

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
COWCOD REBUILDING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Dr. John Butler presented the draft cowcod rebuilding analysis to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). The draft cowcod analysis indicates catch in the Conception area needs to be reduced to between about 500 pounds to a few thousand pounds per year. This would require elimination of all commercial and recreational fishing for this species. The GAP recommends the Council consider whether area closures could accomplish the rebuilding needs and perhaps hasten rebuilding compared to merely prohibiting all retention.

Needless to say, the GAP is greatly concerned about the impact of these rebuilding requirements on all groundfish fishers and the coastal communities along the entire West Coast.

PFMC
06/28/00