

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON REBUILDING PLAN STATUS REPORT

Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses

At the March 2001 meeting, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) completed the 3rd draft of the Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses, which was circulated to members of the Groundfish Management Team, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, and other Council entities over the last month. The Terms of Reference was also distributed to 19 West Coast groundfish stock analysts for comment. The SSC reviewed all comments that were received and revised the Terms of Reference accordingly (4th draft).

Widow Rockfish

The SSC reviewed the most recent rebuilding analysis for widow rockfish (Exhibit F.7, Attachment 6). The Council should note that this analysis differs from the rebuilding analysis in the 2000 widow stock assessment (Williams *et al.* 2000) in which recruitment values for the stock projections were erroneously twice what they should have been. As a result, the rebuilding calculations in the current report present a more realistic view of the future.

The SSC would like to highlight the following points about the new analysis:

- T_{max} (time to rebuild under no fishing) is estimated to be 34 years under the default option for stock projection.
- Rebuilding projections are made by incorporating observed catches through the year 2000 and the 2,300 mt optimum yield (OY) for 2001.
- If the Council follows the pattern of selecting a harvest rate which gives a 60% probability of rebuilding to $B_{40\%}$ by T_{max} , then $OY_{2002} = 944$ mt.
- If rebuilding takes place on schedule, then indications are that the rebuilt stock will be able to sustain an annual harvest of about 3,900 mt. This corresponds to a fishing mortality rate that is less than $F_{50\%}$.

Canary Rockfish

The SSC received the new canary rockfish rebuilding plan in its supplemental briefing materials but, due to its length and late arrival, was unable to provide a comprehensive review at this meeting. However, the rebuilding analysis that is included in the plan is apparently unchanged from that already endorsed by the SSC. The SSC groundfish subcommittee will review the document and will provide Council staff with whatever comments the subcommittee has in the near future.

PFMC
04/04/01