

FINAL STOCK ASSESSMENTS AND CATCH REPORTS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process for setting groundfish harvest levels and other specifications depends on periodic assessments of the status of groundfish stocks and a report from an established assessment review body or, in the Council parlance, 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.

New benchmark assessments for canary and darkblotched rockfish were conducted and reviewed at an April STAR panel. The executive summaries of the canary and darkblotched assessments are provided in Attachments 1 and 3, respectively (**the assessments in their entirety are available on the Council website (electronic only)**). The STAR panel reports for these assessments are provided in Attachments 2 and 4, respectively.

A new data-moderate assessment for arrowtooth flounder was conducted and reviewed by the SSC at this meeting. The executive summary of the arrowtooth assessment is provided in Attachment 5. The SSC will also review three update assessments at this meeting for chilipepper rockfish, petrale sole, and sablefish. The executive summaries of these assessments are provided in Attachments 6, 7, and 8, respectively. **The data-moderate and update assessments in their entirety are available on the Council website (electronic only)**. Finally, the SSC will review new catch reports for yelloweye rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and cowcod as a check that rebuilding progress for these stocks has been adequate based on an evaluation of total catch relative to annual catch limits specified in respective rebuilding plans (Attachment 9).

Members of the Groundfish Subcommittee of the SSC, the Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel are scheduled to review one data-moderate assessment, three updated assessments, and catch reports for three stocks on Wednesday, June 10 (see SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Agenda).

A report of the March 31-April 2 Nearshore Stock Assessments Workshop is provided in Attachment 10. While not informing any Council decisions at this meeting, Attachment 10 informs nearshore stock assessment that will be conducted this year and reviewed in STAR panels in July. The Council will consider these nearshore assessments in September.

The Council should consider the assessments and catch reports, as well as the advice of the SSC, other advisory bodies, and the public before adopting the new stock assessments and catch reports for use in groundfish management in 2017 and beyond.

Council Action:

Adopt the stock assessments (benchmark, data-moderate, and updated assessments) and catch reports recommended by the SSC.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of “The Status of canary rockfish (*Sebastes pinniger*) in the California Current in 2015.”
2. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 2: Canary Rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report.
3. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 3: Executive Summary of “Status of the darkblotched rockfish resource off the continental U.S. Pacific Coast in 2015.”
4. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 4: Darkblotched Rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report.
5. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 5: Executive Summary of “The 2015 stock assessment of arrowtooth flounder (*Atheresthes stomias*) in California, Oregon, and Washington waters.”
6. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 6: Executive Summary of “Status of the Chilipepper rockfish, *Sebastes goodei*, in the California Current for 2015.”
7. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 7: Executive Summary of “Stock Assessment Update: Status of the U.S. petrale sole resource in 2014.”
8. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 8: Executive Summary of “Status of the U.S. sablefish resource in 2015.”
9. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 9: Catch Report for the Unassessed Overfished Species in the 2015-16 Biennium.
10. Agenda Item D.8, Attachment 10: Report on the Nearshore Stock Assessments Workshop.

Agenda Order:

- D.8. Final Stock Assessments and Catch Reports John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Approve Final Stock Assessments and Catch Reports for 2017-2018 Management

PFMC
05/21/15