

15. Assessment of the shortraker rockfish stock in the Eastern Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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Executive Summary

In 2005, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) rockfish were moved to a biennial assessment schedule to coincide with the frequency of trawl surveys in the Aleutian Islands (AI) and the eastern Bering Sea (EBS) slope. These surveys occur in even years, and for these years a full assessment of shortraker rockfish in the BSAI area are conducted. The shortraker assessment is conducted with Tier 5 methods. In this methodology, an exploitation rate is applied to the estimated current biomass to obtain the acceptable biological catch (ABC) and overfishing limit (OFL). The 2014 full assessment can be found at <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/REFM/Docs/2014/BSAishortraker.pdf>.

Summary of Changes in Assessment Inputs

Changes in the input data: There were no changes made to the assessment inputs since this was an off-cycle year.

Changes in assessment methodology: There were no changes in assessment methodology since this was an off-cycle year.

Summary of Results

Quantity	As estimated or <i>specified last year for:</i>		As estimated or <i>recommended this year for:</i>	
	2015	2016	2016	2017
M (natural mortality rate)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Tier	5	5	5	5
Biomass (t)	23,009	23,009	23,009	23,009
F_{OFL}	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
$maxF_{ABC}$	0.0225	0.0225	0.0225	0.0225
F_{ABC}	0.0225	0.0225	0.0225	0.0225
OFL (t)	690	690	690	690
maxABC (t)	518	518	518	518
ABC (t)	518	518	518	518
Status	As determined <i>last year for</i>		As determined <i>this year for</i>	
	2013	2014	2014	2015
Overfishing		n/a		n/a

The BSAI catch of shortraker rockfish in 2014 was 197 t, which consisted of 101 t from the AI and 96 t from the EBS. The 2015 catch of shortraker rockfish, through October 15, was 139 t, with 76 t in the AI and 63 t in the EBS.

Because neither the time series of survey biomass estimates nor the proxy values for F_{abc} and F_{ofl}

have changed since 2014, the estimated ABC and OFL values for 2016 and 2017 in this update are identical to the values for 2015 and 2016 produced in the 2015 assessment. Stock size, harvest, and fishing rate reference values are shown in the following table:

Summary table for the Plan Team

Year	Biomass	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch
2014	16,447	493	370	370	197
2015	23,009	690	518	250	139 ¹
2016	23,009	690	518		
2017	23,009	690	518		

¹ Catch as of October 15, 2015. Source: NMFS Alaska Regional Office Catch Accounting System via the Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN) database (<http://www.akfin.org>).

SSC and Plan Team comments on assessments in general

None pertaining to this assessment.

SSC and Plan Team comments specific to this assessment

None.