

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
GROUNDFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2003

Dr. Elizabeth Clarke of the National Marine Fisheries Services presented a prioritized list to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) of species that are proposed for stock assessments in 2003 (Exhibit C.10, Supplemental Attachment 1). Because of workload concerns, the SSC recommends conducting expedited assessments when possible for species on the draft list:

1. Pacific whiting will require a full assessment.
2. Lingcod may be eligible for an expedited assessment.
3. Pacific ocean perch may be eligible for an expedited assessment.
4. Darkblotched rockfish may be eligible for an expedited assessment.
5. Bocaccio would likely require a full assessment to include discard information that will become available this year.
6. Widow rockfish may be eligible for an expedited assessment.
7. Cabezon would be a new assessment.
8. Yellowtail rockfish may be eligible for an expedited assessment.
9. Yelloweye rockfish will have new data, from submersibles and other sources, available in 2003 with a full assessment planned for 2004.

In addition, the SSC recommends that cowcod rockfish be considered for an assessment in 2003. The SSC suggests that as soon as possible:

- the most recent assessments for the stocks listed above be reviewed,
- stock assessment authors for 2003 be identified,
- decisions be made whether each stock is eligible for an expedited or full review,
- the number of stock assessment review (STAR) Panels required during 2003 be determined.

The SSC notes that groundfish STAR Panels will need to be coordinated with those for coastal pelagics. The SSC also notes a review of the 2002 STAR process has not been conducted, but anticipates there may be an opportunity for this review in November 2002.

PFMC

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