

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ADOPT FINAL STOCK ASSESSMENTS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) participated in the summer Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panels, reviewed the briefing book documents, and received an overview from Mr. John DeVore, Council Staff. The GMT appreciates the efforts by the Stock Assessment Teams (STATs) and everyone involved in this process. Similar to last cycle, the GMT believes the process benefited from the pre-assessment workshop(s)/meeting(s) with assessors, state data stewards, and members of the GMT.

No unresolved concerns were noted by GMT advisors to the STAR panel reviews. As mentioned previously, the GMT is supportive of pre-assessment workshops, and think that the stock assessment process has been improved by expanding those types of pre-assessment interactions.

Lingcod South of 40°10' Alternative OFL and ACL Projections

While discussing the documents for Agenda Item E.9 at this meeting, the GMT was informed that the overfishing limits (OFLs) and annual catch limits (ACLs) for 2019-2020 ([Agenda Item E.9., Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, September 2017](#)) were derived using a P* of 0.45 instead of the default P* of 0.40 for this stock. A request is being made to produce OFLs and ACLs using the default P* of 0.40 in order to for the Council to select OFLs and ACLs for 2019-2020. If the Council decides to use a P* of 0.45 at this meeting, no additional runs would be necessary.

Yelloweye Rockfish Rebuilding Projections

The GMT has been in communication with the yelloweye rockfish STAT team about catch streams for the rebuilding runs. In addition to the standard run of assuming the ACL is taken, the GMT has requested a run more representative of recent actual ACL attainment. **Therefore, the GMT recommends a rebuilding run using the recent average attainment of 65 percent of the ACL for catch going forward rather than full ACL attainment.**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report

The GMT discussed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) report ([Agenda Item E.8.a, WDFW Report, September 2017](#)) regarding the yelloweye rockfish rebuilding analysis. The 2017 stock assessment shows a more optimistic status of the yelloweye rockfish stock than what the Council has considered over the last several biennial cycles. For example, the estimated time to rebuild for yelloweye rockfish is now estimated to be 48 years earlier (2026) than the current T_{TARGET} of 2074, estimated in the last rebuilding analysis.

Given the new status of the stock, the GMT agrees with the suggestion in the WDFW report that the STAT produce alternative rebuilding runs using steepness in addition to natural mortality. One suggestion would be a rebuilding analysis with the axis of uncertainty around a range of steepness values between 0.441, which was used in the last assessment, and 0.718 in the current assessment with 0.55 as the mid-point. Another suggestion would be to do something similar to what was done in the 2009 rebuilding analysis where uncertainty from two sources (steepness and catch)

was used in developing the rebuilding forecast ([Rebuilding analysis for yelloweye rockfish based on the 2009 stock assessment](#)).

The GMT understands that the SSC may have considered the request for an alternate rebuilding analysis to be outside the parameters of the stock assessment Terms of Reference. However, this additional information may help the Council, the public, and advisory bodies better understand the status of the stock and time to rebuild. **The GMT recommends that these alternative rebuilding runs be produced in time to inform discussion by the SSC at the mop-up meeting in September if possible, or at a minimum that they be available in time for the October GMT meeting (2-5 October).**

PFMC
09/16/17