

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 16-3:
REBUILDING PLANS FOR BOCACCIO, COWCOD, AND WIDOW AND YELLOWEYE
ROCKFISH

Council staff briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the Amendment to the groundfish FMP that contains rebuilding plans for bocaccio, cowcod, widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish (Exhibit C.12.a Attachment 1).

The SSC considered whether it is possible to reduce the number of models for bocaccio and widow rockfish, but found no compelling scientific reasons for doing so.

The rebuilding analysis for cowcod is not based on the same rebuilding software as those for bocaccio, widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish. While this is unlikely to impact the OYs for cowcod in the short-term, this may not be the case for the long-term. The assessment team tasked with the 2005 cowcod assessment should, therefore, attempt to select a model whose output can be used in the rebuilding software.

The SSC notes that each rebuilding plan needs to include standards for evaluating the progress of rebuilding. These standards need to be developed for use in the assessments that will be conducted during 2005. As directed by the Council, the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will develop standards and include them in its Terms of Reference for Rebuilding Analyses. This may require a meeting of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee, particularly if a draft set of standards are to be provided to the Council for revision in September 2004 and final adoption in November 2004. The standards are likely to include a comparison of current stock status relative to that expected under the current rebuilding plan. The SSC therefore recommends that the trajectories of spawning output relative to the target level of $0.4B_0$ (e.g. Figure 5.10) for each alternative and species be added to Amendment 16-3 in table form.

The SSC notes that the alternatives in Amendment 16-3 are compared in terms of their impacts on fisheries and communities in a qualitative manner. It recommends that future rebuilding plans contain a more quantitative economic analysis of the short-term and long-term cumulative implications of rebuilding. The results of models that estimate Net Present Value for a range of discount rates and rebuilding probabilities could form the basis for such analyses.