

REBUILDING PLANS FOR LINGCOD, BOCACCIO, AND PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH
INCLUDING ALLOCATION AND BYCATCH REDUCTION

Situation: Rebuilding plans for lingcod, bocaccio rockfish, and Pacific ocean perch (POP) must be approved by the Council and submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce by March 3, 2000. The Council will need to take final action on rebuilding plans in November to meet this deadline.

NMFS has indicated rebuilding plans need to be in the form of plan amendments. Associated with each rebuilding plan will also be a package of specific management measures designed to implement the rebuilding plan. NMFS has specified the rebuilding plans should also include recommendations for management measures that reduce bycatch and any necessary allocation provisions. NMFS and Council staff have designed a preliminary outline for the contents of a rebuilding plan (Supplemental Attachment G.9.a.). Regulatory guidance from NMFS on rebuilding plans is in Attachment G.9.b.

At its April meeting, the Council suggested that a Groundfish Management Team (GMT) member be appointed for each species to coordinate development of rebuilding plans. Those GMT coordinators are:

Lingcod: Brian Culver
Bocaccio: Alec MacCall
Pacific ocean perch: Jim Hastie/Mark Saelens

The most recent stock assessment author for each of the three species has calculated preliminary projections of rebuilding time frames and the harvest levels necessary to achieve rebuilding (Attachments G.9.c., G.9.d., and G.9.e.). This information was presented to the Ad-Hoc Allocation Committee (Committee) at its June 2 through 3 meeting (A report of that meeting is in Supplemental Attachment G.9.f.). These projections are preliminary and have not yet been reviewed by the SSC. In August, new assessment results will be available for bocaccio and for the southern portion of the lingcod stock.

The preliminary projections provided the Committee with a broad range of possible optimum yield (OY) values. Although it recognized these projections would be subject to further refinement as the summer progresses, the Committee directed the GMT to begin analysis of a range of possible OY values and management measures that may be necessary to achieve these reductions. For lingcod and POP, the range is based on a range of likelihoods that the stock will be rebuilt in ten years (the maximum rebuilding time for these stocks under the National Standard Guidelines). For bocaccio, the range of OY values is less specific, since new assessment information is likely to alter the preliminary projections.

The Committee expects to meet again in August after the GMT meeting. At that point, final rebuilding projections and preliminary GMT analysis will be available.

Council Action:

1. Provide guidance to Committee and/or GMT analysts.

Reference Materials:

1. Preliminary design of rebuilding plan (Supplemental Attachment G.9.a.).
2. NMFS Regulations on Rebuilding (Attachment G.9.b.).
3. Preliminary Rebuilding Projections for Lingcod (Attachment G.9.c.).
4. Preliminary Rebuilding Projections for Bocaccio Rockfish (Attachment G.9.d.).
5. Preliminary Rebuilding Projections for Pacific Ocean Perch (Attachment G.9.e.).
6. Report of the June 2-3, 1999 Ad-Hoc Allocation Committee Meeting (Supplemental Attachment G.9.f.).

PFMC
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