

Orcas Island Marine Lecture Series

NOTES

Lingcod: Biology, Ecology and Fishery Perspectives

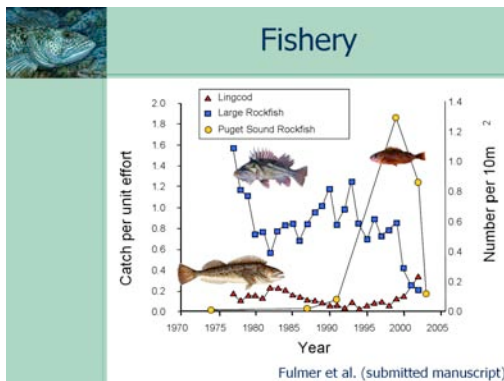
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Biology

- “*Ophiodon* (snake tooth) *elongatus* (elongate)”
- Live in high rock areas
- Canine-like teeth
- Can sit for hours
- Eat a wide variety of other species, can be cannibalistic, voracious predators
- A 30lb female can have up to 600,000 eggs, males guard eggs for 7 weeks



- Young lingcod are already consuming fish when 4 weeks old
- Can grow up to 80 pounds

Fishery

- The number of commercially caught lingcod in Oregon and Washington dropped over 1/6 between the 1950's and the 1990's
- Fish are smaller in fished areas; larger in marine reserve areas.

Ecology

- Lingcod are top level predators.
- Their diet changes as they grow; they eat larger fish as they age
- They eat rockfish, octopus, sculpin, flatfish, dogfish, forage fish and many other species.
- Adult diet is 90% fish and 10% invertebrates; juveniles eat almost 100% Pacific sand lance
- Adult diet reflects species availability
- Anne's research findings show that in non-marine reserve areas rockfish were only 5% of ling cod diet; in marine reserve areas rockfish were about 30% of ling cod diet. These were almost entirely juveniles or small adults



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