

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON  
UPDATE ON REVISION OF AMENDMENT 12 - REBUILDING PLANS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed and discussed "Some Issues Related to Conducting Rebuilding Analyses for Overfished Groundfish Resources" by Dr. Andre Punt (Exhibit F.3, Supplemental Attachment 1, March 2002), which describes the effect of Monte Carlo uncertainty on rebuilding projections of overfished groundfish stocks. In addition, the effect of a computer coding error on projections of the 2002 optimum yield (OY) of widow rockfish is documented and described. Based upon that discussion, the SSC has the following comments and recommendations regarding groundfish rebuilding projections:

- Rebuilding analyses should consider the effect of Monte Carlo sample size (N) on the variance of rebuilding projections and should adopt a value for final projections that reduces the variance to an acceptable level (e.g.,  $N \geq 1,000$ ). The SSC will consider modification of the Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses to reflect this recommendation.
- The 2002 OY for widow rockfish is probably slightly underestimated in the existing rebuilding analysis. An effort should be made to update the OY so the pending rebuilding plan amendment will include the best available scientific information. For completeness, rebuilding projections for the other overfished stocks should be checked to insure results are unaffected by the computer coding error, although no effect is anticipated.
- The Council should expect numeric details of rebuilding plans to change over time, whether due to technical errors or revised rebuilding analyses arising from updated stock assessments. The SSC recognizes that rebuilding plans must be implemented as fishery management plan (FMP) amendments. In order to streamline the amendment process, it may be desirable, to the extent legally possible, to minimize the use of hard numbers in rebuilding plans as they are described in FMP amendments.