

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
5-YEAR CATCH SHARE PROGRAM AND INTERSECTOR ALLOCATION REVIEW
PLANS AND FISHERY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) Groundfish and Economics Subcommittees met on November 13 and 14, 2016 to review the Blueprint for the West Coast Groundfish Trawl Catch Share Program Five-Year Review (Agenda Item F.6.a, Blueprint). The Blueprint consists of an annotated outline describing the components and proposed methods of the review. The subcommittees received presentations on proposed elements of the program review from the analysts and provided technical comments on many specific aspects of the proposed work.

The Blueprint outlines a wide-ranging analysis of the fishery in terms of economic, community, environmental, and program management criteria. The proposed analyses will not be able to assign causality for many observed changes, but rather will document the state of the fishery before and after catch share program implementation. This limitation of the analysis should be understood by stakeholders and clearly stated in the final document.

The program review would benefit from guidance from the Council regarding the most important questions to be answered. The SSC identified four such potential questions:

1. How did the net benefits to the nation from the fishery change after implementation of the catch share program?
2. How did financial outcomes for participants in the fishery change following catch share program implementation?
3. Did the distribution of cost, revenues, effort, and net benefits among fishery participants (including geographic communities and different user groups) change?
4. Did utilization rates for specific species change following catch share program implementation?

The review, as proposed in the Blueprint, will contain information to inform these questions. However, it would be useful to provide a summary of the results organized around these specific questions (or others).

The SSC Groundfish and Economics subcommittees will review the public review draft of the program review document at a meeting tentatively scheduled for May 24-25, 2017. The SSC will provide comments on this draft to the Council at the June 2017 PFMC meeting.