

Proposed Amendment to Gulf of Alaska Groundfish FMP

Genus Coryphaenoides (rattails, grenadiers)Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)

Unpublished reports of survey and commercial fishing operations indicate that this genus is common throughout the northeastern Pacific Ocean at depths of 200-1,000 fathoms. The only known published report which specifically refers to rattails^{1/} confirms those observations and states that in the Gulf they "dominated roundfish catches from deep water (greater than 199 fathoms)..."

Although rattails are caught incidentally by trawls and longlines, no specific records of catch or catch rate have been kept. The largest catch of this genus appears to be incidental to the longline catch of sablefish. Data collected by U.S. observers aboard foreign fishing vessels during 1978 indicate a total foreign catch of rattails of about 4,700 mt, 97 percent of which were taken by Japanese longliners. The foreign rattail catch in 1978 was 66 percent of the total foreign sablefish catch in the Gulf of Alaska.

The annual sablefish catch for the last 12 years of complete record (1966-77) averaged about 20,000 mt. Assuming the 1978 relationship between sablefish and rattail catches reflects that of earlier years, the average rattail catch during 1966-77 was: $0.66 \times 20,000 = 13,200$ mt. This value is assumed to be a minimal estimate of MSY.

Equilibrium Yield (EY)

Not applicable -- MSY attainable.

Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)

Equivalent to MSY -- 13,200 mt.

1964. Alverson, D.L., A.P. Bruter, and L.L. Reinholt. A study of demersal fishes and fisheries of the northeastern Pacific Ocean. H.R. MacMillan lectures in fisheries. Inst. of Fisheries, Univ. British Columbia.

Optimum Yield (OY)

Equivalent to MSY -- 13,200 mt. ^{2/}

Apportionment of OY to Management Areas

During the 1978 research cruise of the Japanese longline vessel Hatsue Maru #55, the rattail catch was distributed as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>% of Total</u>			
Shumagin	25%	25	Eastern	21
Western				
Chirikof	54%	30	Central	54
Central				
Kodiak				
Yakutat	21%	10	Western	25
Eastern				
Southeast				
				100

Given the survey pattern of the Hatsue Maru #55, this catch distribution should approximate the distribution of the rattail resource in the Gulf of Alaska. Therefore, the 13,200 mt rattail OY should be apportioned as follows:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Metric Tons</u>			
Shumagin	7,128	3,300	Eastern	2772
Western				
Chirikof	2,772	3,960	Central	7128
Central				
Kodiak				
Yakutat	1,452	1,320	Western	3300
Eastern				
Southeast				
Total		13,200		13,200

Because of the bathymetric association of rattails and sablefish, the rattail OY's should be allocated to nations and to gear types in proportion to their sablefish allocations.

^{2/} Rattails were not considered in developing the OY for "Other Species." Therefore, the creation of this new species category does not require a downward adjustment of the OY for "Other Species."