

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2002

Ms. Cyreis Schmitt (National Marine Fisheries Service) presented an overview of the proposed stock assessment process for the 2002 cycle. Only three assessment projects were selected – whiting, cabezon, and either bocaccio or continued development of methods for assessing data poor species. The proposed list is short because of the substantial ongoing review of historical fishery and survey data, a review which may affect future stock assessments. Changes include:

- Adjustments to historical triennial survey data by taking account of "water hauls."
- Potential restratification of survey data based on new habitat information.
- Revised estimates of historical foreign catch.
- New estimates of groundfish trawl discard rates.

In response to last year's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) request for a longer stock assessment planning horizon, NMFS developed a draft proposal for assessments and rebuilding analyses for the 2002 through 2010 cycles. The SSC suggests the following changes to that proposal:

- Conduct yellowtail rockfish assessments on a 3-year cycle. The next assessment would be in the 2003 rather than the 2004 cycle.
- Conduct a canary rockfish assessment in the 2002 cycle, contingent on having age data from the 2001 triennial survey in time to meet the earlier stock assessment schedule.

PFMC  
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