

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the proposed Council Operating Procedure (COP) to formalize the process and schedule for methodology reviews ([Agenda Item J.6.a., Attachment 1, November 2014](#)), received an overview from Mr. John DeVore, and offers the following.

The methodology review timeline proposed in the COP essentially follows what the GMT and Scientific and Statistical Subcommittee (SSC) did during the recent biennial harvest specifications and management measures process. While we managed to complete our methodology reviews through an ad hoc approach, we see value in formalizing the process through a COP to avoid confusion by outlining the expectations so all parties are aware.

The bulk of the methodology review matters seem to fall within the proposed schedule, however, we think there should be some flexibility to address emerging issues that arise outside of this schedule. These types of issues often come up over the winter (e.g., after the November Council meeting in odd years) as the GMT is in the process of using catch projection models to analyze potential management measures for projected impacts. **The GMT recommends the COP also provide the opportunity for GMT and SSC interactions outside the intended schedule, if need arises.**

The GMT also reviewed the proposed COP in terms of how the methodology review timeline fits with the biennial management cycle and specifically with regard to GMT responsibilities and data needs relative to the groundfish impact analysis conducted during the biennial harvest specifications and management measures. We considered the availability of data reports such as the Groundfish Mortality Report and the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) model deliveries (e.g., nearshore and non-nearshore models) relative to the schedule. The GMT typically receives the Groundfish Mortality Report in November and the nearshore and non-nearshore models from the WCGOP in January for use during the current year. The GMT did not identify any new challenges with regard to data delivery schedules and the proposed COP.

The proposed COP describes that reviews of methodologies for abundance and harvest projection, exempted fishing permits and conservation objectives would fall under this COP. The GMT recommends expanding the scope of models reviewed to include impact models other than those designed for catch projection. **The GMT recommends the first sentence in the purpose statement be changed to “To establish procedures for the review and Council approval of groundfish impact analyses, utilizing the SSC and the GMT.”** This change is recommended to reflect that the workload includes both groundfish projection models and other analyses to inform the impact analysis. For example, for 2015-2016, the GMT analyzed the probability of exceeding the spiny dogfish annual catch limit, this analysis was improved through SSC input on the methodology.

The GMT also notes that the Purpose statement in the draft COP mentions that the review of current and proposed methodologies would include those for Experimental Fishing Permits

(EFPs) but those are already covered in COP 19. **The GMT recommends removing EFPs from the Purpose statement.**

PFMC  
11/18/14