

Groundfish Management Team Statement on Landed Catch Targets for  
Bocaccio and Lingcod in the 2001 Fishery

When the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) calculated landed catch targets for commercial groundfish fisheries at the November 2000 Council meeting, the report unintentionally included landed catch targets for lingcod and limited-entry bocaccio that were the same as total catch. In other words, no assumed discard was included in the calculation of landed catch. The GMT recommends the Council correct these oversights at this time, and offers the following comments.

Bocaccio: At the beginning of the 2000 fishing year, the bocaccio OY had not been adjusted to account for anticipated discard. At the April 2000 meeting, the Council adopted a 16% discard adjustment for the bocaccio commercial landed harvest target, and an inseason change in the landed catch targets for 2000 was implemented accordingly. The GMT included this 16% discard rate in its calculation of the open access landed catch target for the 2001 season, but omitted the adjustment in the limited entry calculation. To correct this, the limited entry landed catch target for bocaccio in 2001 should be reduced from 29 mt to 24 mt.

Lingcod: In the fall of 1998, the GMT recommended implementing a 20% discard mortality reduction in the limited entry lingcod target for 1999. This recommendation was based on a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife analysis of estimated unavoidable discard mortality in the trawl fisheries for shelf species. Through oversight, this discard adjustment was not included when the GMT calculated lingcod landed catch targets for 2000 and 2001. Although targeting opportunities for all shelf species have been reduced dramatically since the first application of this analysis, the GMT believes the overfished status of lingcod warrants continued application of the 20% discard mortality assumption. Accordingly, we recommend that the limited entry landed catch target for lingcod be changed from 203 mt to 163 mt.

Although errors were made in the specifications for these fisheries, the GMT would like to emphasize two things. First, a review of landings in recent years (shown in the accompanying table) indicates that total catches, adjusted using the proposed discard assumptions above, did not exceed the commercial total catch OYs for these species in 1999 and 2000. Second, cumulative limits for these species did not change from 2000 to 2001, and continue to be set so as to discourage targeting on these species and encourage the release of live fish, where possible.

Landings, estimated catch, and total commercial catch OYs for bocaccio and lingcod, 1998-2000 (assuming previously used discard mortality percentages).

	1998	1999	2000
<b>Lingcod</b>			
<b>Open access</b>			
Landings	100	101	56
OA total catch OY	76	80	31
<b>Limited-entry</b>			
Landings	247	254	84
Estimated total catch (using 20% discard mortality)	309	317	106
LE total catch OY	324	339	132
<b>Total commercial</b>			
Landings	347	354	141
Estimated total catch	409	418	162
Total catch OY	400	419	163
<b>Bocaccio</b>			
<b>Open access</b>			
Landings	64	23	5
Est. total catch (16% discard)	76	27	6
OA total catch OY	84	49	24
<b>Limited-entry</b>			
Landings	70	45	18
Est. total catch (16% discard)	84	54	21
LE total catch OY	106	101	31
<b>Total commercial</b>			
Landings	135	68	22
Estimated total catch	160	81	26
Total catch OY	190	150	55

PFMC  
03/19/01