

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, Oregon 97201

CHAIRMAN
Jim Lone

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Donald O. McIsaac

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Dear Reviewer:

At its October 30 - November 3, 2000 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will establish year 2001 catch limits for groundfish species managed under the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery management plan (FMP). The Council's Groundfish Management Team has prepared this document – *Status of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Through 2000 and Recommended Acceptable Biological Catches for 2001: Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation* (SAFE document) for the Council to use in establishing harvest limits. This document discusses major reductions that have been proposed for several species in 2001.

The enclosed document provides historical catch, economic, and management information, as well as the Groundfish Management Team's recommended acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and harvest guidelines for the year 2001. Individual stock assessments for several of the species discussed in this document are available from the Council office. Those assessments include: bank rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, lingcod, Pacific Ocean perch, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish.

The FMP authorizes the Council to propose target harvest levels (either harvest guidelines or quotas) for any groundfish species or species complex in need of individual management attention and to establish allocations for limited entry and open access fisheries. The FMP also authorizes the Council to establish management measures to ensure harvest targets are achieved. For example, to participate in a limited entry fishery, vessels using trawl, longline, or fishpot gear must possess a limited entry permit. Vessels without limited entry permits may participate in the open access fishery using any legal groundfish gear (except groundfish trawl gear), but are subject to specified catch limits. Specific management proposals and allocations between these two fisheries for 2001 are not addressed in this document. However, current and previous management measures are included and discussed.

This document is intended to provide a general understanding of Pacific Coast groundfish fishery management, including the process for determining recommended ABCs and harvest guidelines. At its October/November meeting, the Council will accept public comment on these recommendations before taking final action to set ABCs and harvest guidelines for 2001. Copies of stock assessment documents are available on request from the Council office.

Sincerely,



D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.
Executive Director

DAW: