

POSSIBLE SCHEDULE FOR WEST COAST GROUND FISH ASSESSMENTS IN 2011 AND BEYOND

As part of the biennial groundfish assessment cycle, the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) routinely works with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) and others to prepare an initial draft list of species for consideration in the upcoming assessment cycle, along with a potential schedule for STAR panels. Table 1 provides an overview of assessment status for previously assessed species, along with other species for which first-time assessments are proposed. The first three columns report the year, type (full or update), and model used for the most recent assessment, where applicable. The middle four columns include the initial recommendations for 2011 assessment consideration. The final three columns are intended to provide some additional information on future workload that would be required to maintain assessments for major species that are adequate, with respect to NMFS's 5-year window since the last review.

Benchmark, or full, assessments which include STAR Panel review, are proposed for Pacific hake (whiting), Dover sole, Pacific ocean perch (POP), petrale sole, sablefish, spiny dogfish, blackgill rockfish, rex sole, greenspotted rockfish, and widow rockfish. The proposed lead for the first 6 species is the NWFSC, with the SWFSC leading the last 4. Three of these species have not previously been assessed. Spiny dogfish has been proposed previously and it received one of the highest vulnerability scores in the GMT's recently conducted analysis. The vulnerability score for greenspotted rockfish is at the high end of the GMT's precautionary range, and the SWFSC has already expended considerable effort in organizing and analyzing data for this species. Rex sole has a rather low vulnerability score; however, it is the prominent unassessed species in the Other Flatfish complex, for which considerable survey data are available. Blackgill rockfish is another highly vulnerable species, which is a major species in the Southern Slope Rockfish complex and has not been assessed since the first effort in 2005.

Both sablefish and Dover sole received low vulnerability scores from the GMT. However, they are critical species to the slope fisheries, and when last assessed in 2007 and 2005, respectively, their panels identified numerous modeling issues which should be addressed. Additionally, the NWFSC shelf-slope survey data cannot be fully included for either species unless a full assessment is conducted. The three remaining proposed full assessments are for the rebuilding species petrale sole, Pacific ocean perch, and widow rockfish. Considerable interest was expressed this past Fall in having another full assessment conducted for petrale sole in the next cycle, in order to address some unresolved data and modeling issues, as well as to explore the development of commercial CPUE indices. The last benchmark assessment for POP was conducted in 2003, and it is the only species with an individual ABC whose recent assessments have not been conducted using Stock Synthesis. A full assessment of widow rockfish was conducted in 2009, which indicated that the stock should be rebuilt soon. However the STAR panel identified further exploration of model properties and alternative formulations as a priority.

Given these full assessments, four assessment updates are anticipated, for the rebuilding species bocaccio, canary, darkblotched and yelloweye rockfishes. Since minimal new data will be

available with which to assess cowcod status, the SWFSC will prepare a data report, in keeping with the SSC's recommendations in June 2009. Additionally, a NMFS Technical Memorandum addressing the status of bronzespotted rockfish is being prepared by the SWFSC.

The growing weight of conducting assessments on a schedule which the agency considers adequate to keep them current is illustrated in the last three columns. Even with the assessments proposed here for 2011, a total of 15 species will have assessments which are more than 5 years old by 2013. Even with the speculative list of 9 full and 10 updated assessments in 2013, the assessments for 7 other species will pass the 5-year mark before 2015 (and 5 of those before 2013). And this substantial load, for both conducting and reviewing assessments does not include the development of new assessments for more data-limited species.

A potential schedule for conducting reviews of the 2011 assessments is presented in Table 2.

Table 1. Possible schedule for west coast groundfish assessments in 2011 and beyond.

Species	Last Assessment			2011				2013		Adequate Through
	Year	Full / Update	Model	Full	Update	Rebuilding Analyses	Affiliation	Full	Update	
<i>Number of assessments</i>				10	4	7		9	10	
P. hake (Whiting)	2010	Full	TBD	X			NWFSC	X		2015
Bocaccio rockfish	2009	Full	SS v 3		X	X	SWFSC		X	2014
Canary rockfish	2009	Update	SS v 3		X	X	NWFSC	X		2014
Chilipepper rockfish	2007	Full	SS v2						X	2012
Cowcod	2009	Update	SS v2		* status rept		SWFSC		X	2014
Greenstriped rockfish	2009	Full	SS v3							2014
Widow rockfish	2009	Full	SS v3	X		X	SWFSC		X	2014
Yelloweye rockfish	2009	Full	SS v3		X	X	NWFSC		X	2014
Yellowtail rockfish	2005	Update	ADMB					X		2010
Lingcod	2009	Full	SS v3							2014
Arrowtooth	2007	Full	SS v2						X	2012
English sole	2007	Update	SS v2						X	2012
Petrale sole	2009	Full	SS v3	X		X	NWFSC		X	2014
Starry flounder	2005	Full	SS v2							2010
Pacific ocean perch	2009	Update	ADMB	X		X	NWFSC		X	2014
Darkblotched rockfish	2009	Update	SS v3		X	X	NWFSC	X		2014
Bank rockfish	2000	"Full"	SS v1					X		2005
Blackgill rockfish	2005	Full	SS v2	X			SWFSC			2010
Shortspine thornyhead	2005	Full	SS v2					X		2010
Longspine thornyhead	2005	Full	SS v2					X		2010
Sablefish	2007	Full	SS v2	X			NWFSC			2012
Dover sole	2005	Full	SS v2	X			NWFSC			2010
Black rockfish - N	2007	Full	SS v2					X		2012
Black rockfish - S	2007	Full	SS v2					X		2012
Cabezon	2009	Full	SS v3							2014
Cal. Scorpionfish	2005	Full	SS v2							2010
Gopher rockfish	2005	Full	SS v2							2010
Kelp greenling	2005	Full	SS v2							2010
Longnose skate	2007	Full	SS v2						X	2012
Blue rockfish	2007	Full	SS v2							2012
Splitnose rockfish	2009	Full	SS v3							2014
Spiny Dogfish				X			NWFSC			new
Rex sole				X			SWFSC			new
Sanddabs										
Bronzespotted rockfish					# tech memo in progress		SWFSC			
Greenspotted rockfish				X			SWFSC			new

* status report would compare total mortality with the projections from the rebuilding analysis

Table 2. Potential Dates, Species Groupings, and Locations for 2011 STAR Panels.

	Dates	Species 1	Species 2	Location
Whiting	Feb.	Pacific hake / Whiting	N/A	Seattle, WA
Panel 1	Early May	Widow rockfish	Spiny dogfish	Newport, OR
Panel 2	June	Pacific ocean perch	open	Seattle, WA
Panel 3	mid-July	Petrable sole	Rex Sole	?
Panel 4	late-July	Sablefish	Dover sole	Seattle, WA
Panel 5	Early August	Greenspotted rf	Blackgill rockfish	Santa Cruz, CA
Updates	mid-June	bocaccio, canary, cowcod (data report only), darkblotched, yelloweye rockfishes		TBD