

STOCK ASSESSMENT REVIEW (STAR) PANEL PROCESS –  
REVIEW OF 2002 AND PLANNING FOR 2003

This year's groundfish stock assessment and review process was conducted under the terms of reference in Attachment 1. Assessments were coordinated by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) was tasked to resolve any disagreements among the Stock Assessment (STAT) Team, the STAR Panel, and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT). A new process was initiated this year with the advent of expedited assessment updates where new information is added to update a previous assessment without modifying model structure or fundamental assumptions. Such an assessment receives SSC review, but not the rigorous review of a STAR Panel. The sablefish stock north of Pt. Conception received the first expedited assessment update.

In September, the Council adopted a prioritized list of groundfish species for assessments in 2003 (Attachment 2). Priorities for stock assessment were based on the relevance to current management measure constraints, length of time since the last assessment, the availability of personnel to do the assessment, and the risk to the stock if an assessment were delayed.

The SSC, GMT, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), and interested persons will meet Tuesday, October 29, at 10 a.m. to review the 2002 stock assessment process and plan for the 2003 process. The Council will receive the advice of the SSC, GMT, GAP and public participants on planning the STAR process for next year. The Council should consider these comments and provide relevant guidance on the final planning matters.

**Council Task:**

**1. Provide guidance on the stock assessment review process for 2003.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process During 2002 (Exhibit G.4, Attachment 1).
2. Letter from Dr. McIsaac to Dr. Varanasi on stock assessment priorities for 2003 (Exhibit G.4, Attachment 2).

**Agenda Order:**

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Guidance

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**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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