

## STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR BOCACCIO, CANARY ROCKFISH, AND SABLEFISH

Situation: Stock assessments were prepared in 2002 for bocaccio and canary rockfish (Exhibit C.2, Attachments 1 and 3, respectively). An expedited stock assessment update (the first ever) of last year's sablefish assessment was also done this year (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 5). Outlooks for bocaccio and canary rockfish are more pessimistic this year with evidence of poorer recruitment and stock productivity than originally assumed. In contrast, the sablefish assessment update indicates recent recruitments were higher than thought last year when recent year classes were not as well recruited to fisheries and survey gear.

A Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel was convened in April to review the bocaccio and canary rockfish assessments. The STAR Panel recommended both assessments for use in making 2003 management decisions. These STAR Panel reports are included as Attachments 2 and 4, respectively in this exhibit. The sablefish assessment update review was initiated as a teleconference on May 6 with STAR Panel members and interested public in attendance. Critical questions and uncertainties among STAR Panel members were subsequently resolved in group emails. The sablefish STAR Panel recommends the updated assessment be used for deciding 2003 harvest levels (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 6).

### Council Task:

#### 1. Discussion and provide guidance.

#### Reference Materials:

1. Status of Bocaccio off California in 2002 (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 1).
2. Bocaccio Star Panel Report (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 2).
3. Status of the Canary Rockfish Resource off California, Oregon, and Washington in 2001 (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 3).
4. Canary Rockfish Star Panel Meeting Report (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 4).
5. Status of the Sablefish Resource off the Continental U.S. Pacific Coast in 2002 (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 5).
6. Review of the Updated 2002 Sablefish Stock Assessment (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 6).

#### Agenda Order:

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| a. Agendum Overview                                  | John DeVore        |
| b. Overviews of 2002 Stock Assessment Review Reports |                    |
| i. Canary Rockfish                                   | R. Methot/K. Piner |
| ii. Bocaccio   | Alec MacCall       |
| iii. Sablefish                                       | Michael Schirripa  |
| c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies           |                    |
| d. Public Comment                                    |                    |
| e. Council Discussion and Guidance                   |                    |

#### Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

This agenda item is consistent with GFSP goals for science, data collection, monitoring, and analysis (Sec.II.B).

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## Supplemental Reference Materials

7. Exhibit C.2.c, Supplemental SSC Report.
8. Exhibit C.2.c, Supplemental GAP Report.
9. Exhibit C.2.d, Supplemental Public Comment.
10. Item C.2, Sportfishing Association of California Letter.