

COWCOD REBUILDING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Situation: The West Coast cowcod rockfish resource is currently classified as overfished, and the Council must prepare a rebuilding plan for this stock before the November 2000 meeting. This stock is found exclusively in California, primarily in the Conception and Monterey areas. The 1999 stock assessment addressed only the portion of the stock in the Conception area, but the assessment authors and the Groundfish Management Team expressed concern the Monterey portion of the stock is almost certainly overfished as well. The extremely low levels of abundance of this stock will likely restrict the rebuilding alternatives, but the generally narrow geographic range of the stock in U.S. waters should limit social and economic impacts to that area.

A stock rebuilding plan should include the length of time necessary to rebuild the stock, expected harvest levels over the rebuilding period, any allocations necessary to equitably distribute the costs and benefits among fishery sectors, and other management measures the Council believes may be necessary (see Attachment D.11.a.). The first step in the process is determining the rebuilding schedule and initial harvest levels. With this information, the Council can begin to investigate the types of management measures that may be necessary to achieve the rebuilding goals and objectives. It may be possible only to identify and initiate a process for developing allocations at this time, including designating who will take the lead in this process. Any direct allocations require Council consideration at three meetings; therefore, initial identification of any allocations should be proposed at this time.

Council Action:

- 1. Preliminary decision on allocation and/or regulations.**
- 2. Council guidance on the length of the rebuilding schedule and initial harvest levels.**

Reference Materials:

1. (See Attachment D.11.a.).

PFMC
06/13/00