

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT --
GROUND FISH SCIENCE

Topics for presentation during the NMFS Science Center Report for Groundfish include:

- **2014 Groundfish Bottom Trawl Survey.** The first pass of the groundfish survey began sampling at sunrise on May 24, with the expectation of completing 752 tows before the survey concludes in October. During the initial leg of the survey, fishing will occur from Newport, OR to the U.S.-Canada border aboard two chartered fishing vessels, the Last Straw and Noah's Ark. Each vessel will be staffed with a 3-person crew and a 3-person scientific party. The entire first pass is scheduled to end July 29 with demobilization in Newport.
- **Likely Mechanisms of the Humboldt Squid Range Expansion in the California Current.** With two separate modeling approaches using unique, long-term data based on in situ observations of predator, prey, and environmental variables, our analyses suggest that Humboldt squid are indirectly affected by OMZ shoaling through effects on a primary food source, myctophid fishes. Our results suggest that this indirect linkage between hypoxia and foraging is an important driver of the ongoing range expansion of Humboldt squid in the northeastern Pacific Ocean.
- **Programmatic Review of Stock Assessment Process.** As part of a national, 5-year series of programmatic reviews, the NW Fisheries Science Center will host an independent review of the California Current groundfish stock assessment process on June 10-13, 2014. Each of the Panel members will submit comments, along with an overview prepared by the Chair. As in past reviews, the NWFSC will prepare formal responses to the major recommendations of Panel members and develop a set of action items in each area as appropriate. Future Science Report to the Council will include an overview of the major themes in the review comments and the Center's response.
- **Economic Data Collection – 2013 Submissions.** In response to Council's request, participants now have the option to complete the EDC forms through a web form. As the use of web forms is optional, paper forms were mailed to participants in May along with instructions for online submission. The forms continue to ask about the number of crew/workers positions on a vessel or in a plant. In addition, a new question was added in order to obtain the number of employees (crew and workers) directly engaged in fishing and processing. The additional question asks for the total number of individuals employed during the year. This information will provide important information about total employment.
- **CIE Review of the Joint Hake-Sardine survey.** We will discuss findings and responses to the 2014 review of the joint hake-sardine survey by the Center for Independent Experts.