

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA PLANNING

In June, the Council requested that the Scientific and Statistic Committee (SSC) and Habitat Committee (HC) compile information on possible ecosystem-based approaches to management. The SSC welcomes future interaction with the HC and recommends that during the November meeting the Council and its advisory bodies receive a briefing on the paper "Ecosystem based fisheries management: some practical suggestions", by Marasco, Goodman, Grimes, Lawson, Punt, and Quinn. Two of the authors, who are members of the SSC (Drs Pete Lawson and Andre Punt), could provide the Council with a presentation on the paper.

During its September meeting, the SSC received two presentations regarding environmental conditions off the West Coast. Dr. Steve Ralston of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) presented "Recent results of NMFS midwater trawl surveys off the US West Coast", which showed changing patterns of abundance and latitudinal distribution of ten young-of-year rockfish species. Dr. Frank Schwing (SWFSC) presented "Recent oceanographic and ecosystem considerations off the US West Coast", which showed changing biological signals (e.g., abundance of forage fish and krill) and physical processes in the ocean (e.g., timing of the spring transition, cumulative upwelling, El Nino-like conditions without any El Nino event). Together, these two presentations provide evidence of important recent changes in ocean conditions. The SSC recommends that the Council and its advisory bodies hear these presentations during the November meeting.

The SSC further recommends that the Council schedule a two-meeting process during November and March to review and approve the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Stock Assessment Review STAR (STAR) process Terms of Reference. This schedule would precede two CPS STAR Panels scheduled for 2007.

PFMC
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