Narrative for Revised 2017 Lingcod Stock Projections

This document provides a narrative of stock projection options in the excel file Revised2017LingcodOFLs-18Dec2017_V6 (Attachment 3) and includes a correction to stock projections provided in the September Draft Lingcod Assessment document as well as changes requested by the SSC and GMT during December 2017. Unless explicitly mentioned all of the following catches are allocated between stock assessment model areas and management areas based on 20.31% of the California lingcod biomass being between the 40°10' and 42° region, which is the biomass apportionment recommended by the SSC (see the SSC's September 2017 report to the Council).

Note that the North assessment model area includes Washington and Oregon, while the South assessment model area encompasses California. Management areas are north and south of the 40°10' management line.

Note that the North assessment model uses Washington recreational catches in numbers, which required that the projected catches be input to the model in numbers. In order to obtain the correct projected catches a conversion factor of 0.28 is used to convert catch in biomass, as specified by the GMT, to catch in numbers. This results in matching the 2017 catch specification in biomass but in small deviations from the 2018 requested catches in biomass.

Option 1

Option 1 is a correction to the September draft Lingcod stock assessment document in which the wrong model forecast was copied into the document. This option assumes that the 2017-2018 ACLs are fully attained and allocates catches for 2017-2018 to assessment areas based on 8% of the coast-wide biomass being between the 40°10' and 42° region. The estimate of 8% is based on analyses of the NWFSC survey data through 2016 that suggests in recent years 8% of the coast-wide lingcod stock is between the 40°10' and 42° region. Catches from 2019 forward are allocated between stock assessment model areas and management areas based on 20.31% of the California lingcod biomass being between the 40°10' and 42° region and assume full ACL attainment. The buffer applied in the north is 0.956 and in the south is 0.913.

Option 2

Option 2 is a correction to the September draft Lingcod stock assessment document in which the wrong model forecast was copied into the document. This option assumes that the 2017-2018 ACLs are fully attained and allocates catches for 2017-2018 to assessment areas based on 8% of the coast-wide biomass being between the 40°10' and 42° region. The estimate of 8% is based on analyses of the NWFSC survey data through 2106 that suggests in recent years 8% of the coast-wide lingcod stock is between the 40°10' and 42° region. Catches from 2019 forward are allocated between stock assessment model areas and management areas based on 20.31% of the California lingcod biomass being between the 40°10' and 42° region and assume full ACL attainment. The buffer applied in the north is 0.956 and in the south is 0.956.

Option 3

Option 3 implements a request to assume partial attainment of the 2017-2018 ACLs of 1000 mt in the north model area and 750 mt in the south model area and assumes full ACL attainment from 2019 forward. The buffer applied in the north is 0.956 and in the south is 0.956.

Option 4

Option 4 implements a request to assume partial attainment of the 2017-2018 ACLs of 1000 mt in the north model area and 750 mt in the south model area and assumes full ACL attainment from 2019 forward. The buffer applied in the north is 0.956 and in the south is 0.913.

Option 5

Option 5 implements a request to assume partial attainment of the 2017-2018 ACLs of 1000 mt in the north model area and 750 mt in the south model area and assumes partial ACL attainment from 2019 forward. The partial attainment for 2019 is specified such that the 40% of the ACL is caught in the north model area and 67.54% is caught in the south model area. The buffer applied in the north is 0.956 and in the south is 0.956.

Option 6

Option 5 implements a request to assume partial attainment of the 2017-2018 ACLs of 1000 mt in the north model area and 750 mt in the south model area and assumes partial ACL attainment from 2019 forward. The partial attainment for 2019 is specified such that the 40% of the ACL is caught in the north model area and 67.54% is caught in the south model area. The buffer applied in the north is 0.956 and in the south is 0.913.