

STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR 2009-2010 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

The Council process for setting groundfish harvest levels and other specifications depends on periodic assessments of the status of groundfish stocks and a report from an established assessment review body or, in the Council parlance, a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviews this information and makes a recommendation relative to the standards of 1) the best available science and 2) soundness for use in groundfish fishery management decision-making by the Council. The Council then approves the new assessments and relevant analyses used to set groundfish harvest levels and other specifications for the following biennial management period.

A new updated assessment of bocaccio and new full assessments for black rockfish (northern portion of the stock), chilipepper rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, cowcod, canary rockfish, and arrowtooth flounder were recently prepared and reviewed by the STAR Panels. The executive summaries of these assessments and the associated STAR Panel reports are provided as Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachments 1-15. **All the assessments in their entirety and STAR Panel reports under Council consideration at this meeting are included in the CD copy of meeting materials.**

The Council should consider the new updated and full assessments and STAR Panel reports, as well as the advice of the SSC, other advisory bodies, and the public before adopting the new stock assessments for use in 2009-2010 groundfish management.

Council Action:

Approve stock assessments recommended by the SSC.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of "Status of the Black Rockfish Resource off the Washington Coast in 2006".
2. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 2: Black Rockfish (Northern) STAR Panel Report.
3. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 3: Executive Summary of "Status of Bocaccio off California in 2007".
4. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 4: Bocaccio Rockfish STAR Panel Report.
5. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 5: Executive Summary of "Status of the Chilipepper rockfish, *Sebastes goodei*, in 2007".
6. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 6: Chilipepper Rockfish STAR Panel Report.
7. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 7: Executive Summary of "Status and Future Prospects for the Darkblotched Rockfish Resource in Waters off Washington, Oregon, and California as Assessed in 2007".
8. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 8: Darkblotched Rockfish STAR Panel Meeting Report.
9. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 9: Executive Summary of "Status of Cowcod, *Sebastes levis*, in the Southern California Bight".

10. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 10: Cowcod STAR Panel Meeting Report.
11. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 11: Executive Summary of “Status of the U.S. Canary Rockfish Resource in 2007”.
12. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 12: Canary Rockfish STAR Panel Report.
13. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 13: Executive Summary of “Stock Assessment of the Arrowtooth Flounder (*Atheresthes stomias*) Population off the West Coast of the United States in 2007”.
14. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 14: Executive Summary of “Status of the Widow Rockfish Resource in 2007: an Update”.
15. Agenda Item G.4.b, WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Northern Black Rockfish Stock Assessment.
16. Agenda Item G.4.a, Supplemental Attachment 15: Arrowtooth Flounder STAR Panel Report.

Agenda Order:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a. Agenda Item Overview | John DeVore |
| b. Agency and Tribal Comments | |
| c. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report | Bob Conrad |
| d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies | |
| e. Public Comment | |
| f. Council Action: Approve Stock Assessments | |

PFMC
08/23/07