

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON COWCOD  
RESEARCH SET ASIDES FOR 2021-2022 BIENNIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommends establishing a 10 mt research set aside (off the top deduction) for cowcod to accommodate research needs off the coast of California for 2021- 2022. Currently, research set asides for cowcod activity include those for research conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The state of California also has a Scientific Collecting Permit (SCP) program that authorizes take of species for research or other scientific needs.

Prior to the newest stock assessment, the research set aside amount was set at a de minimis level to keep mortality at or under low harvest limits due to the stock being overfished. With the recently rebuilt status of cowcod, it is now possible to provide an increased amount in the set aside in anticipation of potential changes to NMFS surveys or other research activities conducted under the authorization of state SCPs, federal Scientific Research Permits or Letters of Authorization.