Ms. Cyreis Schmitt (National Marine Fisheries Service) presented an overview of the proposed stock assessment process for the 2002 cycle. Only three assessment projects were selected – whiting, cabezon, and either bocaccio or continued development of methods for assessing data poor species. The proposed list is short because of the substantial ongoing review of historical fishery and survey data, a review which may affect future stock assessments. Changes include:

- Adjustments to historical triennial survey data by taking account of “water hauls.”
- Potential re stratification of survey data based on new habitat information.
- Revised estimates of historical foreign catch.
- New estimates of groundfish trawl discard rates.

In response to last year’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) request for a longer stock assessment planning horizon, NMFS developed a draft proposal for assessments and rebuilding analyses for the 2002 through 2010 cycles. The SSC suggests the following changes to that proposal:

- Conduct yellowtail rockfish assessments on a 3-year cycle. The next assessment would be in the 2003 rather than the 2004 cycle.
- Conduct a canary rockfish assessment in the 2002 cycle, contingent on having age data from the 2001 triennial survey in time to meet the earlier stock assessment schedule.

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