

WASHINGTON AND OREGON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF LIMITED REFINEMENTS TO THE  
2005/2006 FISHERY MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS

Recreational Lingcod

At the June Council meeting, Washington and Oregon staff reviewed lingcod catch data from their respective recreational fisheries from 2001-2003 and noticed a linear trend. This increasing catch trend is consistent with the recent stock assessment data which indicates that lingcod in the north have recovered to above B40%. The trend will likely continue in 2005 and 2006 as lingcod become increasingly available to northern recreational fishers.

Based on the Council guidance to accommodate recreational fisheries in setting harvest guidelines, Washington and Oregon recommended using this trend to project catch estimates for 2005 and 2006. This approach would meet current rebuilding strategies while avoiding early closure of the northern recreational fisheries because of lingcod harvest guideline attainment.

However, when this approach was adopted in June, the catch projections for 2005 and 2006 were based on an estimate for 2004. Actual catches through July in both Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries this year are higher than previously estimated. As such, the linear trend has changed and the projections for 2005 and 2006 are slightly higher than initially projected (see Figure 1). Therefore, Washington and Oregon recommend that the northern recreational harvest guideline be adjusted from 206 mt to 234 mt in 2005, and from 239 mt to 271 mt in 2006 to accommodate this increased projection.

Figure 1. Washington/Oregon coastal lingcod harvest 2001-2003 (actual) and 2004-2006 (projected).

