

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
NEW STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR LINGCOD AND PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met jointly with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to review new stock assessments for lingcod and Pacific Ocean perch (POP) and their relationship to rebuilding plans for these species. The GAP offers the following comments.

LINGCOD

The GAP believes the 2001 acceptable biological catch (ABC) and optimum yield (OY) for lingcod should reflect the new stock assessment, as this will represent the best scientific information available. Further, the results of the new stock assessment should be used to update the existing rebuilding plan for this species.

PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH

The GAP notes the new stock assessment shows POP stocks are above the "overfished" level and in fact, probably should not have been designated as "overfished." The GAP recommends this be reported to NMFS, and the Council obtain clarification on what action is necessary when a species grows above the "overfished" level. At the same time, the GAP recognizes the need to manage conservatively while stock increases continue.

PFMC
09/13/00