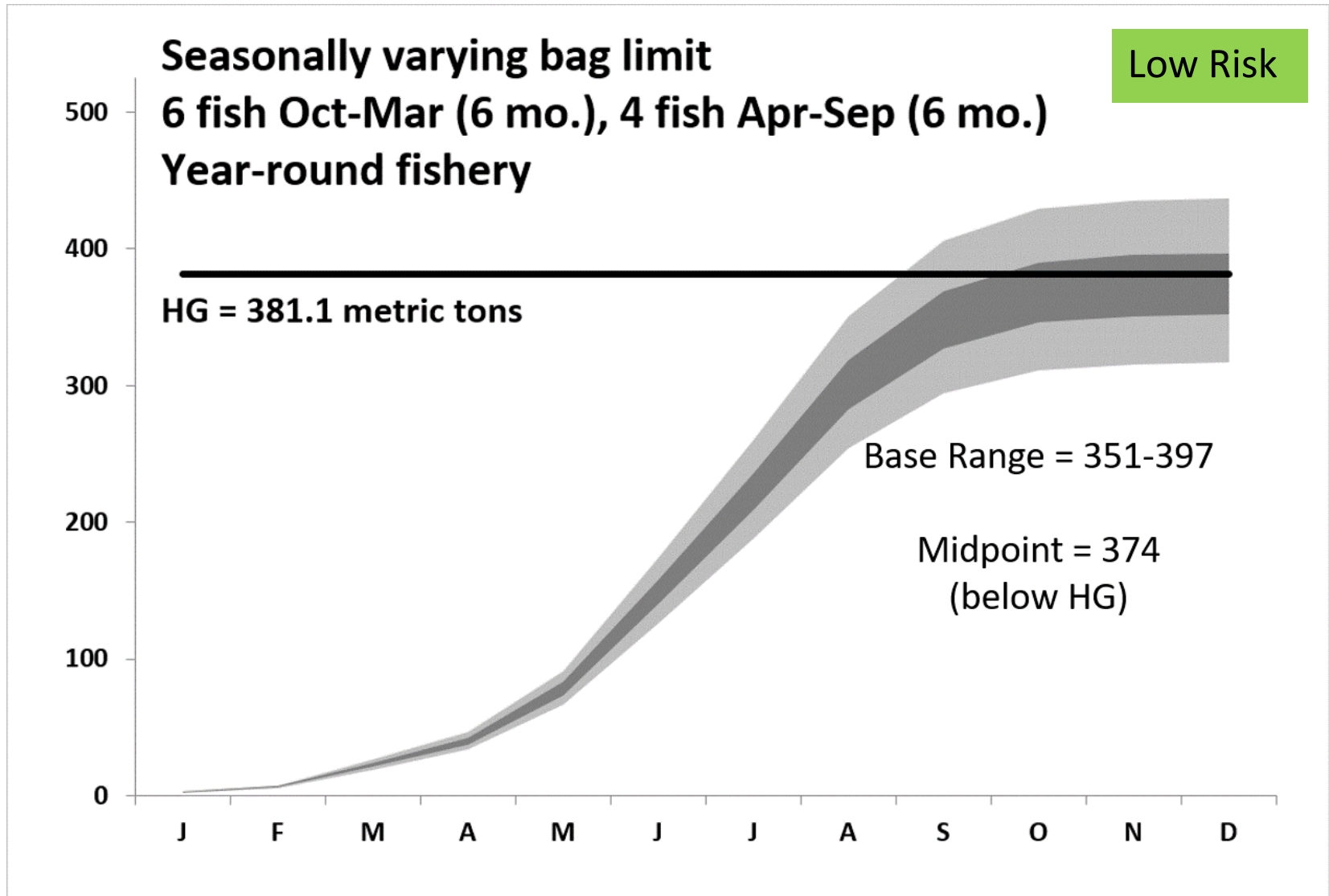
Risk	Alt	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Low	F	3 fish				5 fish				3 fish			
Low	D	4 fish											
Low	A	6 fish			4 fish						6 fish		
Medium	E	CLOSED			5 fish						CLOSED		
Medium	B	6 fish				4 fish				6 fish			
High	C	5 fish											

Risk is relative likelihood of reaching black rockfish HG before the end of the year, requiring inseason bag limit reduction or closure. Low risk \neq zero risk.

Staff recommendation:

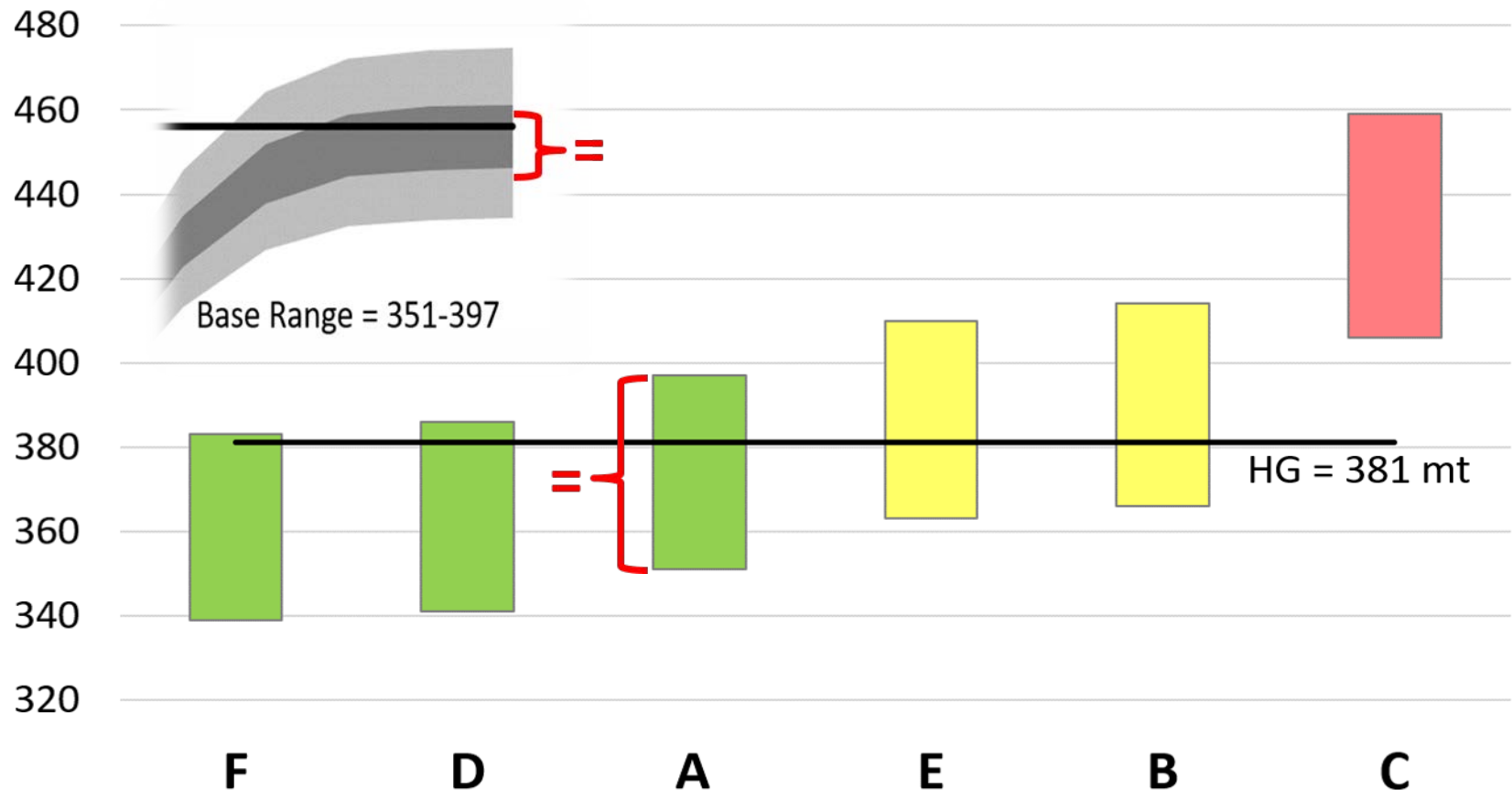
Alternative A or other low-risk alternative

2018 Marine Fish Bag Limit Alternative A



2018 Marine Fish Bag Limit/Season Alternatives & Risk – Different View

Predicted base case range of black RF impacts per bag limit/season alternative, assuming 2017 effort





2018 Inseason Monitoring & Communication Improvements

- Recreational bottomfish catch estimates will be released ~1 week after the end of each month (eliminates 1-mo. lag)
 - Posted on Sport Groundfish Estimates webpage
 - Monthly updates will be sent to the recreational bottomfish email list on the same schedule.
- Sportfishing Advisory Committee will receive monthly updates through spring, then every two weeks starting in summer, or as needed.
- Staff will consult the SAC if catch of any quota-limited species is progressing more rapidly or more slowly than expected and/or inseason change (up or down) appears needed.



Summary of Staff Recommendations

Adopt staff recommendations (as reflected in draft OAR's unless otherwise noted) for:

- Recreational and commercial groundfish harvest guidelines for 2018
- Commercial nearshore bimonthly trip limits
- Dressed weight conversion factors for sharks & swordfish
- Longleader fishery
 - Gear definition and bag limit
 - Exception to seasonal depth restriction allowing longleader fishing outside 40 fm April-September (OAR to be filed when final federal rule is effective)
- Flatfish fishing at all depths year-round (not in draft OAR's; currently in temporary rule through 12/31/17)

Adopt staff recommendations for the recreational Marine Fish bag limit (considerations on next slide)



Considerations for a 2018 Marine Fish Bag Limit/Season

- **Goals:**

- Minimize risk of emergency closure or severe inseason reduction
 - Avoid bag limit so low that it reduces participation
 - Provide bottomfishing opportunity throughout the year
- Concentration of catch in summer means it is difficult to “apply the brakes gently” (i.e., small reduction in bag) and be effective
 - A 2018 bag limit/season structure consistent with past policy and data/modeling (i.e., 12-month season and single bag limit all year) is more predictable
 - A new approach for 2018 (seasonally varying bag limit, or closure of traditional bottomfish fishing in some months) may better meet public needs for this fishery; modeling likely to be less informative, with greater uncertainty in forecasts

End

