

## ADOPT PRELIMINARY STOCK COMPLEX AGGREGATIONS

The 2006 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) included a mandate to end overfishing. The revised National Standard 1 (NS1) guidelines of 2009 recommended a framework for accomplishing the MSA mandate, including criteria for managing stocks in a complex to reduce the risk of overfishing. Stock complex means a group of stocks that are sufficiently similar in geographic distribution, life history, and vulnerabilities to the fishery such that the impact of management actions on the stocks is similar. The framework recommended in the revised NS1 guidelines was incorporated in the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) under Amendment 23, which was implemented in 2011.

The Council considered strawman stock complex alternatives for six species groups (nearshore rockfish, shelf rockfish, slope rockfish, flatfish, elasmobranchs, and roundfish) at the April 2013 meeting (see [Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 1](#)). The Council decided to maintain consideration of these alternatives and prioritize analysis of the alternatives for slope rockfish, elasmobranchs, and roundfish. They also recommended the addition of alternatives as deemed informative by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Council staff. Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 1 provides a description of the alternatives presented in April with the addition of another alternative for the slope rockfish complexes and analysis not presented in April. The GMT also provides additional analysis in Agenda Item F.8.b, GMT Report.

The Council task at this meeting is to adopt preliminary preferred alternatives for each species group for public review, so as to enable a decision on final preferred alternatives for stock complexes at the September meeting. Accomplishing this will facilitate a more orderly process for deciding 2015-2016 harvest specifications, which is slated to start in September. The Council should consider Scientific and Statistical Committee advice on the analyses presented in Attachment 1 and the GMT Report, as well as the recommendations of the GMT, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, and public before taking action on this item.

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt preliminary preferred alternatives for restructuring stock complexes for public review.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 1: Considerations for Restructuring West Coast Groundfish Stock Complexes: Preliminary Alternatives and Analyses.
2. Agenda Item F.8.b, GMT Report: Groundfish Management Team Report on Methods and Results That May Be Used to Evaluate Alternatives for Stock Complex Reorganization.
3. Agenda Item F.8.b, ODFW Report: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on the Oregon Commercial Sampling Program and Potential Changes to Species Complexes.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary Stock Complex Aggregations for Public Review

John DeVore

PFMC  
05/31/13