

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
STOCK ASSESSMENT REVIEW PANEL PROCESS – REVIEW OF 2002 AND
PLANNING FOR 2003

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the stock assessment review (STAR) process and assessment priorities for 2003. The GMT notes that the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Terms of Reference require stock assessment documents to specifically contain estimates of both an acceptable biological catch (ABC) (without the 40-10 adjustment) and a total catch optimum yield (OY) (with the 40-10 adjustment, if necessary), which have not been consistently provided. Failure to include both estimates necessitates the GMT deriving the non-reported values. Timely conclusion of both assessments and assessment reviews are also a concern given that the GMT needs sufficient time to both review assessments and construct management advice well in advance of the June Council meeting.

If the Council chooses Alternative 3 for multi-year management, the GMT also recommends that both an updated lingcod and full cabezon assessment and assessment review be completed by October 2003. A full cabezon assessment is important, because of the possible shifts of effort to nearshore areas due to shelf closures, the movement of states to gain authority in nearshore management, and because no assessment of a species targeted in live-fish fishery exists to gauge the effects of effort shifts in the live-fish fisheries. If the Council does not choose Alternative 3 for multi-year management, then the GMT would recommend a full assessment of both lingcod and cabezon be completed in 2004.

PFMC
10/30/02