

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA PLANNING AND WORKLOAD PRIORITIES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the best way to initiate planning for off-year science workshops on historical catch reconstruction and survey catchability (q). For the workshops to be successful, planning needs to begin prior to the March Council meeting. The SSC recommends that temporary *ad hoc* working groups be formed, consisting of several SSC members plus representatives from Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers and state agencies. Working groups would be led jointly by an SSC member and an agency scientist, and would consist of no more than five or six individuals. The working groups would be tasked with:

- identifying goals for the workshop,
- identifying preparatory work needed before the workshop, and
- aligning resources to ensure the preparatory work is completed.

The working groups may need to meet between November and March, but it is likely that they would be able to accomplish most of their work via correspondence and conference calls. With respect to the off-year science workshop on survey catchability, the SSC recommends that the workshop focus on the deep-water complex (including sablefish) and Pacific whiting.

For planning purposes, the Council may also wish to “pencil-in” an SSC-led workshop during 2008 to address issues likely to arise from the new annual catch limits (ACL) requirements. The scope and timing of the workshop will be dependent upon the finalization of ACL guidance from the National Marine Fisheries Service. However, it does appear likely that the scope will be well beyond that which the SSC can address during its regular meetings.

11/08/07
PFMC