

2002 STOCK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Situation: At the June Council meeting, the following species were proposed to be assessed next year: bocaccio, cabezon, and whiting. An alternative task to the bocaccio assessment was continued development of methods for assessing data poor species. The species-to-be-assessed list was shorter than usual in order to evaluate historical fishery and trawl survey data in 2002, which may have significant impacts on survey results. The Scientific and Statistical Committee and many Council members suggested that a canary rockfish assessment be conducted in 2002 rather than 2003. This recommendation was contingent on timely age data from the 2001 trawl survey.

Since the June meeting, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to conduct the canary rockfish stock assessment in 2002 and add this stock to the list. The black rockfish assessment that was conducted this year was retracted by the assessment authors after discovering inaccurate input data. Discussions are underway to potentially reassess black rockfish next year. Ms. Cyreis Schmitt, NMFS Stock Assessment Coordinator, will update the Council on stock assessment plans for 2002 and discuss issues pertinent to the stock assessment schedule. At this meeting, the Council should provide any additional guidance on the schedule and priorities for assessing groundfish stocks in 2002.

Council Task: Discussion and guidance for 2002 stock assessments.

Reference Materials: None.

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

This agenda item is consistent with GFSP goals for science, data collection, monitoring, and analysis (Sec. II.B).

PFMC
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