

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
STOCK ASSESSMENT OF CANARY ROCKFISH

The most recent stock assessment of canary rockfish was conducted during 2002. Given the change to multi-year management and the current schedule for stock assessments, this assessment will be the most recent until the next assessment of canary rockfish is presented to the Council in November 2005. The 2002 assessment will form the scientific basis on which management arrangements for the 2005-2006 fishing season will be based. Moreover, conducting an assessment of canary rockfish in 2003-2004 would lead to the situation in which the results of an assessment are not available by the first of three meetings (November 2003) envisaged under the multi-year management process.

There are several potential new sources of data, so any new assessment of canary rockfish would necessarily be a "full" assessment, and hence, require a review by a Stock Assessment Review Panel. However, both the data from the Delta submersible and from the changed NMFS West Coast trawl survey could not be incorporated easily into a new assessment. This is because the information from the Delta submersible is only for a single year, and the methodology for including the data from the shelf component of NMFS survey in the assessment has yet to be developed. In addition, the survey index for this survey will only become available in January 2004, constraining the time any potential assessment author has to conduct an assessment for canary rockfish.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee concluded that accelerating the timing of the canary stock assessment will, therefore, be both resource and time consuming, possibly detrimental to the multi-year management process, and unlikely to provide a better assessment.

PFMC
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