PROPOSALS FOR 2001 RECREATIONAL LINGCOD AND ROCKFISH REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON

Lingcod
Option 1 (status Quo) - Retain the 1-fish daily-bag-limit and 24-inch minimum length restriction. The fishery would be closed from October 31 through March 31.

Option 2 - Increase the daily-bag-limit to 2 fish, maintaining the a 24-inch minimum length restriction. The fishery would be closed from October 31 through March 31.

Justification:
Inseason projections of Washington recreational landings for 2000 indicate a 24% reduction in catch (which is primarily the result of the reduction in the daily-bag-limit from 2 fish in 1999 to 1 fish in 2000). The Council has proposed increasing the 2001 lingcod OY to 611 mt (46% increase). The proposed bag limit would provide Washington recreational fishers to participate in the increased catch opportunity.

Rockfish
Option 1 (status Quo) - Retain the daily-bag-limit of 10 rockfish, not more than 2 of which may be canary rockfish and not more than 2 of which may be yelloweye rockfish. The fishery would be open year-round.

Option 2 - Reduce the daily-bag-limit to 10 rockfish, not more than 2 of which may be canary or yelloweye rockfish. The fishery would be open year-round.

OREGON

Lingcod
Option 1 (status quo) - Retain the 1-fish daily-bag-limit and 24 to 34 inch legal length slot limit; the season would remain open year-round for hook-and-line anglers. Spear fishing would be open year-round subject to the 1-fish daily-bag-limit and a 24-inch minimum length (i.e., no 34-inch maximum length).

Option 2 - Increase the daily-bag-limit to 2 fish and replace the size (slot) limit with a 26-inch minimum length restriction. The season would be closed March and April for boat based anglers, but would remain open for shore anglers (shore anglers are estimated to take less than 2% of total Oregon recreational lingcod landings).

Option 3 - Retain the 1-fish daily-bag-limit, but drop the maximum size limit and retain the 24-inch minimum length restriction. The season would be open year-round.

Rockfish
Status Quo - No change is proposed in the daily-bag-limit of 10 rockfish, not more than three of which may be canary rockfish, open year-round.

CALIFORNIA - THESE MAY ALSO APPLY TO COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Proposal 1. Move the southern rockfish and lingcod management line from Lopez Point (36° N latitude) to Point Conception. This would place Avila Beach and Morro Bay in the central California management area and be consistent with the statistical area boundary used by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

Proposal 2. Extend the shelf and nearshore rockfish and lingcod closure periods south of Cape Mendocino to November through February in the south and January through April or March through June in the northern area. These additional closure periods may be needed to reduce the bocaccio catch to under 100 mt in the
combined commercial and recreational fisheries in 2001. The catch of lingcod in the combined fisheries would be projected to be at or under 130 mt (the statewide catch assumed for 2000 management). These closures would apply to the recreational fishery, all commercial limited entry gears except trawl, and all commercial open access gears except exempted trawl.

Proposal 3. Reduce the rockfish bag limit to between 3 and 9 fish (see proposal 2, above). This would be done to meet biological and allocation objectives for the complex.

Proposal 4. Prohibit retention of cabezon, greenlings, scorpionfish, and sanddabs during the rockfish and lingcod closures south of Cape Mendocino. These closures would apply to the recreational fishery, all commercial limited entry gears except trawl, and all commercial open access gears except exempted trawl. The intention is to minimize bycatch of rockfish and lingcod when fishing for these species.

Proposal 5. Reduce the bag limit for bocaccio from 3 to 2 or 1 fish. This would be done to further reduce targeting on bocaccio, but could increase discard of dead fish.

Proposal 6. Reduce the number of hooks that anglers may use when fishing for rockfish or lingcod from 3 to 2 or 1. This would be done to reduce the chances of catching more than a limit of bocaccio on a single drop.

Proposal 7. Close the season or part of the season for lingcod, cabezon, and greenlings south of Cape Mendocino during September through June. This would apply to possession of any of these species, both sport and commercial except trawl. These closures are being considered by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) and would be intended to meet biological and allocation objectives for the individual species and at the same time protect nesting fish.

Proposal 8. Reduce the lingcod bag limit from 2 to 1 fish. This would be done to meet biological and allocation objectives for the species.

Proposal 9. Increase the minimum size limit for cabezon from 14 to 15-18 inches. Increasing the size limit will save immature fish and contribute to meeting biological and allocation objectives for the species. This action is being considered by the CFGC.

Proposal 10. Provide for the transport, pursuant to California regulations, of recreational groundfish through restricted areas under terms and conditions specified on an annual permit that may be issued by the Manager of the Marine Region. (This would not be a federal regulation.)

Proposal 11. Prohibit fishing for and retention of cowcod. This option is intended to eliminate targeting on cowcod, but could increase discard of dead fish. It would apply to all recreational and commercial fisheries off California.

Proposal 12. (Option 1) Prohibit recreational and commercial fishing year-round for federal groundfish as follows: Area 1—The area bounded by 118° 50' W longitude, 33° 50' N latitude, 120° W longitude, and 32° 20' N latitude. Area 2—The area bounded by 117°50' W longitude, 32° 50' N latitude, 118° W longitude, and 32° 30' N latitude.

(Option 2) Same as Option 1, but would exclude nearshore rockfish, cabezon, greenlings, and scorpionfish. The CFGC would adopt complementary regulations affecting state-managed fisheries for bottom fish species (sheephead, ocean whitefish, California halibut, including exempted commercial trawl gear).

(Option 3) Same as Option 1, but would exclude slope rockfish species, sablefish, and thornyheads taken in waters deeper than 200 fathoms.

PFMC
10/17/00