



2017 Bottomfish (Groundfish) Season





Outline

- Brief overview of federal process and timeline
- Recent 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



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



Yelloweye rockfish

- Rebuilding date—2074
 - Still on that track
- Coastwide ACL goes up from 19 mt in 2016 to 20 mt in 2017
- OR rec share
 - 2.8 mt in 2016
 - 3.0 mt in 2017
 - Will still be most constraining species
- Scheduled for new full assessment in 2017





Canary Rockfish

- Declared "Rebuilt" in June 2015
- 2016 coastwide ACL = 121 mt
- 2017 coastwide ACL = 1,500 mt
- OR rec share
 - 12.0 mt in 2016
 - 75 mt in 2017/2018
- Part of daily marine bag limit
 - No sub-bag limit



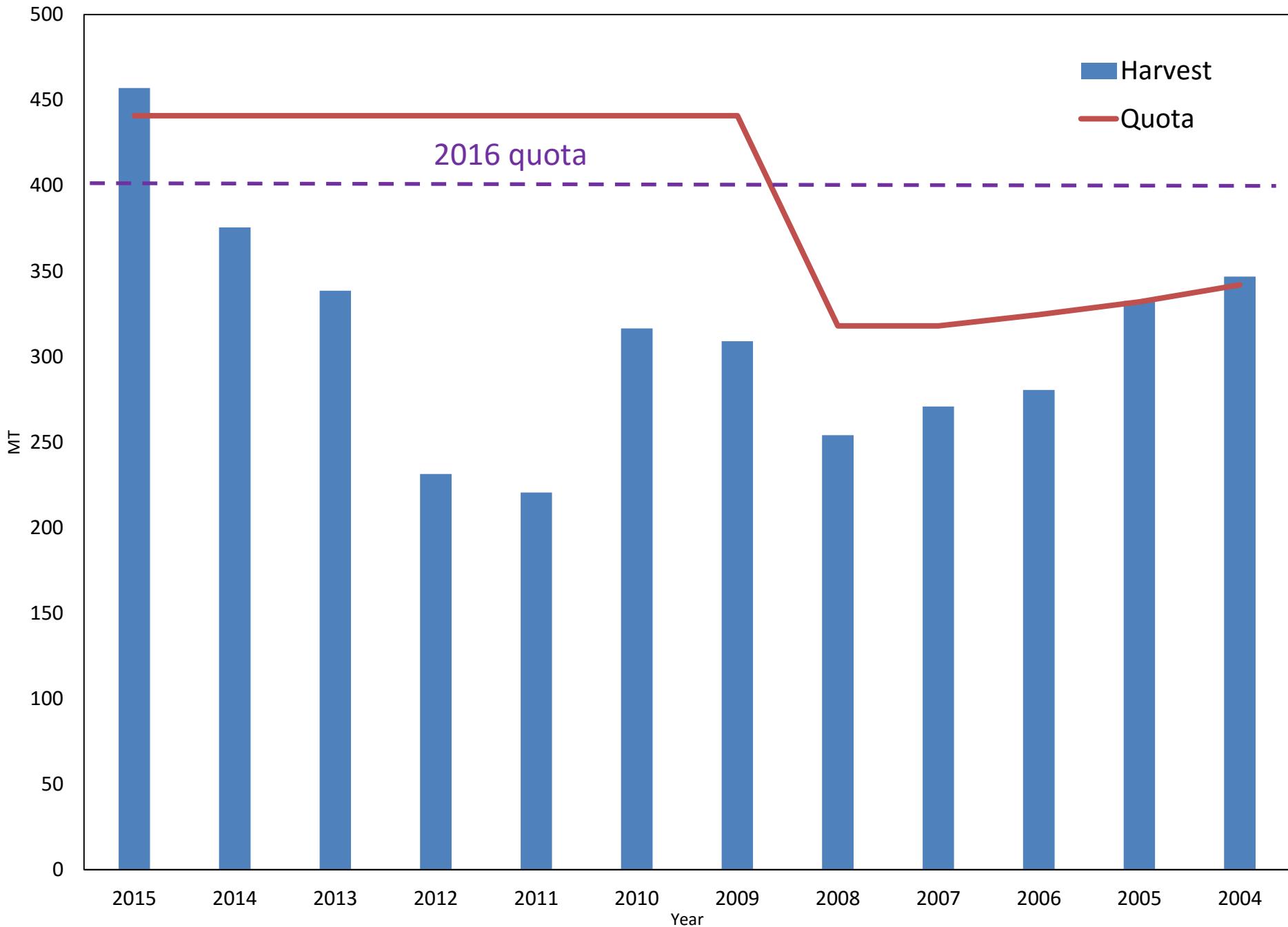


Black Rockfish

- Assessed for first time since 2007
 - State-specific assessments
 - Previously OR and CA assessed together
- Stock is “healthy”
 - Approximately 60% of unfished biomass
 - Need to reduce impacts a bit to remain “healthy”, keep above 40% of unfished biomass
- 2017 Oregon ACL = 550 mt
 - OR rec share for = 400 mt
- In 2016, OR/CA had 1,000 mt
 - OR rec share was 440 mt



Black Rockfish Harvest (mt) and quota (mt) 2004-2015





Nearshore Rockfish Complex

- New full assessment on China rockfish
- Complex ACL close to 2014 level
- OR rec share will be 33.1 mt in 2017
 - Was 26 mt in 2015/2016
- Should be able to ease restrictions on these species
- New blue/deacon assessment in 2017





Kelp Greenling

- New full assessment for Oregon only
 - Stock is healthy, approximately 80% of unfished biomass
- ACL will be > 100 mt
 - Current state landings caps ~ 40 mt
- Minimum length limit removed
 - Not biologically necessary
 - Most anglers don't retain fish under 12 inches (current 10 inch size limit)
 - Reduce regulations





Cabezon

- OR rec share will remain the same ~ 19 mt
 - For next several years
- Keep the current July –Dec season?
- Still living under the 2009 assessment
- Soonest will be assessed again is 2019





2017 Season Structure & Regulations

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



Rockfish Descending Devices

- Currently voluntary
- Make mandatory to have onboard?
- Benefits to the fish and fishery



Depth (fm)	YE Surface Release Mortality	YE Mortality when Descending Device Used	YE Bycatch Mortality Savings
0-10	22%	21%	1%
10-20	39%	25%	14%
20-30	56%	25%	31%
30-50	100%	48%	52%
50-100	100%	57%	43%



2017 Season Structure & Regulations

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



2017 Season Structure & Regulations

- Nearshore Rockfish Species
 - Should be able to ease some or all of the restrictions
 - Allow retention of China, copper, & quillback ?
 - Remove blue/deacon sub-bag limit?
 - Pre-season modeling indicates might be able to do both
 - If tracking high during the season, might need to take inseason action
 - put back sub-bag limit for one or more species
 - Or do we start off conservative, maybe keep the blue/deacon sub-bag limit?

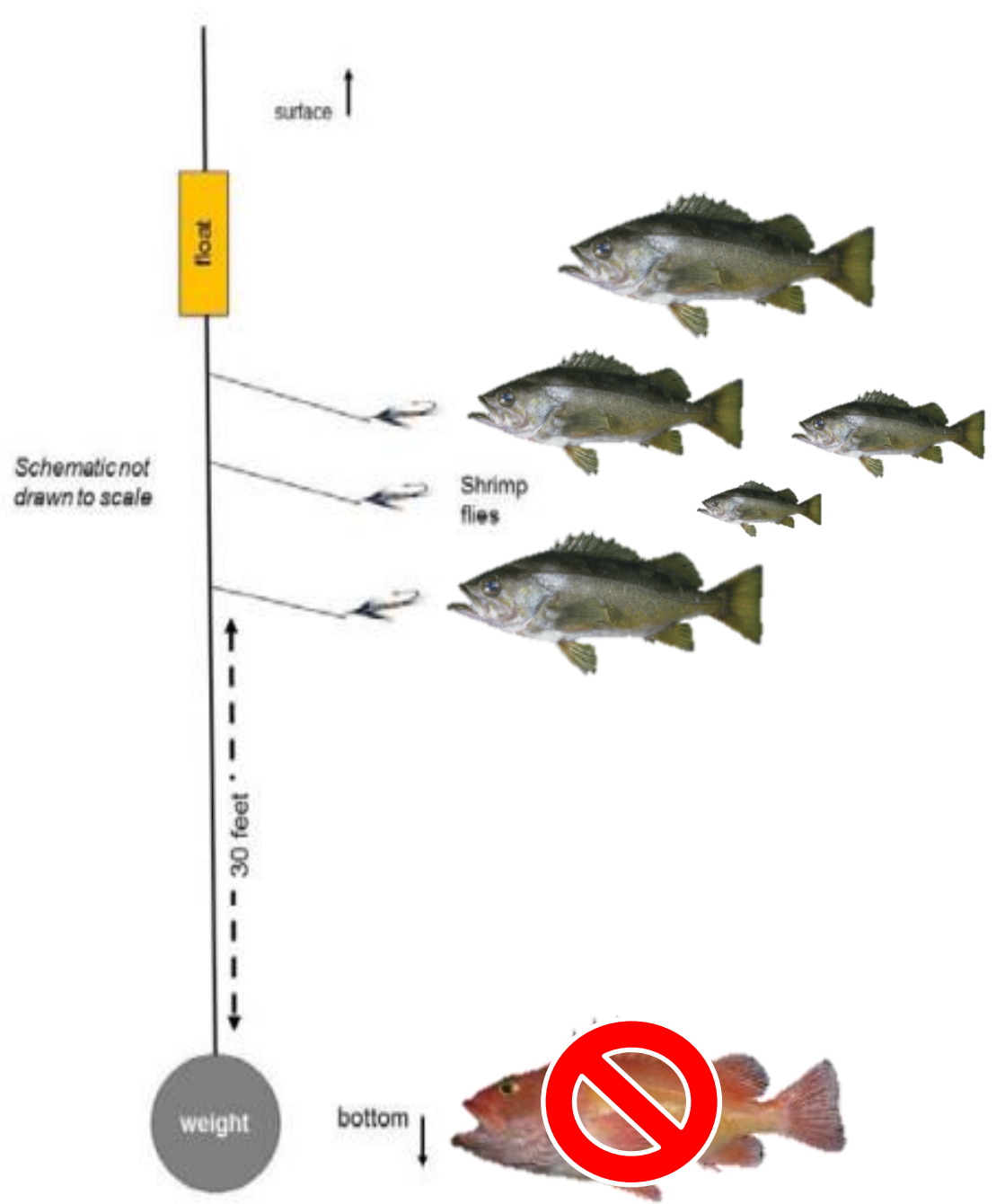


Update on Longleader Fishery

- Intended to target midwater species
 - Yellowtail and widow rockfish
 - Some bycatch of blue and canary rockfish
- Currently legal gear in areas open to bottomfish fishing
- Will be allowed outside of the 40 fm regulatory line during Aug-Sept
- No retention of lingcod
 - Minimize potential for yelloweye rockfish bycatch



Gear Schematic







E-mails/phone calls received

- Make descending devices mandatory
- Don't shorten the season if can at all be avoided