

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON STOCK ASSESSMENT  
PLANNING FOR 2011-2012 GROUND FISH FISHERY DECISION MAKING

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) considered whether a full assessment should be conducted for bronzespotted or greenspotted rockfish. The SSC was provided with a summary of the available data and potential analysis methods for these two species. An assessment of either species will provide information which should be useful for management. However, noting that more data, in particular survey data, are available for greenspotted rockfish and that currently available data indicate changes in fishery length-compositions between the 1980s and 2000s, the SSC recommends that a full assessment of greenspotted rockfish be conducted in 2009.

The SSC identified chairs for each of the six STAR Panels that will take place during 2009, including that for Pacific whiting. Whether a Pacific Council-sponsored Pacific whiting STAR Panel will be needed is currently unclear. The SSC recommends that the assessment of greenspotted rockfish be reviewed at the April 27-May 1 STAR Panel and that the assessment of cabezon be reviewed at the July 27-31 STAR Panel. These changes are needed to avoid conflicts of interest for STAR Panel chairs, and may lead to changes to where each STAR Panel will take place.

The SSC emphasizes that STAR Panels involve a large workload, in particular because of the need to review complex technical analyses. Thorough review of the material presented at STAR Panels and hence compliance with the Groundfish Stock Assessment Terms of Reference requires that a sufficient number of reviewers be available. Based on its experience with previous STAR panels, the SSC recommends replacing the first two sentences of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of page 6 of the Groundfish Stock Assessment Terms of Reference with “In most circumstances a STAR Panel will include a chair appointed from the SSC's groundfish subcommittee and three other experienced stock assessment analysts. Of these three other members, at least one should be familiar with west coast groundfish stock assessment practices and at least one should be appointed from the Center for Independent Experts (CIE).” The SSC recognizes that there are costs associated with identifying reviewers and will work with the Council and NMFS Staff to identify suitably qualified reviewers for STAR Panels, while minimizing costs.

The SSC reviewed the draft text on Data Reports (Agenda Item I.5.a, Attachment 2) and endorses the draft language except for the final sentence. The SSC recommends that this sentence be replaced by “The current harvest control rule cannot be applied using the results from a Data Report. However, these results can be used for management decision making. For example, a Data Report could provide information on the trend in abundance and hence changes from *status quo* management. A key section of the Data Report is that on research needed to improve the assessment. Highlighting research priorities in a Data Report should increase the likelihood that future stocks assessments will satisfy the Groundfish Stock Assessment Terms of Reference.”

The SSC was informed that Council Staff intend to modify the Groundfish Stock Assessment Terms of Reference to reflect increased involvement of Council Staff in STAR Panels. Specifically, a Council staff member will attend all STAR Panel meetings and provide guidance

to assessment authors on what is needed for draft assessments to comply with the Terms of Reference for Groundfish Stock Assessments. The SSC endorses these proposed modifications.

*Revised proposed 2009 STAR Panel*

<b>Panel</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Spp1</b>	<b>Spp2</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<i>Whiting Treaty ?</i>	<i>Feb. 3-6</i>	<i>Seattle</i>	<i>Pacific Whiting</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>Sampson</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>April 27-May 1</i>	<i>Newport*</i>	<i>Greenspotted rf</i>	<i>Spiny dogfish</i>	<i>Hamel</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>May 4-8</i>	<i>Seattle</i>	<i>Petrable sole</i>	<i>Splitnose rf</i>	<i>Dorn</i>
<i>Updates</i>	<i>June 6-13</i>	<i>WOC</i>	<i>POP, Darkblotched rf</i>	<i>Canary rf, Cowcod</i>	
<i>3</i>	<i>July 13-17</i>	<i>Santa Cruz</i>	<i>Bocaccio</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Punt</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>July 27-31</i>	<i>Santa Cruz*</i>	<i>Lingcod</i>	<i>Cabezon</i>	<i>Wespestad</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Aug 10-14</i>	<i>Seattle</i>	<i>Yelloweye rf</i>	<i>Greenstriped rf</i>	<i>Ralston</i>
<i>MopUp</i>	<i>Sept 28-Oct 1</i>	<i>Seattle</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	

- *may change*

PFMC  
9/9/08