

STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANNING FOR 2007-2008 FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Situation: The Council approved Amendment 17 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan as a means of providing for a biennial management cycle, more opportunity for public input, regulatory efficiencies, and various improvements in the management process. This agenda deals with planning activities for the 2007-2008 fishery management cycles. The “on year” for Council decision making for this cycle begins with the November 2005 Council meeting and includes a second Council meeting in March or April 2006 and a final Council meeting in June 2006 (Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 1.)

Dr. Elizabeth Clarke, Division Director at the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center, will report on proposed stock assessment activities from the perspective of the Fishery Resource Analysis and Monitoring Division (Exhibit E.3.b, Attachment 1). The Council is to consider the input from NMFS, the Advisory Bodies, and the public before providing guidance relevant to stock assessment priorities by species, type of assessment (full or update), and schedule of occurrence.

At the November 2003 Council meeting, there was initial discussion on “off-year” workshops and stock assessment production planning. The statements of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) from that meeting are included for reference (Exhibit E.3.a, Attachments 2, 3, and 4, respectively).

Council Task:

- 1. Discuss stock assessment planning for the 2007-2008 management period and make recommendations to the NMFS Fishery Science Centers regarding :**
 - a. Species priorities for stock assessments.**
 - b. Type of assessment.**
 - c. Schedule of stock assessment occurrence.**
 - d. “Off-year” workshops.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 1: Biennial Management Process, 2005-2006 and 2007-2008.
2. Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 2: SSC Report on Planning of “Off-year” Non-regulatory Science Activities, from the November 2003 Council meeting.
3. Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 3: GMT Report on Planning of “Off-year” Non-regulatory Science Activities, from the November 2003 Council meeting.
4. Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 4: GAP Report on Planning of “Off-year” Non-regulatory Science Activities, from the November 2003 Council meeting.
5. Exhibit E.3.b, Attachment 1: Proposed Groundfish Stock Assessment Activities for 2004-2005.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Recommendations
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion and Guidance

John DeVore
Elizabeth Clarke

PFMC
02/24/04

BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT PROCESS, 2005-2006 and 2007-2008

Month and Year	Stock Assessments	Management Specifications and Measures	Post-Council Regulatory Process
Nov '03	"Off year" for stock assessments. Advanced model development and stock assessment model refinement year.	Proposed '05-'06 ABC/OY; prelim mgmt measures.	'04 Specs via emergency for Jan-Apr; '04 Specs proposed rule and implementation via final rule due 3/04.
Jan '04			
Mar/Apr '04		Refined '05-'06 management measures.	
June '04		Final '05-'06 specs and mgmt measures.	
Sept '04			'05-'06 out as proposed rule and implemented via final rule by 01/05.
Nov '04	"On year" for stock assessments and STAR processes.	First "off year" for Council management specifications process.	
Jan '05			
Mar/Apr '05			
June '05			
Sept '05			
Nov '05	"Off year" for stock assessments.	Proposed '07-'08 ABC/OY; prelim mgmt measures.	Advance regulatory streamlining process.
Jan '06			
Mar/Apr '06		Refined '07-'08 mgmt measures.	
Jun '06		Final '07-'08 specs and mgmt measures.	
Sep '06			'07-'08 out as proposed rule and implemented via final rule by 01/07.
Nov '06	"On year" for stock assessments and STAR processes.	"Off year" for Council management specifications process.	
Jan '07			

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
PLANNING OF "OFF-YEAR" NON-REGULATORY SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

Dr. Elizabeth Clarke presented a draft proposal (Exhibit D.9.b, Supplemental NMFS Report) for "off-year" (2004) science workshops and other non-regulatory activities to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). In order to motivate activities proposed in 2004, Dr. Clarke's presentation included a description of stock assessments and supporting activities (stock assessment review [STAR] panels, etc.) that would be conducted during 2005 (the "on-year").

Table 1 of the draft proposal lists 27 stock assessments (16 full assessments and 11 expedited). Proposed workshops for 2004 are listed in Table 3, and these are intended to alleviate the workload burden of the full assessment schedule in 2005. The first suggestion for streamlining the 2005 process, which the SSC endorses, is to divide the stock assessments among different work groups based on species type (Dover sole/thornyhead/trawl-caught sablefish complex [DTS], flatfish, rockfish, etc.). The second suggestion is to use data "stewards" for facilitating data acquisition by the stock assessment authors. The SSC highly recommends the use of data stewards in this role.

Dr. Clarke's proposal recommends a data workshop for 2004 to find new ways to improve the efficiency and implementation of different data sources to be used in the 2005 stock assessment process. The SSC considers this data workshop to be a high priority. The SSC also considers the development of standards and methodologies for incorporating new observer-based data to construct catch histories to be an important component of the proposed data workshop.

A second workshop proposed for 2004 is a stock assessment modeling workshop that could include, for example, a review of the new version of the Stock Synthesis Model ("Isabelle") as a standardized analysis tool for the 2005 assessments. The SSC also considers this workshop to be a high priority. While the Recreational Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) Workshop was not discussed in detail, the SSC also considers it to be a useful objective. Dr. Clarke indicated that three workshops in 2004 would likely be a maximum for administrative time and effort. Terms of Reference for the workshops will be needed, and the SSC is willing to participate in the drafting of these.

The SSC also discussed the possibility of a B_0/B_{MSY} workshop and also considers this to be worthwhile. Suggestions included coordinating a B_0 workshop with the North Pacific Council, or through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Currently, NMFS is involved in an effort to develop environmentally explicit stock assessments, which may have a major impact on the calculation of reference points like B_0 . Ecosystem-based management could be another area for coordination with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The main obstacle for completing all the stock assessment objectives for 2005 appears to be scheduling and personnel for the stock assessment and review (STAR) panels that will be required for the full assessments (Table 4). The administrative maximum here is likely to be five full meetings. For logistical reasons, it appears these meetings would need to occur during the spring and fall of 2005. Even under this schedule, the SSC is concerned that all of the objectives listed in the proposal for 2005 cannot be satisfactorily completed under the current STAR process. The only alternatives appear to be conducting fewer assessments or revising the current STAR process, moving towards lighter reviews or more expedited assessments.

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
PLANNING OF "OFF-YEAR" NON-REGULATORY SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received an update from Dr. Jim Hastie on the status of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's (NWFSC) plans for science activities during the "off year" under the new biennial management process adopted by the Council under fishery management plan Amendment 17. The NWFSC tentatively plans to prepare about 21 groundfish assessments in preparation for the 2007-2008 management period. Under the terms of Amendment 17, these assessments would need to be prepared, reviewed by a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel, reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and adopted by the Council by the November 2005 Council meeting. The GMT recommends all STAR Panels for these assessments be convened in 2005. Furthermore, while the Council process may benefit by parsing SSC review and Council adoption of new assessments and rebuilding analyses between the scheduled 2005 Council meetings, the GMT recommends that all assessments and rebuilding analyses be formally reviewed and adopted by the September 2005 Council meeting. This will allow the GMT and other Council advisors the time to digest the abundance of new scientific information and recommend a range of 2007-2008 harvest levels at the November 2005 Council meeting.

PFMC
11/06/03

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON PLANNING
OF "OFF-YEAR" NON-REGULATORY SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met with Dr. Elizabeth Clarke to discuss off-year science activities being coordinated by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC).

The GAP is pleased to see that the NWFSC considers the Magnuson-Stevens Act requirement for a two-year review of rebuilding to mean at least an assessment update. The GAP has previously testified that this is the proper way to approach this legal requirement, especially in view of our constantly changing fisheries and data inputs.

The GAP also generally concurs with the approach taken by the NWFSC, as illustrated in Supplemental NMFS Report D.9.b. However, the GAP is concerned the personnel and work requirements inherent in completing the large number of stock assessments and assessment reviews will overwhelm the capabilities of scientists and managers. The GAP, therefore, examined the list of proposed stock assessments provided in Table 1 of the report and suggested modifications based on the following criteria:

- a stock has been designated as overfished and requires a two-year review;
- a stock is commercially or recreationally important, and its status should be examined;
- concerns have been expressed about stock status, based on fishermen's knowledge; and
- the optimum yield for a stock has not been attained in recent years because of lack of harvest.

Using these criteria, the GAP proposes deleting seven stocks from the assessment list and adding one, as follows:

Petrable sole (delete)

Chilipepper rockfish (delete)

English sole (delete)

Arrowtooth (delete)

Yellowtail rockfish (delete)

Splitnose rockfish (delete)

Cabazon (delete)

Starry Flounder (add)

The GAP notes that shortbelly rockfish is also considered for an assessment in the Table 4 list. The majority of the GAP does not believe that resources need to be dedicated to shortbelly at this time. A minority of the GAP believes an assessment on shortbelly would serve as a good indicator of regime shifts.

The GAP appreciates Dr. Clarke consulting with us in regard to our views and we would be happy to provide a further justification for our recommendations.

Proposed Groundfish Stock Assessment Activities for 2004-2005

Elizabeth Clarke,
Division Director, FRAM Division, NWFSC
February 2004

Table 1 lists stock assessments that could be conducted in 2005. This list includes suggested agency leads. This list does not identify which assessments will be full assessments and which will be updates. Clearly, a significant number will have to be updated assessments if the full list of stocks proposed here is to be assessed. A final list of stocks and agency leads needs to be finalized before planning for workshops in 2004 can proceed. It is unclear if there are the resources and expertise on the west coast to conduct all stock assessments listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Proposed Stock Assessments for 2005

Species	Agency Lead
Arrowtooth	NWFSC
Bank Rockfish	SWFSC
Blackgill	SWFSC
Bocaccio	SWFSC
Cabazon	NWFSC
California scorpionfish	CDFG
Canary	NWFSC
Chilipepper	SWFSC
Cowcod	SWFSC
Darkblotched	NWFSC
Dover sole	NWFSC
English Sole	NWFSC
Lingcod	WDFW
Longspine Thornyhead	NWFSC
Pacific Hake	NWFSC
Petrale Sole	NWFSC
POP	NWFSC
Sablefish	NWFSC
Shortbelly	SWFSC
Shortspine Thornyhead	NWFSC
Vermillion	SWFSC
Widow	SWFSC
Yelloweye	WDFW/NWFSC
Yellowtail	NWFSC

The multi-year management process specifies that the “off” years can be used to conduct workshops to refine modeling and stock assessment approaches. The NWFSC proposes to coordinate three workshops in 2004 to facilitate the stock assessment process.

The first workshop will review the methods for calculating recreational CPUE.

The second workshop will focus on data needs for stock assessment. We propose that discussions between authors and data managers and others regarding data needs for the stock assessments occur at this first workshop. We will ask authors to discuss all potential data sources that will be used in assessments.

The third workshop will focus on new models and modeling issues that are relevant to the following year’s stock assessments. During this workshop the NWFSC proposes to introduce a flexible ADMB model. Other topics that will be discussed are: methods for communicating uncertainty in assessment documents, modeling approaches that are planned by each author and refinement of the terms of reference for the 2005 stock assessment review process.

Table 2. Proposed Workshops coordinated by the NWFSC for 2004

Title	Timing	Location
Recreational CPUE Methods	April 2004	Santa Cruz
Stock assessment data workshop	July 2004	Newport
Stock assessment modeling workshop	September 2004	Seattle

Finally, the following is a proposed schedule for the review of stock assessments in 2005 (Table 3). A list of possible species for each panel is included in the table for discussion purposes only. A final list of species to be given updated assessment versus full assessments must be developed prior to finalizing the species to be included in each panel.

Table 3. Proposed Stock Assessment Review Schedule

Panel	Possible Species	Time	Location
STAR Full Assessment Panel One	Pacific Hake	February	Seattle
STAR Full Assessment Panel Two	Sablefish, Dover, Shortspine Thornyhead, Longspine Thornyhead	May	Newport
STAR Full Assessment Panel Three	Petrale, English, Arrowtooth	May	Seattle
STAR Full Assessment Panel Four	Chilipepper, Vermillion, Bank, Splitnose, Shortbelly	Late May	Santa Cruz
STAR Full Assessment Panel Five	Cowcod, California Scorpionfish, Yelloweye	June	La Jolla
STAR Update Panel One	Five species	August	TBA
STAR Update Panel Two	Five species	August	TBA