

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

Under this agenda item, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the Groundfish Management Team's (GMT's) concerns regarding rebuilding analyses and, more generally, the tentative list of the 2012 Council science workshops and SSC subcommittee meetings, reflecting the September 2011 Council decisions.

Mr. Corey Niles (WDFW, GMT) summarized the key points in *Suggested Issues and Questions on Rebuilding for the SSC* (Agenda Item J.4.b, GMT Report). Several other GMT members also participated in the ensuing discussion with the SSC. A strategy for addressing the GMT issues was agreed.

1. The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will determine which of the GMT issues/questions are scientifically relevant – many of the GMT points address policy issues that are the purview of the Council rather than the SSC.
2. The relevant science issues/questions will be addressed by augmenting the *Terms of Reference for Rebuilding Analyses* (TOR), as appropriate. Other modifications to the TOR – based on the "Post Mortem" review of the 2011 stock assessment process – will also be incorporated into the TOR revision.
3. A draft of the revised TOR will be reviewed during a one-day meeting among members of the GMT and the SSC Economics and Groundfish Subcommittees to be held immediately prior the SSC meeting in March or April 2012. The draft TOR will then be further revised based on points agreed at this meeting.
4. The full SSC will then review the draft the following day, and submit the final revised TOR to the Council for approval.

Mr. Mike Burner (Council staff) presented a tentative list of the 2012 Council science workshops and SSC subcommittee meetings. The SSC generally concurs that items on the list are important and can – for the most part – be completed during 2012, but offers the following comments and caveats.

1. For both the assessment process review ("Post Mortem") and the transboundary stocks issue, it would be mutually beneficial and cost-effective to consider the CPS stocks as well as groundfish.
2. For the Coastal Pelagic Species Methodology Review (to consider incorporating the Canadian trawl survey into the Pacific sardine stock assessment), a meeting in April or May 2012 is preferable to the current tentative scheduling during January or February.
3. Regarding a workshop on assessing the socio-economic impacts of ecosystem-based management, the goals and objectives are somewhat unclear. The SSC is willing to work with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region (the principal proponent for this workshop) in formulating objectives. Further planning for this workshop should await the development of terms of reference.
4. A workshop on reference points (including B_0) and alternative harvest control rules is desirable but would require a substantial amount of preparatory research to be successful.

The workload involved here is likely the greatest of all the workshops proposed for 2012. Firm commitments from the NMFS Science Centers and/or State agencies are most critical for this workshop.

5. A workshop on transboundary stocks in 2012 may be premature. During the coming year, it may be more fruitful to initiate contacts with the appropriate scientists and fishery managers from Canada (for groundfish) and Mexico (for CPS) with the goal of conducting workshops or perhaps joint assessments in the ensuing years.
6. Although the Washington catch reconstruction will not be completed in time for a review in 2012, the methods that will be used for the catch reconstruction could be reviewed in 2012, e.g. methods for estimating the species compositions, the variance of the catch estimates, etc. Such a methods review would benefit the Oregon and California catch reconstructions as well. The topic could be taken up as an SSC agenda item in April 2012, and may lead to a recommendation for a follow-up workshop later in the year.

Although not covered in the tentative list of the 2012 Council science workshops and SSC subcommittee meetings, there is a need to review the socio-economic models used in the management process. While it is not possible to review all of the models used in socio-economic analyses, four models with the highest priority for review were identified by the SSC in September 2011: (i) California recreational model, (ii) nearshore fixed gear model, (iii) non-nearshore fixed gear model, and (iv) revisions to the IO-PAC model. Rather than holding a workshop to review these models, the relevant models could instead be considered in a series of one-day SSC Economic Subcommittee meetings, held immediately prior to the regularly scheduled SSC meetings in 2012.

The SSC reviewed a revised estimate of F_{MSY} for Pacific sardine at this meeting (Agenda Item F.2), and recommended convening a workshop during 2012 to design a simulation analysis that will re-evaluate the sardine harvest control rule and the estimation of F_{MSY} .

Finally, for all potential 2012 workshops and subcommittee meetings, successful outcomes are likely only if sufficient work can be completed prior to the respective meeting dates. While there is ongoing research that could be reviewed for some of the proposed workshops (e.g. Data-Poor Species Assessment), others appear – at least presently – to lack the necessary developmental work, e.g. Reference Points (B_0) Workshop II. It may be advisable to schedule workshops during 2012 only if the NMFS Science Centers and/or State agencies are willing to commit the resources needed to carry out the requisite preparatory work.

SSC Notes

Future socio-economic model reviews would cover additional models: (a) the Oregon recreational model; (b) the Washington recreational model; (c) the limited entry fixed gear sablefish daily trip limit model north of 360 N. latitude (d) the open access daily trip limit (DTL) sablefish north and south of 360 N. latitude; (e) the commercial harvest projections to port regions; (f) the trawl rationalization model (which will be developed this year by the GMT); (g) the community vulnerability analysis; (h) the NWFSC's new vessel financial profile model; and (i) the economic data collection program for catch shares.

PFMC
11/4/11

Proposed Workshops and SSC Subcommittee Meetings for 2012
Tentative – Depended on funding, dates subject to change

Workshop/Meeting	Potential Dates	Tentative Location	SSC Reps.	Additional Reviewers
Groundfish/CPS Assessment Process Review (Post Mortem)	First Week of Dec. <u>2011</u>	Teleconference/Webinar	2011 STAR Panel Participants.	<i>2011 CIE participation</i>
Acoustic ROV survey for Rockfishes	Early Feb	La Jolla	Dorn, Punt	<i>2 CIE: TBD</i>
CPS Methodology Review(tentative)	April or May	LaJolla	Chair: Punt Hamel	CIE: TBD
Assessing Socioeconomic Impacts in Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management	First Qtr 2012	Seattle	Econ and EBM Subctes.?	
Data Poor Species Assessment	Late April or Early May	Seattle or Santa Cruz	Dorn, Punt, Conser	CIE: TBD
Reference Points (Bzero) Workshop II	Summer/Fall	Portland	GF Subcte?	CIE 1:
Transboundary Stocks	TBD	?	?	TBD
Groundfish Historic Catch Reconstructions	NMFS Rpt. at Council Mtgs April SSC Mtg	Council Meetings	None	None
Pacific Sardine Updated Assess. Review	Late-Sept or Early Oct	Portland	CPS Subcte. Punt	TBD
Salmon Methodology Review	Early-October	Portland	Salmon Subcte.	None
Clarification on the Conservation Performance of Rebuilding Plans	March 30 SSC Subcommittee/GMT Meeting	Discuss under J4 at Nov 2011 SSC mtg	GF/Econ Subctes & GMT	None
Groundfish Impact and Economic Model Reviews	Held the day before 2012 SSC sessions	Council Meetings	GF/Econ Subctes & GMT	None

