

# The West coast Groundfish Rebuilding process

- In 2005 the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit ordered NMFS to reconsider it's rebuilding plan for darkblotched rockfish
- Based on the logic in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit opinion, NMFS is revisiting all rebuilding plans for WC groundfish

# Background of the West coast Groundfish fishery

- WC groundfish fishery is a multi-species fishery with 92 species currently covered under the FMP
- 7 species are currently listed as overfished
- Management designed to achieve the rebuilding of overfished species limits the ability to access healthy target species
  - All groundfish sectors (commercial and recreational) across the entire west coast are constrained by overfished species management

# Magnuson-Stevens Act Guidance on Rebuilding Depleted Species

Rebuild depleted stocks in as short a time as possible, while taking into account:

- the stock's status and biology
- the socioeconomic needs of fishing communities
- the interaction of depleted stocks in the marine ecosystem



# The status and biology...

Different overfished species are at different levels of depletion

Different overfished species have rebuilding times that are more (or less) sensitive to changes in the OY/TAC

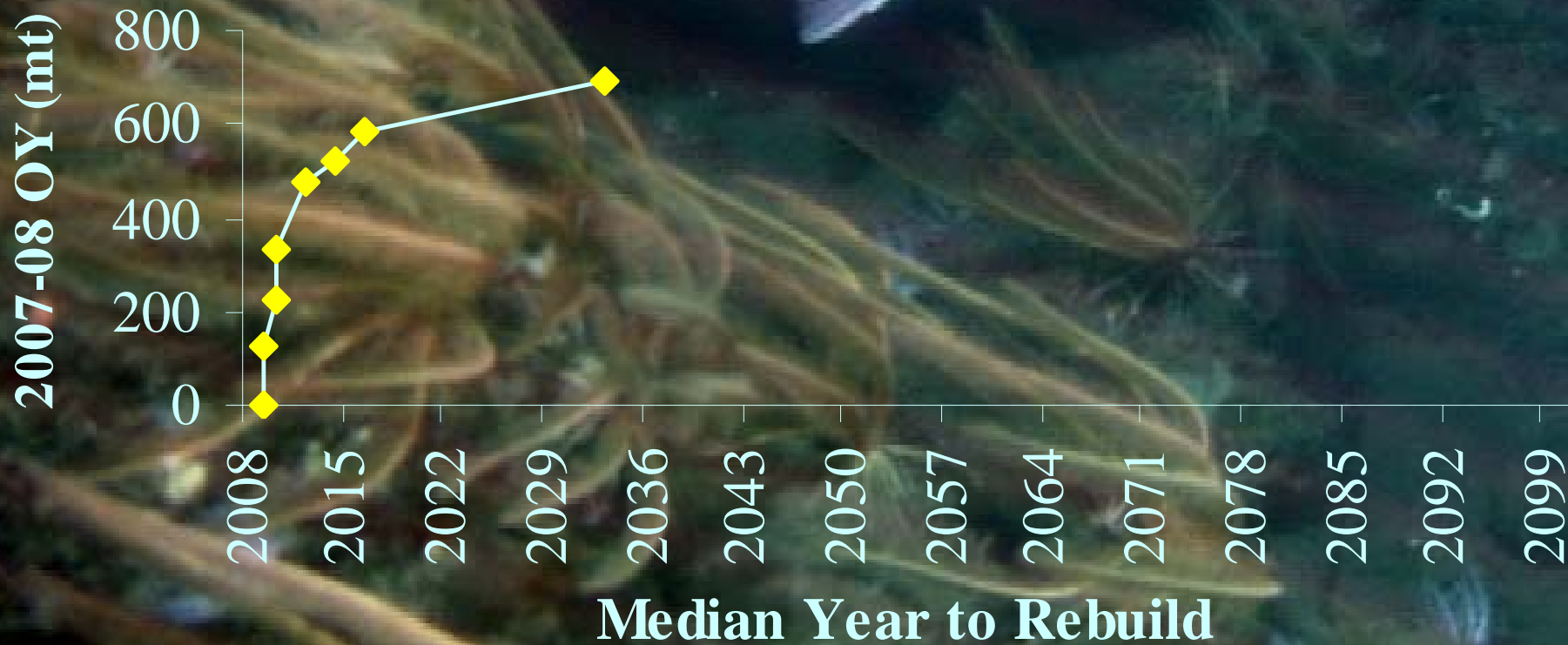
Adult Yelloweye

# Alternative Yelloweye Rockfish OYs vs. Rebuilding Times



Photo by Tory O'Connell, ADF&G

# Alternative Darkblotched Rockfish OYs vs. Rebuilding Times



# The needs of fishing communities...

- Different overfished species impact more (or fewer) communities than others
- Different overfished species are more (or less) valuable than others

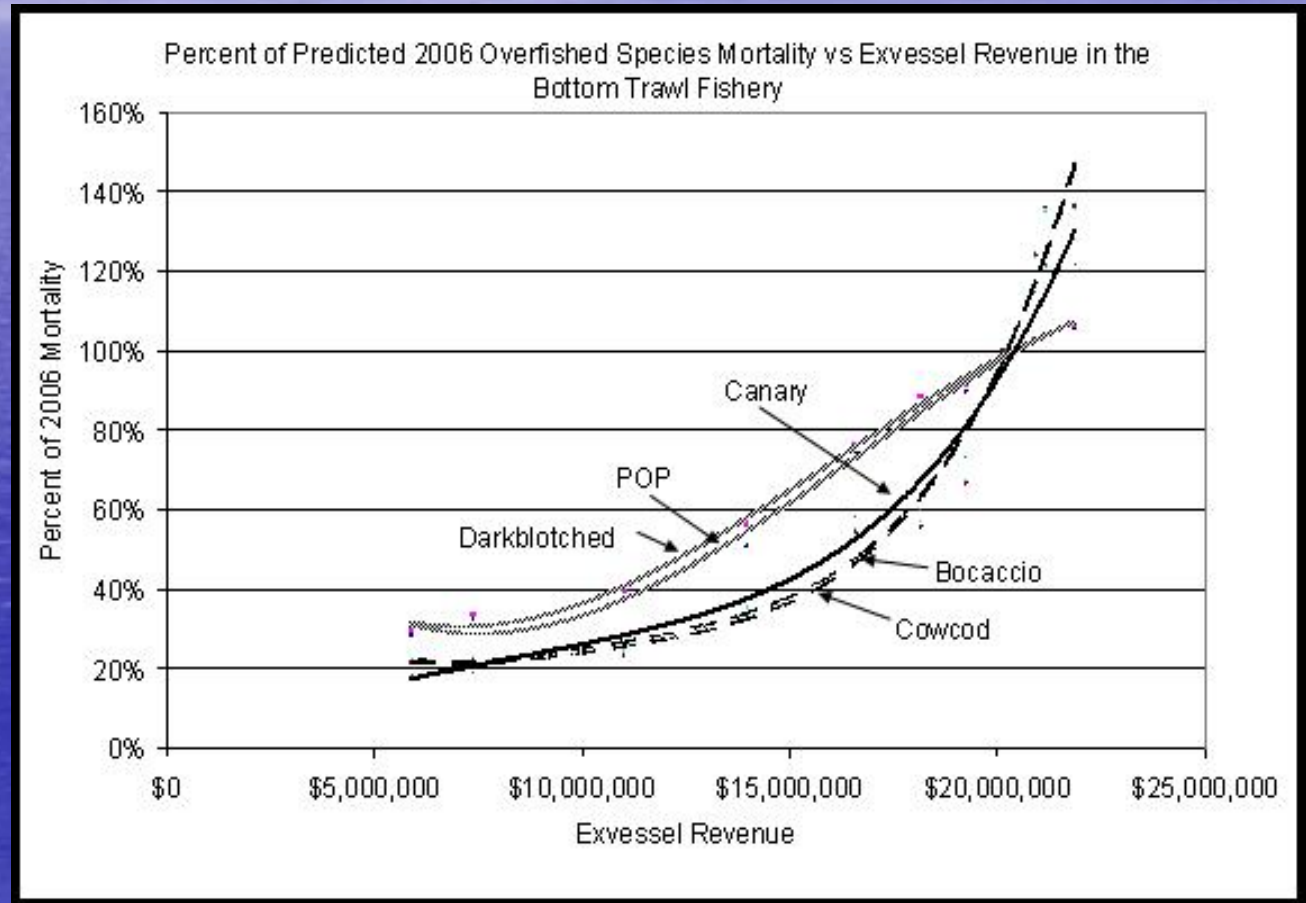
# Overfished Species Impact by Latitude and Sector

		OVERFISHED SPECIES						
AREA	SECTOR	BCCCIO	CANARY	COWCD	D'BLTCH	POP	WIDOW	Y'EYE
N 40 10	LE FG-DOGFISH		MED-LOW					MED-HIGH
	LE FG-NEARSHORE		MED-LOW					MED-HIGH
	LE FG-SABLEFISH		MED-LOW					MED-HIGH
	LE B-TRAWL-DEEP		MED-LOW		HIGH	HIGH		
	LE B-TRAWL-SHELF		HIGH					
	LE MW-TRAWL-WHITING		HIGH		MED-LOW	MED-LOW	HIGH	
	OA FG-DOGFISH		MED-LOW					MED-HIGH
	OA FG-NEARSHORE		MED-HIGH					MED-HIGH
	OA FG-SABLEFISH		MED-LOW					MED-HIGH
38 - 40 10	LE FG-NEARSHORE	MED-LOW	MED-LOW					
	LE FG-SABLEFISH	MED-LOW	MED-LOW					
	LE B-TRAWL-DEEP	MED-LOW	MED-LOW		MED-HIGH			
	LE B-TRAWL-SHELF	HIGH	MED-HIGH					
	OA FG-NEARSHORE	MED-LOW	MED-LOW					
	OA FG-SABLEFISH	MED-LOW	MED-LOW					
36 - 38	LE FG-NEARSHORE	MED-LOW	MED-LOW	MED-LOW				
	LE FG-SABLEFISH	MED-LOW	MED-LOW	MED-LOW				
	LE B-TRAWL-DEEP	MED-LOW	MED-LOW					
	LE B-TRAWL-SHELF	HIGH	MED-LOW	MED-HIGH				
	OA FG-NEARSHORE	MED-LOW	MED-LOW	MED-LOW				
	OA FG-SABLEFISH	MED-LOW	MED-LOW	MED-LOW				
S 36	LE FG-NEARSHORE	MED-LOW		MED-LOW				
	LE FG-SABLEFISH	MED-LOW		MED-LOW				
	LE B-TRAWL-DEEP	MED-LOW						
	LE B-TRAWL-SHELF	HIGH		MED-HIGH				
	OA FG-NEARSHORE	MED-LOW		MED-LOW				
	OA FG-SABLEFISH	MED-LOW		MED-LOW				



# Exvessel Revenue vs Overfished Species mortality in West Coast Bottom Trawl Fisheries

- Different overfished species have different implied values



# Many overfished species are separable in the fishery

- Different species are found at different latitudes
- Different species are found at different depths
- Different species are more prone to being caught with certain gears

So...we can mix and match varying levels of overfished species impacts with varying degrees of social and economic impacts

# Approach being taken by the PFMC

- Adopt rebuilding plan OYs that are tied closely to predicted overfished mortality under a fishery “program”
  - Predictions of overfished species mortality are uncertain
  - Managers currently depend on some level of flexibility to “move the fishery around” and keep it running throughout the year

# Additional factors being considered by PFMC

- Incorporate “buffers” between the rebuilding species OY and predicted catch for some species to allow for uncertainty, management flexibility, and scientific research
  - These buffers would apply to species with rebuilding time-lines that are not as sensitive to changes in catch
  - The implication is that fishing sectors that are able to move to areas where there are less sensitive overfished species would be forced to do so under some conditions

Want more info?

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