

Proposed Species List for Assessments in 2002

The proposed list of species to be assessed in 2002 is:

Whiting (NWFSC lead w/Canadians)
Cabezon (CDFG lead)
Bocaccio (SWFSC lead)
(or Phase 2 of Data-poor Method Development) (SWFSC/NWFSC)

Rationale:

Cabezon. CDFG staff have indicated that they intend to assess cabezon in 2002. Due to concerns about the status of the population, cabezon (off California) had been on the list of species to be assessed in 2001 but workload pressures precluded it from being done.

Whiting. A whiting acoustic/trawl survey is being conducted this summer and a joint Can/US stock assessment team plans to complete a whiting assessment for joint review in late winter 2002.

Bocaccio (or Phase 2 of Data-Poor Method Development). A status review of bocaccio is being conducted for evaluation of extinction risk under ESA and it is expected that a stock assessment may be conducted as part of the status review. Alternatively, progress on the new assessment method for data-poor species currently being developed may continue and be completed for review.

The proposed list of species is shorter than usual because substantial work is underway in evaluating historical fishery and survey data, which may have significant impacts on assessment results. This work is described in items A through D below.

A. Historical triennial survey results for shelf species are under substantial review/revision. Stock assessments for most shelf species are highly sensitive to changes in triennial survey results.

1) High frequency of "water hauls" in early surveys. For many species, especially flatfishes, assessments based on revised results are likely to show that their abundances are lower than current estimates.

2) Potential re-stratification of survey data based on new information about habitat distribution, untrawlable areas and fish-habitat associations. The results of re-stratification are not known.

B. New estimates of foreign catch composition are under review. A very thorough compilation of information on the historical foreign catches off the west coast has just been completed and is under review. In the past, individual assessment authors developed estimates of the foreign catch of a particular species and this has sometimes resulted in inconsistent and incompatible estimates when all species are considered. For some species, the new catch estimates are substantially different from estimates used in past assessments and may significantly affect abundance estimates.

C. New estimates of groundfish trawl discard from the Enhanced Data Collection Program (ECDP) may significantly affect abundance estimates. Discard rates for shelf and slope species are being estimated this summer and fall from the ECDP data collected during the late 1990s.

D. An additional year of data will be available from the 2001 triennial shelf survey. Assessments of most shelf species are tuned to the survey results and new data for 2001 will provide updated abundance estimates.

We expect to complete these retrospective analyses, as well as the analyses of 2001 survey results, during the coming year. The stock assessments and STAR panel process must be completed earlier than in the past, by April rather than July. Thus, it is not feasible to accomplish all the new analyses of survey and fishery data in time for additional assessments in 2002. Alternatively, if additional species were to be assessed in

2002, it is likely that those species would need to be assessed again soon thereafter, to incorporate the delayed analyses of historical survey and fishery data (delayed in order to do these assessments in 2002).

However, we do expect to complete these analyses during 2002 and to propose a much larger list of species for assessment and review in 2003. As an indication of the potential future assessment schedule, a table showing the species, the most recent year they were assessed, and a potential schedule of assessments through 2010 follows.

Table 1. Potential Schedule of Assessments and Rebuilding Analyses (Annual Assessment Cycle).

Species	Assess	Year								
		02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Arrowtooth	1993		X			X			X	
Dover sole	2001			X			X			X
English sole	1993		X			X			X	
Petrale sole	1999			X			X			X
Bank	2000				X			X		
Black	2001				X			X		
Blackgill	1998				X		X			X
Bocaccio*	1999	X			X			X		
Canary*	1999		X			X			X	
Chilipepper	1998		X			X			X	
Cowcod*	1999			X				X		
Darkblotched*	2000		X			X			X	
Longspine	1998			X				X		
POP*	2000		X			X			X	
Shortbelly	1989				X					
Shortspine	2001			X			X			X
Widow*	2000		X			X			X	
Yelloweye	2001				X			X		
Yellowtail	2000			X			X			X
Cabezon	delayed	X					X			
Lingcod*	2000		X			X		X	R	
Sablefish	2001			X			X			X
Whiting	2000	X		X		X		X		X
No. New Species					2		1		1	1
Other Info.		02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Assessment Capacity-annual		8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Number of Assessments		3	8	8	8	9	8	8	8	8
Shelf Survey		?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* = overfished species

R= Rebuilt (required)

Assessment Capacity is an assumed number (8) of assessments or rebuilding analyses that the combined resources of the NWFSC, SWFSC, and states can complete in a year. This is based on the existing complement of assessment scientists.

