

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
LINGCOD AND CABEZON STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR 2005-2006

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the lingcod and cabezon stock assessments for 2005-2006. The GAP is troubled by both of these assessments due to the paucity of data and the management results that can be implied if the assessments are accepted.

In the case of lingcod, two separate assessments were completed and combined. The result shows lingcod recovering well in the northern area, but still below a rebuilt level in the southern area. If indeed lingcod is a unit stock, as genetic data suggests, the GAP believes that stock densities should be examined to determine whether lingcod becomes more of a fringe population in the southern end of the range, rather than being uniformly distributed throughout the range. This is especially important given what appear to be overly high recreational catch levels in 2003 in California.

In the case of cabezon, the GAP believes the assessment should be held back and re-done. The GAP was informed that additional data has come to light on the cabezon population which was not included in the stock assessment process. Certainly, the data available for this assessment was exceedingly sparse, and the GAP member of the cabezon Stock Assessment Review Panel voiced this concern during panel deliberations. At the very least, the assessment should only be applied in the assessment area covered (south of 40°10' N latitude) and not coastwide.

PFMC
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