

PART II OF STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR 2011-2012 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 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 full assessment for petrale sole was considered for adoption at the June Council meeting. At that time the SSC recommended further review of the assessment and the biological basis for considering a target biomass (B_{MSY}) estimated in the assessment. Recommendations from the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meeting on August 31 will be presented to the full SSC at this meeting. Their recommendations should be considered before adopting this new assessment.

The Council may want to set a B_{MSY} target and overfished level for this stock depending on SSC advice. The B_{MSY} target may be either a proxy value or deterministic as estimated in a quantitative assessment. The Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) specifies how B_{MSY} target levels are set in section 4.2 as follows:

“Harvest policies are to be specified according to standard reference points such as MSY (MSY, interpreted as a maximum average achievable catch under prevailing ecological and environmental conditions over a prolonged period). The long-term average biomass associated with fishing at F_{MSY} is B_{MSY} . In this FMP, MSY generally refers to a constant F control rule that is assumed to produce the maximum average yield over time while protecting the spawning potential of the stock. ... Absent a more accurate determination of F_{MSY} , the Council will apply default MSY proxies. ... A biomass level of 40% (i.e., $0.4 * B_{unfished}$) is a reasonable proxy for B_{MSY} If available information is sufficient, values of F_{MSY} , B_{MSY} , and more appropriate harvest control rules may be developed for any species or species group.”

Section 4.4.3 of the FMP specifies how overfished levels are set as follows:

“The default overfished/rebuilding threshold for category 1 groundfish (i.e., stocks with quantitative assessments) is $0.25 * B_{unfished}$. The Council may establish different thresholds for any species based on information provided in stock assessments, the SAFE document, or other scientific or groundfish management-related report. For example, if B_{MSY} is known, the overfished threshold may be set equal to 50% of that amount.”

The executive summary of the petrale sole assessment and the STAR panel report that were provided in June are provided again in Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 3 is an addendum to the petrale sole assessment with the stock assessment team’s responses to the SSC’s June requests.

New full assessments for bocaccio, widow rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, yelloweye rockfish, and greenstriped rockfish were also prepared and reviewed by STAR Panels. The executive summaries of these assessments and the associated STAR Panel reports are provided as Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachments 4 through 15. An information session is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 to provide an opportunity to review assessment results and ask stock assessment teams (STATs) questions regarding their respective assessments. There will also be an opportunity to ask STATs and the SSC further questions under this agenda item. **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 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 2011-2012 groundfish management.

Council Actions:

- 1. Consider approving stock assessments.**
- 2. Consider specifying a biomass target (B_{MSY}) and an overfished level for petrale sole pending SSC advice.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of “Draft Status of the U.S. Petrale Sole Resource in 2008.”
2. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 2: Petrale Sole STAR Panel Report.
3. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 3: “2009 Petrale Sole Stock Assessment Addendum: SSC Requests.”
4. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 4: Executive Summary of “Status of Bocaccio, *Sebastes paucispinis*, in the Conception, Monterey, and Eureka INPFC Areas in 2009.”
5. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 5: Bocaccio Rockfish STAR Panel Report.
6. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 6: Executive Summary of “Draft Status of the Widow Rockfish Resource in 2009.”
7. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 7: Widow Rockfish STAR Panel Report.
8. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 8: Executive Summary of “Draft Status and Future Prospects for Lingcod in Waters off Washington, Oregon, and California as Assessed in 2009.”
9. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 9: Lingcod STAR Panel Report.
10. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 10: Executive Summary of “Draft Status of Cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*) in California and Oregon Waters as Assessed in 2009.”
11. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 11: Cabezon STAR Panel Report.
12. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 12: Executive Summary of “Status of the U.S. Yelloweye Rockfish Resource in 2009.”
13. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 13: Yelloweye Rockfish STAR Panel Report.
14. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 14: Executive Summary of “Draft Status of Greenstriped Rockfish (*Sebastes elongatus*) Along the Outer Coast of California, Oregon, and Washington.”
15. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 15: Greenstriped Rockfish STAR Panel Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Follow-Up Questions on Assessments for Petrale Sole, Lingcod, and Cabezon; and Bocaccio, Widow, Yelloweye, and Greenstriped Rockfish
- c. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report
- d. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Approve Final Stock Assessments

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08/28/09