

THE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON
PART II OF STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR 2011-2012 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the stock assessments conducted for petrale sole, lingcod, and cabezon; and bocaccio, widow, yelloweye, and greenstriped rockfish for the 2011-2012 specification and management measures cycle. While several of these new assessments may have considerable implications for management in the next biennial cycle, the GMT thought it more appropriate to focus more on those issues when harvest specifications are discussed in November.

We did note, however, that with regard to bocaccio, extension of the range for the southern stock from a northern boundary at 40°10' North latitude to 43° North latitude could have numerous management implications (i.e. potentially involving interstate catch agreements, individual quotas, etc.) with little change in our understanding of the status of the stock. In other words, the trend in abundance was not affected by exclusion of the area north of Cape Mendocino, and there was only a one percent decrease in depletion from limiting the spatial coverage of the assessment to 40°10'.

As such, the GMT requests that alternative rebuilding analyses extending to Cape Mendocino and Cape Blanco be presented to the Council for consideration in determining the geographic region managed using the bocaccio assessment results when setting harvest specifications for 2011-2012.

PFMC
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