

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON STOCK ASSESSMENT
PRIORITIZATION FOR THE 2019 – 20 MANAGEMENT CYCLE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a report from Dr. Jim Hastie and Ms. Kristan Blackhart on the proposed new stock assessment prioritization system. This follows a similar report which the GAP received from Dr. Richard Methot at the September, 2015 meeting.

The prioritization system is based on the informal system that the Council now uses. The goal of the new system is to make the assessment prioritization process more consistent and transparent over time. This will be accomplished by “scoring” each potential stock assessment according to a number of factors, then setting priorities initially on the highest scores.

The GAP supports the new process, albeit with some caution. First and foremost, the GAP believes that the system must remain flexible enough to respond to unintended events such as new catch or environmental information or the need to update an existing assessment. After discussing this issue with the presenters and examining the list of items under which assessments will be scored, the GAP is satisfied that the degree of flexibility desired by the GAP is there. The GAP recommends that NMFS proceed with development of the new stock assessment prioritization process and looks forward to receiving further information during its March meeting.

PFMC
11/16/15