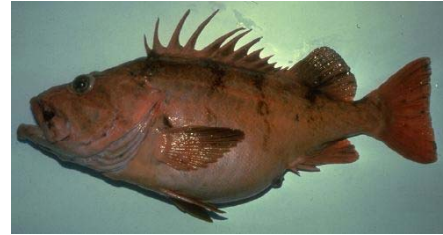


Common Name: **Cowcod**

Scientific Name: *Sebastes levis*

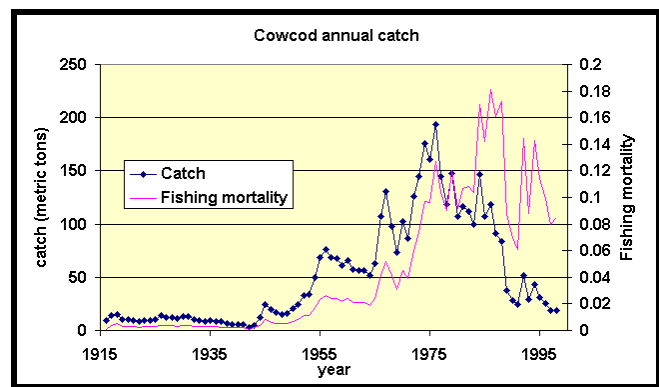
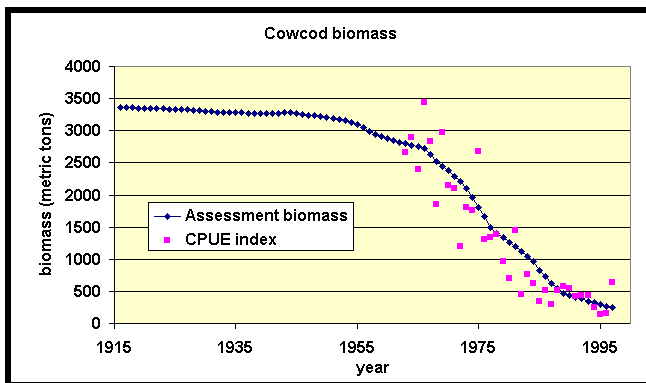
Area of concern: Central Oregon to central Baja California and Guadalupe Island, Mexico. Southern California, however, has been recognized as the center of distribution of the species since the 1880s.

Year first listed as a “species of concern”: 2004



Species Description: The cowcod is one of the largest rockfish species, reaching almost 1 m in total length. It is an ambush predator of the deep shelf and upper slope.

Rationale for “Species of Concern” Listing:
Demographic and Diversity Concerns:



- Peak catch in 1976 was ~194 mt (biomass ~1665 mt)
- In 1998 catch was 19 mt (biomass ~238 mt)
- Estimated to be 4-7% of its unfished biomass (2000)
- Declared overfished in 2000
- At current populations levels, it will take on the order of 75-100+ years to recover the species (with a modest 2-4 mt of harvest/bycatch)

Factors for decline:

- Overfishing
- Bycatch

Existing protections include:

- Cal F&G has closed 5,100 sq. n. mi. off southern California to all bottom fishing as a cowcod conservation area, and prohibited all cowcod catch.
- More stringent catch regulations
- “Overfished” under the Magnuson-Stevens Act; Pacific Fisheries Management Council adopted a Draft Rebuilding Plan for public review in their June '02 meeting.

For further information on this Species of Concern, or on the Species of Concern Program in general, please contact Ms. Marta Nammack, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 713-1401, Marta.Nammack@noaa.gov; or Dr. Scott Rumsey, NMFS, Northwest Region, Protected Resources Division, 525 NE Oregon Street #500, Portland, OR 97232, (503) 872-2791, Scott.Rumsey@noaa.gov.