

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
STATUS OF THE GROUND FISH ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) heard a presentation from Mr. Steve Copps, Dr. Graeme Parkes, and Ms. Allison Bailey who gave an overview of methodologies being developed to analyze West Coast groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH).

The SSC was impressed by the scope of the work in progress; however, due to time limitations at this meeting, the SSC was not able to delve into the details of the analyses to be performed. In order to provide useful advice, the SSC would like to schedule a longer, more in-depth discussion with the analytical team members to gain a better understanding of the methodologies to be employed.

During the short time available for discussion, the SSC raised the following points.

1. When using the NMFS triennial trawl survey data, the analysis should incorporate the latest updates, which reflect adjustments for "water hauls."
2. In the construction of fishing sensitivity indices, factors such as fishing strategies and gear type interactions should be considered.
3. When employing expert opinions to evaluate fishing effort, the analysis should strive to ensure consistency and should be representative on a coastwide basis.

PFMC  
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