

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
GROUND FISH STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2003

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the list of stock assessment priorities submitted by NMFS and provides the following comments.

The GAP agrees that Pacific whiting, lingcod, Pacific ocean perch, darkblotched rockfish, and widow rockfish should be subjected to assessment and Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel review as proposed.

The GAP also agrees that bocaccio rockfish should be subject to an assessment, but disagrees the assessment should be simply an update or go through a STAR-light process. The implications for management of a bocaccio assessment are significant and there are additional data sources that might be used which have not been previously reviewed by a STAR Panel. In the view of the GAP, this disqualifies bocaccio from the STAR-light process.

The GAP does agree the yellowtail rockfish assessment is a reasonable candidate for a STAR-light process and recommends that this assessment be reviewed in that manner.

The majority of the GAP recommends that an assessment for cabezon be deleted from the list. Given the fact the State of California is directing its efforts and resources towards near-shore management, including potentially management of cabezon, the GAP believes that effort not be expended on cabezon at this time.

Finally, the GAP recommends that a high priority be given to a full assessment of yelloweye rockfish. Given the data sources used - and not used - and the critical status of this species, it is important that a full assessment be undertaken as soon as possible. The GAP understands that a further review of the yelloweye rebuilding analysis might be completed prior to final Council action on harvest specifications in September. The GAP strongly supports such further review so that appropriate data can be included.

PFMC
06/20/02