

## SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE INPUT INTO NOAA FISHERIES CONSTITUENT SURVEY

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) identified three broad areas that we consider important to the quality and effectiveness of West Coast fishery management in the near future.

### Capacity Reduction

Capacity reduction is the highest priority for the West Coast groundfish fishery. If an aggressive groundfish capacity reduction program is implemented many of the problems facing the West Coast groundfish fishery could be reduced or eliminated. The fishing industry has taken the initiative on this issue but considerable support from the Council and NOAA Fisheries is needed to make this successful. Additional measures such as permit stacking and fishing quota programs may be necessary for long-term effective management of capacity.

### Data Collection

Given the intensity of current management and the high economic and social stakes of fishery closures, it is important to have high quality and consistent long-term data sets. Stock assessments, species rebuilding plans, by-catch estimates, and economic assessments all have specific data requirements. To address these needs, the SSC encourages NOAA Fisheries to conduct and expand fisheries sampling and fishery independent data collection. This applies to all species that are managed by the Council including groundfish, coastal pelagic species, salmon, and highly migratory species. The need for independent sampling is especially important for monitoring rebuilding of stocks that have severely restricted fisheries.

### Marine Reserves

Marine reserves are an important and contentious issue. There are differences and potential conflicts in the objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and National Marine Sanctuary Act. Lines of authority and responsibility among NOAA Fisheries, the Council, and the National Marine Sanctuary Program are not clear. Clarification of each agency's role is needed to facilitate communication and coordination.

PFMC  
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