

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

As noted in our statement under agenda item C.8, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) deferred until this agenda item any recommendations on acceptable biological catch (ABC) /optimum yield (OY) levels for Amendment 16-3 species. Our recommendations for rebuilding plans are presented below; we recommend the appropriate ABC/OY levels for these species be set to correspond with rebuilding plan options. Tables 2-1 through 2-4 on pages 33-36 of Exhibit C.12.a Attachment 1 are the best references to use in considering the GAP recommendations.

Bocaccio - the GAP recommends that the Council use the base model (identified as STATc) or the rebuilding plan. This model is the one used for setting 2004 harvest levels and represents a blending of the other models presented. Within this model, the majority of the GAP recommends using the harvest level values associated with PMAX = 70%. Although the GAP normally recommends a PMAX = 60% as appropriately precautionary, the fluctuating nature of the bocaccio assessment over the last few years dictates additional caution. A minority of the GAP recommends using PMAX = 60% in keeping with the GAP's customary recommendation.

Cowcod - the GAP recommends using a rebuilding alternative with PMAX = 60%.

Widow rockfish - the GAP recommends using Model 8 (the base model) for rebuilding, since this is a middle ground between the other two models. Within this model, the GAP recommends the PMAX = 60% alternative be used. This is consistent with previous GAP recommendations on widow rockfish rebuilding. The GAP stresses the need to find better ways to survey and assess widow rockfish, a point made by the last widow rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel. The GAP notes that cooperative efforts between industry and the Northwest Fisheries Science Center have begun, which may lead to improved widow rockfish surveys. The GAP urges the Council to encourage those efforts.

Yelloweye rockfish - a majority of the GAP recommends using PMAX = 60% as the alternative for rebuilding on the basis that this is precautionary, and there are only slight differences in the near-term OY values between this option and the others. A minority of the GAP recommends an alternative of PMAX = 80%.