

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PART 1 OF STOCK ASSESSMENTS
FOR 2011-2012 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) notes that there may be some differences between results of petrale sole assessment when it may be adopted in September, compared to the current base case model. However, the Scientific and Statistical Committee's concerns will likely be addressed prior to final adoption and are unlikely to substantially change the results of the final assessment compared to the current base case model. However, these issues may be best clarified for the Council by the SSC. With the likelihood of a more pessimistic assessment, the GMT is looking at beginning a "Points of Concern" process for petrale sole as outlined in the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Section 6.2.2 of the Groundfish FMP establishes a "Points of Concern Framework" to address resource conservation issues. This process is designed to assist in determining when a focused review on a particular species may be warranted. Under this framework the GMT (or another advisory body) is responsible for identifying whether a point of concern exists and this identification may occur at the first meeting of a two meeting process. The GMT would evaluate existing information and bring recommendations to the Council at the second meeting. At the second meeting, the Council may then evaluate the GMT's recommendations for addressing a "point of concern" and forward their own recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Administrator.

During Agenda Item E.7, Supplemental GMT Report on Inseason Considerations, the GMT may identify a point of concern for petrale sole based on the results of the preliminary 2009 stock assessment.