

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
ADOPT FINAL STOCK ASSESSMENTS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) was briefed by Mr. John DeVore, Pacific Fishery Management Council, on the stock assessments for lingcod, Pacific ocean perch (POP), yelloweye rockfish, yellowtail rockfish north, blue and deacon rockfishes, and California scorpionfish. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations.

In general, the GAP supports the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) findings and recommendations for the stock assessments for yelloweye rockfish, yellowtail rockfish north, blue and deacon rockfish, California scorpionfish, and lingcod. The GAP agrees with the SSC findings that these assessments reflect the best available science and can be used to inform management for 2019-2020.

Regarding lingcod south, California members of the GAP have concerns that this assessment doesn't truly represent what fishermen are seeing on the fishing grounds. In Southern California and some other areas, large lingcod – and lingcod of various sizes – are being caught by sport and commercial fishermen. The GAP acknowledges that conditional age-at-length compositional data shortfalls from California likely contributed to the lower stock status determination. Industry stated it would be willing to assist in gathering lingcod data in the future should California request it.

The GAP was alerted by Mr. DeVore that the SSC had moved POP to the mop-up panel. There were questions raised in the SSC regarding the fixed steepness value and removal of the Triennial survey index in the new assessment. In the previous assessments of POP, steepness had been estimated. The GAP will track the SSC review and provide final comments in November. The GAP notes that there has been increased presence of POP on the fishing grounds, which supports the assessment's projection that status of POP has improved markedly in recent years. The GAP presumes the SSC will confirm this improvement in POP stock status.

PFMC
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