

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON UPDATED RESEARCH
AND DATA NEEDS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the current version of Research and Data Needs 2006-2008. Some points of the discussion included:

- A statement about the need for data on the size composition of recreational discards will be added to Sec. 2.2 (under “Fishery Monitoring and Data Collection”).
- The term “harvest refugia as a potential management tool” in Sec. 2.2 (under “Habitat”) will be clarified, and this statement will be moved to Sec. 7 (EBFM and MPAs). The statement on trophic interactions in Sec. 2.2 will also be moved to Sec. 7.
- The description of survey methods for rockfish in Sec. 2.2 (under “Resource Assessment Surveys”) will be revised to include consideration of the costs and benefits of these methods. Text in this subsection about the development of non-extractive methods for groundfish assessment will be revised to highlight the need for evaluation of these methods.
- A statement on the need to investigate the accuracy and precision of recreational catch and effort estimates among minor fishing modes (e.g. beach/bank, private access, night fishing) will be added to Sec. 2.3 (under “Fishery Monitoring and Data Collection”).
- A statement citing recent genetic work, which indicates that vermilion and blue rockfish may each represent two distinct but morphologically similar species, will be added to Sec. 2.2 (under “Biological Information for Fishery and Productivity Parameters”). Additional investigations of species classifications for other rockfish are also desirable. Another statement will be added to this subsection that cites the need for better estimates of discard mortality in nearshore waters. In particular, effects of barotrauma may vary among species, as could their ability to survive hooking or trapping injuries. Also, there may be long-term physiological effects due to capture and release on reproductive output, which could have stock productivity and management implications.

The SSC recommends that its subcommittee chairs work with Council staff to implement the revisions listed above, and incorporate comments from the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (agenda item B.2.b). With these changes, the SSC considers the document to be ready for adoption.