

APPROVE STOCK ASSESSMENTS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process for setting groundfish harvest levels and other specifications depends on periodic assessments of the status of groundfish stocks and a report from an established assessment review body or, in the Council parlance, a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviews this information and makes a recommendation relative to the standards of 1) the best available science, and 2) soundness for use in groundfish fishery management decision-making by the Council. The Council then approves the new assessments and relevant analyses used to set groundfish harvest levels and other specifications for the following biennial management period.

Nine groundfish species (brown rockfish, China rockfish, copper rockfish, English sole, sharpchin rockfish, striptail rockfish, rex sole, vermilion rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish) were recommended for assessment this year using a new data-moderate assessment framework recommended by the SSC and adopted by the Council. Data-moderate assessments are more data-limited than full assessments, with inclusion of historical catches and abundance indices allowed, but not age or length composition data. Data-moderate assessments are designed to provide more information than data-poor situations, where catch-only methods are used only to determine overfishing limits for stocks with information that falls far below what is necessary to conduct a full assessment. One of the benefits of creating the new category of data-moderate stock assessments is that it provides for the expeditious review of more stock assessments. The executive summary of the data-moderate assessments document is provided in Attachment 1 and **the assessment in its entirety is available on the June 2013 briefing book CD and website (electronic only)**. The report of the April 2013 stock assessment review (STAR) Panel that reviewed the data-moderate assessments is provided in Attachment 2. It is noted that the STAR Panel only had time to review assessments for eight of the nine species, so the data-moderate assessment document does not include an assessment of vermilion rockfish (or yellowtail rockfish south of 40°10' N lat.). The established process for data-moderate assessments also requires the SSC to review the available compositional data for data-moderate stocks and to recommend whether future full assessments can potentially be conducted. The compositional data for the nine data-moderate species available by the briefing book deadline is provided in Attachment 3.

Two groundfish species (darkblotched rockfish and petrale sole) were assessed this year with full assessments and reviewed by a STAR Panel in May. The executive summaries of the darkblotched and petrale assessments are provided in Attachments 4 and 6, respectively and **the assessments in their entirety are available on the June 2013 briefing book CD and website (electronic only)**. The STAR Panel reports for the darkblotched and petrale assessment reviews are provided in Attachments 5 and 7, respectively.

Members of the Groundfish Subcommittee of the SSC, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are scheduled to review one updated assessment and three catch reports immediately before the June Council meeting on Tuesday, June 18 (see SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Agenda). The Executive Summary of the updated

bocaccio assessment is provided as Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 8 and **the assessment in its entirety is available on the June 2013 briefing book CD and website (electronic only)**. The canary rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and yelloweye catch reports are provided in Attachments 9-11.

The Council should consider the assessments and catch reports, as well as the advice of the SSC, other advisory bodies, and the public before adopting the new stock assessments and catch reports for use in groundfish management in 2015 and beyond.

Council Action:

Adopt the stock assessments (data-moderate, full, and updated assessments) and catch reports recommended by the SSC.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 1: Data-moderate stock assessments for brown, China, copper, sharpchin, stripetail, and yellowtail rockfishes and English and rex soles in 2013.
2. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 2: Pacific Coast Groundfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report for Data-Moderate Assessments.
3. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 3: Available Age and Length Composition Data for the Nine Data-Moderate Stocks Undergoing Assessment in 2013.
4. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 4: Status of the darkblotched rockfish resource off the continental U.S. Pacific Coast in 2013.
5. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 5: Darkblotched Rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
6. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 6: Status of the U.S. Petrale Sole Resource in 2012.
7. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 7: Petrale Sole Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
8. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 8: Status of bocaccio, *Sebastes paucispinis*, in the Conception, Monterey and Eureka INPFC areas as evaluated for 2013.
9. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 9: Canary Rockfish Catch Report for 2011-12.
10. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 10: Pacific Ocean Perch Catch Report for 2011-12.
11. Agenda Item F.5.a, Attachment 11: Yelloweye Rockfish Catch Report for 2011-12.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Data Moderate Stock Assessments, the Petrale Sole Stock Assessment, the Darkblotched Rockfish Stock Assessment, the Bocaccio Update Assessment, and Catch Reports for Canary, Pacific Ocean Perch, and Yelloweye Rockfish

PFMC
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