

## SCIENCE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE NEXT GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT CYCLE

This year is considered the “on-year” for intensive science activities as new groundfish stock assessments and rebuilding analyses are formally approved for fishery management decision-making for groundfish fisheries in 2015 and beyond. While it is not entirely accurate to characterize the biennial management cycle in terms of an “on-year” and “off-year” for science, it is correct to distinguish the year in which stock assessments are conducted (the “on year”) and the year other science activities are planned to prepare for the following assessment cycle and to resolve scientific issues that play a significant role in groundfish decision-making.

There are many activities that should be considered for “off-year” science improvements. Some of these activities may be planned and sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) fisheries science centers; some activities may be planned and sponsored by the Council or the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee; and some activities have been recommended by Stock Assessment Review Panels this year (Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 1).

The Council should consider the proposals and advice of the NMFS fisheries science centers, Council advisory bodies, other agencies, and the general public regarding off-year science improvements, and plan and prioritize science activities for 2014.

### **Council Action:**

#### **1. Prioritize and Plan Science Activities for 2014.**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.4.a, Attachment 1: STAR Panel Recommendations for Off-year Science Improvements.

#### **Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Northwest Fisheries Science Center Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Prioritize and Plan for 2014 Science Improvements

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