4. Gulf of Alaska Shallow water Flatfish (Executive Summary)

Benjamin J. Turnock, William T. Stockhausen, Thomas K. Wilderbuer and Mark E. Wilkins
NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center
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4.1 Introduction

Assessment for the shallow water flatfish complex has been moved to a biennial schedule to coincide with the expected receipt of new survey data. On alternate (even) years we will present an executive summary with last year's key assessment parameters and projections for this year. A discussion at the September 2006 Groundfish Plan Team meetings concluded the following two important points for updating information in off-year assessments:

1) Anytime the assessment model is re-run and presented in the SAFE Report, a full assessment document **must** be produced.
2) The single-species projection model **may** be re-run using new catch data without re-running the assessment model.

The shallow water complex is comprised of northern rock sole, southern rock sole, yellowfin sole, butter sole, starry flounder, English sole, sand sole and Alaska plaice. Northern and southern rock sole are in Tier 4 while the other species in the complex are in Tier 5. For further information regarding the shallow water flatfish complex, please see last year's full stock assessment (Turnock et al. 2007, http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2007/GOAshallowflat.pdf).

4.2 Updated catch, ABCs and OFLs by species

The only new information available concerning the shallow water flatfish complex are the updated 2007 catch (8,788 t) and the best estimate of 2008 catch (7,390 t through October 11, 2008). Consequently, the recommended species-level ABCs and OFLs for 2009-10 are the same as those for 2008-9. These values, together with the 2007 and 2008 catches, are presented in the following table:

Shallow water flatfish species	2007 Catch	2008 Catch[1]	Tier	F_{ABC}	F_{OFL}	Biomass	Current Assessment[2]		Previous Assessment[3]	
							ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL
Northern rock sole	3,231	2,374	4	0.204	0.245	102,303	17,169	20,230	17,169	20,230
Southern rock sole	4,260	2,983	4	0.162	0.192	161,617	21,967	25,671	21,967	25,671
Yellowfin sole	48	13	5	0.15	0.2	41,824	5,293	6,894	5,293	6,894
Butter sole	856	1,742	5	0.15	0.2	30,174	3,819	4,974	3,819	4,974
Starry flounder	268	143	5	0.15	0.2	73,039	9,244	12,040	9,244	12,040
English sole	95	114	5	0.15	0.2	12,287	1,555	2,025	1,555	2,025
Sand sole	23	12	5	0.15	0.2	3,168	401	522	401	522
Alaska plaice	8	9	5	0.15	0.2	12,179	1,541	2,008	1,541	2,008
Total	8,788	7,390	--	--	--	436,591	60,989	74,364	60,989	74,364

[1]Through Oct. 11, 2008. [2]Recommended values for 2009, 2010. [3]Recommended values for 2008, 2009.

4.3 Area Apportionment

The recommended apportionment percentages are identical to last year, because there is no new survey information. The following table shows the recommended apportionment for 2008-9:

Stock/Assemblage	Area:	Western	Central	West Yakutat	Southeast Outside	Total
Shallow water flatfish	Apportionment (%)	43	49	5	2	100
	Area ABC (mt)	26,360	29,873	3,333	1,423	60,989

4.4 Research Priorities

More aging data is needed to improve estimates of natural mortality for Tier 5 species.

4.5 Summaries for Plan Team

Species/Assemblage	Year	Biomass	OFL[1]	ABC[1]	TAC[1]	Catch[2]
Shallow water flatfish	2005	365,766	63,840	52,070	20,740	4,769
	2006	365,766	62,418	51,450	19,972	7,605
	2007	365,766	62,418	51,450	19,972	8,788
	2008	436,591	74,364	60,989	22,256	7,390
	2009	436,591	74,364	60,989		
	2010	436,591	74,364	60,989		

Stock/		2008				2,009		2010	
Assemblage	Area	OFL[1]	ABC[1]	TAC[1]	Catch[2]	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC
Shallow water flatfish	W	--	26,360	4,500	752	--	26,360	--	26,360
	C	--	29,873	13,000	6,638	--	29,873	--	29,873
	WYAK	--	3333	3,333	0	--	3333	--	3333
	SEO	--	1,423	1,423	0	--	1,423	--	1,423
	Total	74,364	60,989	22,256	7,390	74,364	60,989	74,364	60,989

[1]As published in the Federal Register. [2]As of Oct. 11, 2008.
Note: Tables of ABCs, OFLs, and TACs published in the Federal Register are available for:
2007: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/specs07_08/goatable1.pdf
2008: http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/specs08_09/goatable1.pdf