

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
UPDATE ON AMENDMENT 16 – REBUILDING PLANS

Mr. Kit Dahl updated the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the current status of Amendment 16, which incorporates rebuilding plans into the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP). Three options addressing "The Form and Required Elements of Rebuilding Plans" were advanced from the June Council meeting (options 1a, 1b, and 1c). Options 1b and 1c are inflexible as to accommodating new science or new data and may require significant administrative effort to implement, because they require numerical values for specified rebuilding parameters. The SSC emphasizes that the Council should expect numerical details of rebuilding plans (e.g., B_{MSY} or B_0) to change over time – whether due to improved estimates of these parameters from updated stock assessments, the development of new models, or due to technical errors that were not discovered in the previous stock assessment review. For example, the recent changes to the estimate of the 1999 year class for bocaccio and the biomass estimate for yelloweye rockfish have led to changes to virtually all of the biological rebuilding parameters. The use of hard numbers in the rebuilding amendment should be minimized in order to avoid the need to repeatedly amend the FMP with each stock assessment cycle. The SSC suggests that consideration be given to specifying only the formulae or algorithms for the biological parameters that govern the rebuilding process in the FMP amendment.

PFMC
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