

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

Dr. Rick Methot briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the working list of species planned for stock assessment review in 2003. The list is similar to that considered in June, with the omission of yelloweye rockfish, which was already fully reviewed in August 2002. Species identified for full assessment include whiting, lingcod, bocaccio, cabezon, and black rockfish. Updated assessments are planned for Pacific ocean perch (POP), darkblotched, widow, cowcod, and yellowtail rockfish. Dr. Ralston commented that Dr. Xi He would be willing and able to conduct a full assessment of widow rockfish rather than an update. Dr. Methot noted that lead authors have yet to be identified for the lingcod, cabezon, and cowcod assessments. The cabezon assessment will be new, so the authors will need more lead time than other assessment teams if data are to be gathered and a new assessment model is to be developed.

The current list of groundfish assessment candidates is an ambitious one, even given the opportunity for holding expedited reviews. The longer list is a direct outcome of the multi-year management process, and may present challenges in finding an adequate number of assessment authors and independent experts for review. In the event that assessment authors cannot be identified, the long-term management consequences of postponement should be considered.

The SSC questions the practicality of holding four concurrent expedited reviews within a two-day panel. All assessments, full or expedited, can present unexpected problems and each review panel will be unique in composition and perspectives. It may be wise to have contingency plans for assessments which cannot be resolved in the expedited review process.

PFMC  
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