

## GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 16-3: REBUILDING PLANS FOR BOCACCIO, COWCOD, AND WIDOW AND YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH

Situation: There are nine overfished groundfish species on the West Coast managed under Council rebuilding plans adopted under Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 16-2 or interim rebuilding measures adopted in the annual specifications process. Rebuilding plans for canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, lingcod, and Pacific ocean perch were adopted as part of FMP Amendment 16-2 earlier this year. Bocaccio, cowcod, widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish rebuilding plans will be analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement under FMP Amendment 16-3. Amendment 16-3 will be considered in a two-meeting process, with this Council meeting being the first; final Council action to decide a preferred alternative is scheduled for the April 2004 Council meeting. A rebuilding plan for Pacific whiting, the last of the nine overfished species, awaits development, review, and adoption of a rebuilding analysis and is contemplated under Amendment 16-4.

The task under this agenda item is to adopt rebuilding alternatives for bocaccio, cowcod, widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish for analysis and public review. Exhibit D.14, Attachment 1 is a scoping information report for Amendment 16-3 and was used during a 3 P.M. November 2, 2003 scoping session. This scoping information report will also help the Council decide the important rebuilding plan elements under consideration in Amendment 16-3. The strategic rebuilding alternatives  $T_{TARGET}$ , the target rebuilding year; and the harvest control rule (F) are those parameters guiding rebuilding under the Council-adopted framework provisions of Amendment 16-1. The probability of successful rebuilding by  $T_{MAX}$  ( $P_{MAX}$ ) is a reasonable index of rebuilding risks and, as such, provides the structure for rebuilding alternatives analyzed under Amendment 16-3. Guidance on which of these stocks to analyze under the mixed stock exception alternative would also be particularly useful.

### Council Action:

#### **1. Adopt elements of Amendment 16-3 for public review.**

#### Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit D.14, Attachment 1: *Amendment 16-3 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan: Rebuilding Plans for Bocaccio, Cowcod, Widow Rockfish, and Yelloweye Rockfish; Scoping Information Document.*

#### Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Elements of Amendment 16-3 for Public Review

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PFMC  
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