

Section 9

THORNYHEAD ROCKFISH

A new assessment for shortspine thornyhead was not conducted for 2000 since only limited new data were available and this species is relatively long-lived and has relatively low-recruitment variability. The author recommended that the projection model results for 2001 as presented in the 1999 assessment be used. The stock is well above its $B_{40\%}$ level and the survey trends (from deeper waters where this species resides) has been showing an increase (even though the model indicated a gradual decline). The Team concurred with this approach noting that it is likely to be conservative since the actual catch was less than that used in the projections. Therefore, the 2001 ABC is 2,310 mt (based on Tier 3a; $F_{ABC} = 0.077$). The corresponding overfishing level is 2,770 mt ($F_{OFL}=0.092$).

The area specific apportionments are 420, 970, and 920 mt to the Western, Central and Eastern areas, respectively.