

LINGCOD AND CABEZON STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR 2005-2006

Situation: New stock assessments were prepared last year for lingcod coastwide and the portion of the cabezon stock occurring in waters off California. These assessments were considered by the Council in November 2003 for use during the 2005-2006 management period. However, the SSC did not recommend adoption of these assessments until models were revised with additional input data and modified assumptions. Specifically, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) took issue with the specifications for a parameter in the lingcod model that set recruitment variability and the lack of available 1947-1959 California commercial passenger fishing vessel (CPFV) logbook data in the cabezon model. The Council, therefore, postponed adoption of these assessments with the expectation they would be revised and reviewed by the SSC by the March 2004 Council meeting.

Both assessments have since been revised and reviewed by the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee during a February 25 teleconference. The full SSC is scheduled to review these assessments in March and report to the Council under this agenda item. The Council task is to consider approving these revised assessments after receiving the advice of the SSC and other advisory bodies. Once approved, these assessments will provide the basis for refining the range of harvest specifications analyzed and the preferred harvest specifications for these species. These decisions are scheduled for Council action in April.

The original assessments and Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel reports that were provided last November are included in electronic format on a CD. Additional material from the Stock Assessment Teams addressing the SSC's concerns are provided as attachments to this agenda item.

Council Task:

1. Adopt new stock assessments for lingcod and cabezon.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit E.2.a, Attachment 1: CD copy of assessments and STAR Panel reports:
 - Assessment of Lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*) for the Pacific Fishery Management Council in 2003
 - Lingcod STAR Panel Meeting Report, September 2003
 - Status and Future Prospects for the Cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*) as Assessed in 2003
 - Cabezon STAR Panel Meeting Report, September 2003
2. Exhibit E.2.a, Attachment 2: Addendum to "Assessment of Lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*) for the Pacific Fishery Management Council in 2003."
3. Exhibit E.2.a, Attachment 3: Cabezon Addendum - "SSC Requests from the November PFMC Meeting."

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve Stock Assessments

John DeVore

PFMC
02/24/04