



2017-18 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures





Outline

- Brief overview of federal process and timeline
- Stock assessments
- Season structure, regulations, allocations
- Update on longleader yellowtail rockfish fishery
- Discussion



Regulation Development Process

FEDERAL

- 2 year cycle
 - 2017-18
 - PFMC recommendation to NMFS in June, 2016
- Govern all groundfish fisheries
- Adopt harvest levels for all groundfish
 - Acceptable Biological Catches (ABC)
 - Federal Annual Catch Limits (ACL)
 - Overfished species
 - Black rockfish
 - Cabezon
 - Nearshore RF complex

STATE

- Annual cycle
 - 2017
 - Public & OFWC process in fall & winter, 2016
- Sport, commercial nearshore fisheries
- Adopt state landing caps for:
 - Black/blue rockfish
 - Other nearshore rockfish
 - Cabezon
 - Greenling
- Must be equal to or more conservative than federal regs



Federal Timeline

- Summer 2015
 - Stock assessments
 - Develop list of proposed management measures
- September-October 2015
 - Rebuilding plans for overfished species/set catch limits
 - Narrow list of proposed management measures ←
- November 2015
 - Preliminary range of ACLs
 - Preliminary list of management measures
- Winter 2015-16
 - PFMC's Groundfish Management Team (GMT) analyzes range of ACLs and management measures
 - Begins drafting the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



Federal Timeline

- March 2016
 - Draft EIS ready available for review and public comment
- June 2016
 - PFMC makes final recommendation on ACLs and Management Measures
 - Final EIS submitted to NMFS for review and public comment
- Fall 2016
 - EIS approved and regulations adopted
- January 1, 2017
 - Fisheries begin



Stock Assessments Conducted in 2015

- Species important to sport fisheries:
 - Yelloweye rockfish
 - Black rockfish
 - China rockfish
 - Kelp greenling



Good news:

- **TWO SPECIES DECLARED REBUILT**
 - Canary rockfish and petrale sole
- **NO new overfished species**



Canary Rockfish

- Declared "Rebuilt" in June 2015
 - Higher ACLs go into effect beginning 2017
- PFMC may still be conservative in setting ACL
 - Should still allow for increased allocations
 - *Yelloweye rockfish will limit how much canary can be accessed*





Yelloweye rockfish

- Rebuilding date—2074
 - Still on that track
- Coastwide ACL goes up from 19 mt in 2016 to 20 mt in 2017
 - Will likely mean approximately 0.2 mt increase to OR recreational sector





Black Rockfish

- Assessed for first time since 2007
 - State-specific assessments
 - Previously OR and CA assessed together
- Stock is healthy
 - Approximately 60% of unfished biomass
 - Oregon ACL will likely be around 550 mt
- 2015 Oregon state landings caps= 580 mt
 - 440.8 – Recreational
 - 139.2 - Commercial





China Rockfish

- New full assessment
 - Previously a data-poor assessment
- Will still be managed as part of the Nearshore Rockfish Complex
 - Will increase the complex ACL by a small amount
 - Expect similar allocation to 2015-16





Kelp Greenling

- New full assessment for Oregon only
 - Stock is healthy, approximately 70% of unfished biomass
- ACL will be > 100 mt
 - Current state landings caps = 40 mt





2015 Season Structure & Regulations

- Strive for year round fishing opportunities
 - ODFW policy
 - Feedback from anglers
- Seasonal depth restrictions
 - Restricted to inside of 30 fm April-September
 - Designed to reduce interactions with and mortality of yelloweye rockfish
 - Limited bottomfish retention on all-depth halibut days



2015 Season Structure & Regulations

- Bag limits
 - 7 marine fish (rockfish, greenlings, etc)
 - Sub-bag limits
 - 1 canary rockfish
 - 1 cabezon (July 1-Dec 31)
 - 3 blue rockfish
 - 2 lingcod
 - 25 flatfish (other than Pacific halibut)
- Length limits
 - Lingcod--22
 - Cabezon--16
 - Greenlings--10



Rockfish Descending Devices

- Voluntary use
 - Benefits to the fish and fishery
- e.g. Yelloweye Rockfish mortality rates



Depth (fm)	Surface Release Mortality	Mortality when Release Device Used	Mortality "Savings"
0-10	22%	21%	1%
10-20	39%	21%	18%
20-30	56%	21%	35%
30-50	100%	27%	73%
50-100	100%	45%	55%



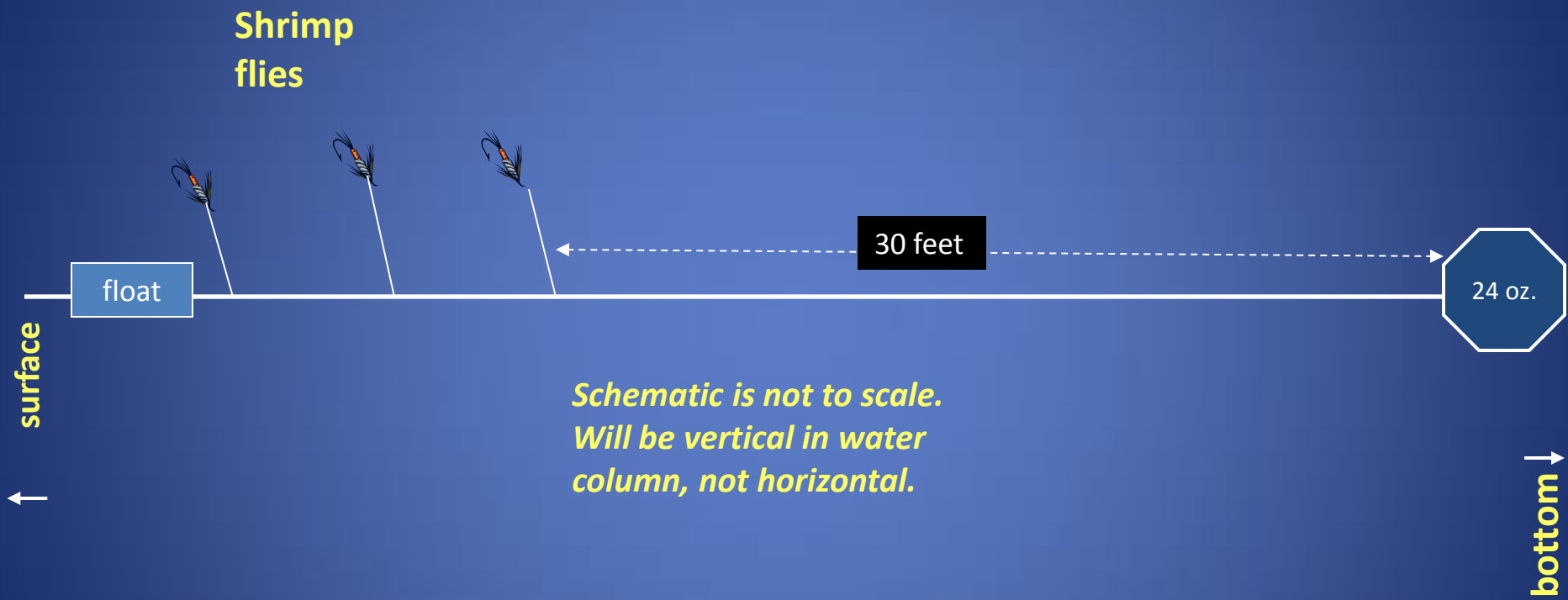
Update on Longleader Fishery

- NMFS and ODFW working on analysis
- Council should make final decision in March
- May take up to 6 months to get into federal regulations
- Implement in state regulations as soon as in federal regulations





Gear Schematic



*Schematic is not to scale.
Will be vertical in water
column, not horizontal.*



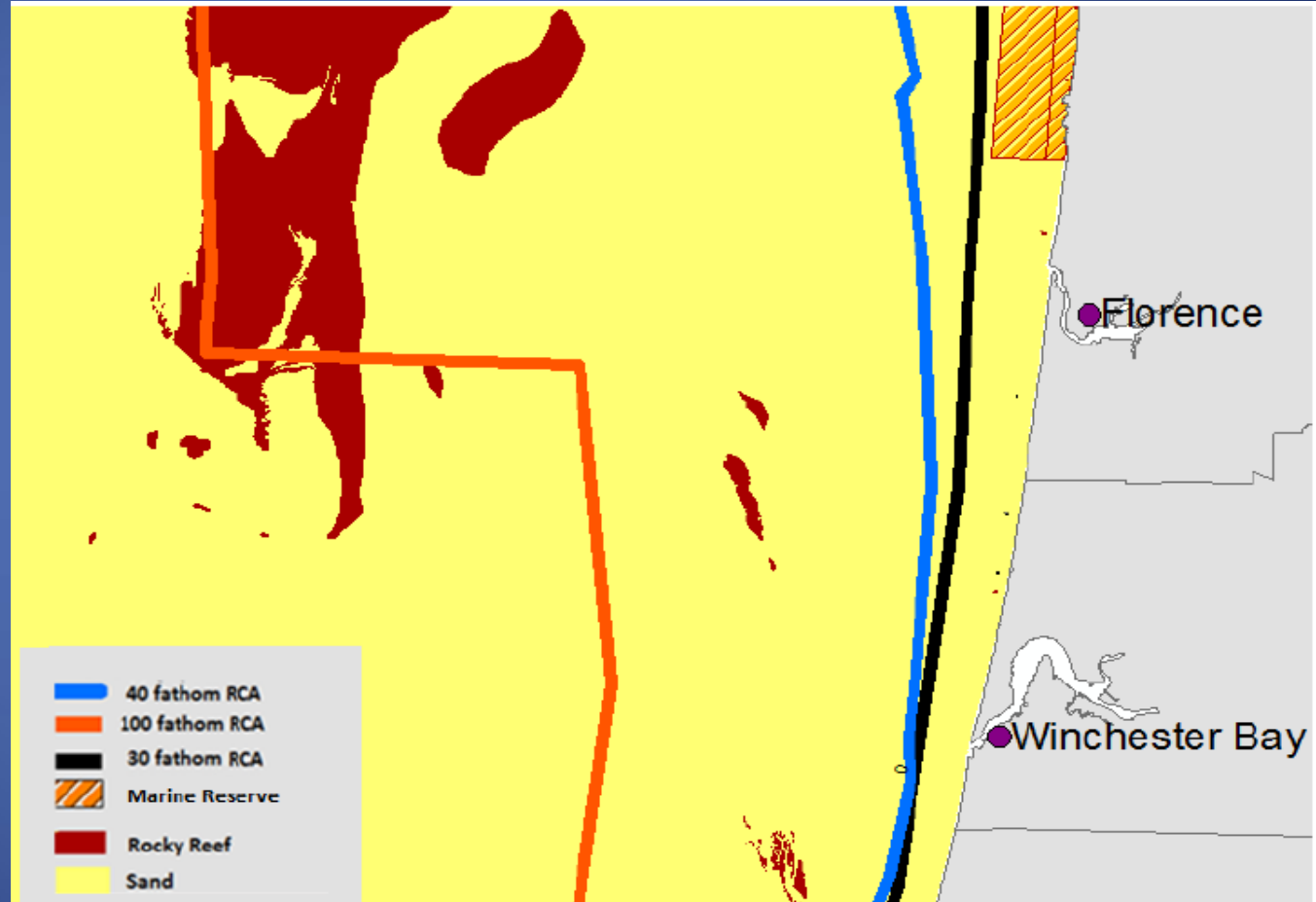
Update on Longleader Fishery

- Intended to target midwater species
 - Yellowtail and widow rockfish
 - Some bycatch of blue and canary rockfish
- Will likely be allowed outside of the 40 fm regulatory line
- No retention of lingcod
 - Minimize potential for yelloweye rockfish bycatch



Update on Longleader Fishery

Allows some opportunities for ports without shallow water reefs





Thoughts/Ideas from ODFW Staff

- Yelloweye rockfish and nearshore rockfish complex likely most constraining stocks
- With probable increase in canary rockfish allocation
 - Look at increasing the bag limit
 - Pro: Could take pressure off of other species
 - Con: Concern over yelloweye bycatch



Thoughts/Ideas from ODFW Staff

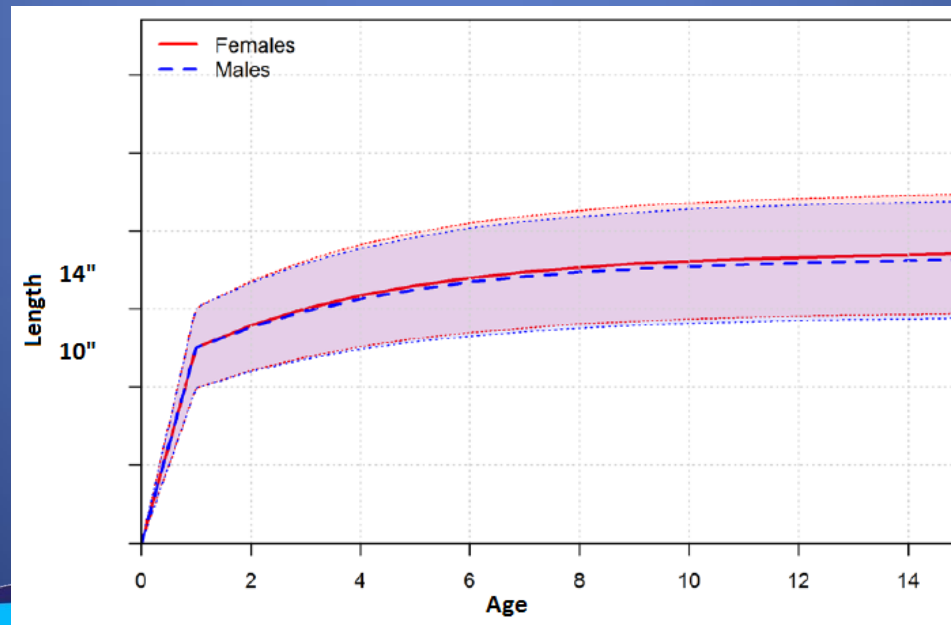
- Allow flatfish fishing outside of seasonal closed area
 - Access to underutilized stocks
 - Don't live in the same areas as yelloweye rockfish





Thoughts/Ideas from ODFW Staff

- Reduce or eliminate the minimum length limit for kelp greenling?
 - Reach full length at young ages (100% mature at 11.8 inches; ~2 years)
 - Few harvesting 10-11" fish currently



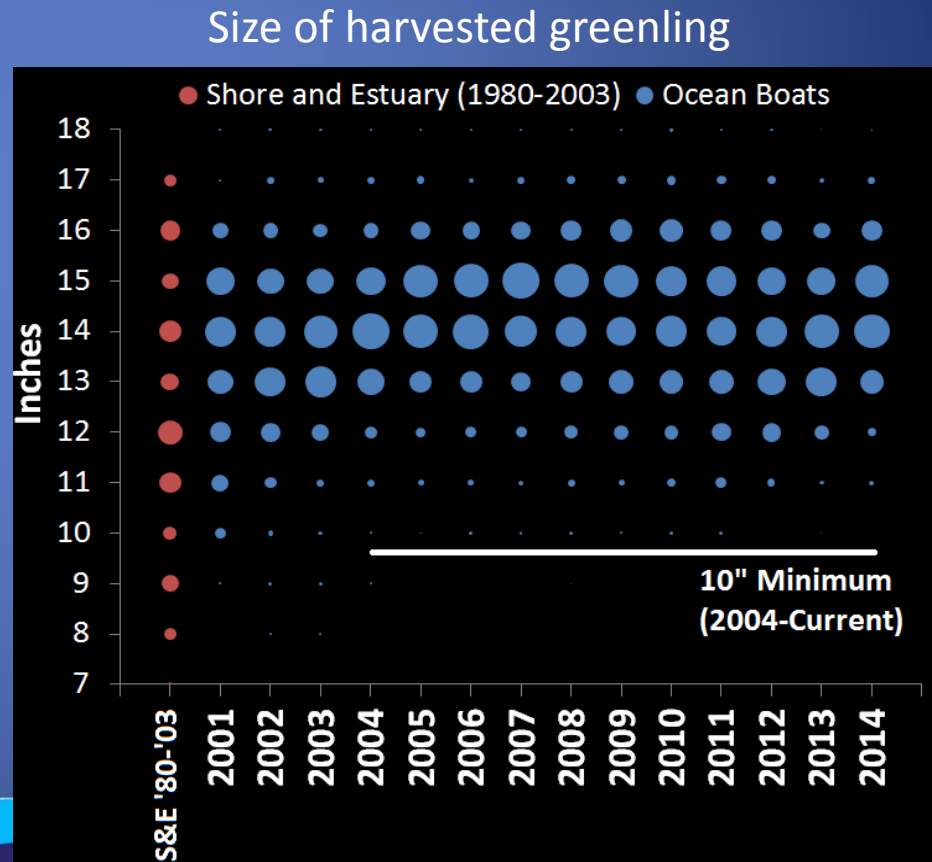


Thoughts/Ideas from ODFW Staff

- Reduce or eliminate the minimum length limit?

Did not have much effect on harvests:

- Very few people kept greenling < 10" before the size limit
- Even a 12" minimum size would have not much effect
(most harvest bigger fish)





Discussion