

GROUND FISH STOCK ASSESSMENT REVIEW PROCESS FOR 2005 THROUGH 2006

Situation: In November 2002, the Council approved a new multi-year process for implementing groundfish specifications and management measures. Groundfish management specifications and regulations will be adopted and implemented biennially with the first biennial management period being 2005 through 2006. As part of this new process, the Council will decide specifications and management measures during the course of three meetings beginning this November and culminating in final decisions in June 2004. Therefore, any new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses must be conducted and reviewed by a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel prior to the November 2003 Council meeting if they are to be used for 2005-2006 groundfish management.

This agenda affords the Council, its advisory bodies, and NMFS the opportunity to shape the details of how and when new stock assessments should be conducted and reviewed for the 2005-2006 management period. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is expected to recommend a new Terms of Reference for the groundfish stock assessment and review process for 2005-2006 management at this meeting. The Council is tasked with approving the process, including the details of which stocks are to be assessed and when STAR Panel reviews are to occur, as well as formally adopting a new STAR Terms of Reference.

Council Action:

1. **Approve a STAR process for use in the 2005-2006 management cycle.**
2. **Approve Terms of Reference for the 2005-2006 STAR process.**

Reference Materials:

1. Draft Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process During 2005-2006 (Exhibit B.10, Attachment 1).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. **Council Action**: Approve Process and Terms of Reference

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PFMC
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