

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the draft Council Operating Procedure (COP) 25 for Methodology Reviews for groundfish (Agenda item J.6.a, Attachment 1). The draft COP describes a process to begin in September and November during even years (2016, 2018 ...) to review methods associated with deciding new groundfish harvest specifications and would conclude in September of odd years. The SSC recommends that a separate review process be established in the COP with a different timetable for methods used in stock assessments. This process would begin in September of odd years (2015, 2017 ...). The reviews would be scheduled during even years and would need to be completed at least by March of odd years so methods would be available for use in stock assessment.

In planning methodology reviews, the SSC will consider what type of review is most appropriate. Reviews can range from reviews by the SSC, reviews by the SSC groundfish and economics subcommittees, and finally to formal reviews conducted under the Terms of Reference (TOR) for methodology reviews where a panel of Center for Independent Experts (CIE) reviewers, outside experts, and SSC members conduct the review. Review with involvement of external reviewers is appropriate for methods that could have a strong impact on Council-managed fisheries or requires particular knowledge to evaluate new methodologies. It is the responsibility of the SSC to recommend to the Council the type of review that is needed.

The last paragraph of the draft COP should clarify that the SSC is responsible for determining whether the methodology is acceptable for use in stock assessments and in analysis of harvest specifications, and then forwarding its recommendations to the Council.

PFMC  
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