

## 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.

Six groundfish species (aurora rockfish, rougheye rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, longspine thornyhead, cowcod, and Pacific sanddab) were assessed with full assessments, which were reviewed in stock assessment review (STAR) panels this summer. The executive summaries of these assessments are provided in the briefing book and **the assessments in their entirety are available on the September 2013 briefing book CD and website (electronic only)**. The STAR panel reports for these assessments are also provided in the briefing book.

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

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt those stock assessments recommended by the SSC.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 1: Stock Assessment of Aurora Rockfish in 2013 (full stock assessment available electronically only).
2. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 2: Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report for Aurora Rockfish.
3. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 3: The Status of Rougheye Rockfish (*Sebastes aleutianus*) and Blackspotted Rockfish (*S. melanostictus*) as a Complex Along the U.S. West Coast in 2013 (full stock assessment available electronically only).
4. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 4: Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report for Rougheye (and Blackspotted) Rockfish.
5. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 5: Stock Assessment of Shortspine Thornyhead in 2013 (full stock assessment available electronically only).
6. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 6: Shortspine Thornyhead Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
7. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 7: Stock Assessment and Status of Longspine Thornyhead (*Sebastolobus altivelis*) off California, Oregon and Washington in 2013 (full stock assessment available electronically only).

8. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 8: Longspine Thornyhead Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
9. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 9: Status and Productivity of Cowcod, *Sebastes levis*, in the Southern California Bight, 2013 (full stock assessment available electronically only).
10. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 10: Cowcod Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
11. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 11: Status of the U.S. Pacific Sanddab Resource in 2013 (full stock assessment available electronically only).
12. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 12: Pacific Sanddab Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.

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 Stock Assessments for Rougheye, Aurora, Shortspine Thornyhead, Longspine Thornyhead, and Cowcod Rockfishes, and Pacific Sanddab

PFMC  
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