

9.0 PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT

In 1997 the Council implemented a new stock assessment review process in an attempt to improve public participation in the process, to increase the level of scientific peer review, and to provide a greater separation between the scientific and management processes. The terms of reference for the process are revised each year to better accomplish the stated goals. In 2001 a pre-assessment public workshop was held to review and evaluate data and identify problems and modeling assumptions. This year, as in the past, all assessments were reviewed by STAR Panels at public workshops. The Council's GMT then met in August 2001 to develop ABC and OY recommendations based on the "best scientific information" forwarded by the STAR Panels. The proposed actions were developed at the Council's September 10-14, 2001 meeting in Portland, Oregon and announced to the public in its September news brief. Opportunity for testimony was provided at the September meeting. Written public comment was accepted between the meetings. Final action was taken at the Council's October 29-November 2, 2001 meeting in Millbrae, California. Public comments received at the Council's Millbrae meeting influenced final decisive actions.