

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON PRELIMINARY PLANS
FOR REVIEW OF THE WEST COAST TRAWL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM AND
INTERSECTOR ALLOCATIONS INCLUDING COMMENTS ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR
CATCH SHARE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a presentation from Council and NMFS staff regarding preparations for the trawl rationalization and intersector allocation five-year review process. Mr. Jim Seger (Council staff) presented an overview of the five-year review process and schedule and Ms. Abigail Hartley (NMFS West Coast Region) presented a proposed outline for the review document.

Ms. Marie Guldin (NWFSC) presented a proposed method for disaggregating joint costs incurred by first receivers and shorebased processors in the groundfish fishery. This step is necessary to allocate costs to specific fisheries to calculate economic indicators that will be used in the catch share review, such as processors' net revenue. The SSC supports the use of the proposed method and offered technical comments to improve the analysis as it moves forward. Also, the SSC recommends that the analysis be updated with 2015 data as soon as they become available and prior to completion of the review.

Dr. Lisa Pfeiffer (NWFSC) presented proposed economic performance metrics to be used in the catch share review. The SSC offered additional technical comments on the methods and data used. The SSC notes that an important component of the review will be to provide context for observed changes in indicator values before and after catch share implementation.

The SSC will provide a review of the initial progress of the five-year review analysis at a two-day meeting of the SSC's Economics and Groundfish subcommittees prior to the November 2016 Council meeting. At that meeting the SSC will work with the project team to identify appropriate metrics and provide additional review of methods and data to be used in the analysis. The SSC recommends that the next iteration of the review documents contain a more focused discussion of explicit links between economic performance indices and specific objectives of the catch share program. The SSC also recommends that the review project team coordinate closely with the chairs of the SSC Economics and Groundfish subcommittees prior to the November 2016 meeting in order to identify the most important topics for discussion and to provide for a focused review.

Mr. Seger proposed that the SSC provide a final review of the five-year review document at the November 2017 Council meeting. The SSC has the expertise to provide a thorough review of the catch share program five-year review. If there is a desire to include additional outside perspectives, a review process could be modeled on the Council's Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panels and could consist of representatives from the SSC's Economics and Groundfish subcommittees as well as independent experts. This panel could conduct a multi-day review of the final five-year review document.