



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

JUL 22 2004

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we enclose for your review the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Amendment 16-3 to the Pacific Coast Fishery Management Plan, Rebuilding Plans for Bocaccio, Cowcod, Widow Rockfish, and Yelloweye Rockfish.

Amendment 16-3 would implement legally-compliant rebuilding plans, consistent with the framework in the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP, that will set strategic rebuilding parameters to guide stock rebuilding for bocaccio (*Sebastes paucispinis*), cowcod (*S. crameri*), lingcod (*S. levis*), widow rockfish (*S. entomelas*), and yelloweye rockfish (*S. ruberimus*). These rebuilding parameters stem from the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and National Standard 1 guidelines (50 CFR 600.310). The most important strategic rebuilding parameters are the time period within which the stock must be rebuilt to the target biomass capable of supporting maximum sustainable yield and the harvest control rule that would constrain fishing mortality, so the stock can be rebuilt in that time period. Management measures implemented through the biennial management process will be used to constrain fishing to the targets identified in the rebuilding plans.

Additional copies of the FEIS may be obtained from the Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, Oregon 97220-1384. The document is also accessible through the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/nepa/nepatrack.html>.

Comments or questions on this document submitted during the 30-day review period for the FEIS must be received by August 30, 2004. Written comments should be submitted by mail to D. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Region, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, telephone: (206) 526-6150. Comments may be submitted by facsimile (fax) to (206) 526-6736. Electronic comments may be submitted by e-mail to a16-3feis.nwr@noaa.gov; include in the comment subject line the following document identifier: Comment on Amendment 16-3 FEIS. A copy of your comments should be submitted to me by mail to the NOAA Strategic Planning Office (PPI/SP), SSMC3, Room 15603, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; by fax to 301-713-0585; or by e-mail to nepa.comments@noaa.gov.

NMFS is not required to respond to comments received as a result of the issuance of the FEIS. However, comments received will be reviewed and considered for their impact on the issuance of

a record of decision (ROD). The ROD will be made available publicly following final agency action.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Kennedy
Acting NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure
