

## STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANNING FOR 2007-08 MANAGEMENT

Situation: The Council has considered stock assessment planning for the 2007-2008 management period during the last two Council meetings. Dr. Elizabeth Clarke from the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) presented a detailed list of stocks for assessment as well as a tentative schedule of Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel meetings in March. The Council also received advice from the Scientific and Statistical Committee(SSC), Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), and Groundfish Management Team (GMT) regarding this list of stocks proposed for assessment and gave the following advice to the NWFSC:

- Don't assess the following underutilized stocks: arrowtooth flounder, chilipepper rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, bank rockfish, or shortbelly rockfish;
- Rank assessments as Low, Medium, or High priority;
- Allow flexibility to consider a full or updated assessment for yelloweye rockfish;
- Do a gopher rockfish assessment if there is adequate data;
- Do a kelp greenling assessment if there is adequate data;
- Consider doing a starry flounder assessment if there is enough data;
- Do a petrale sole assessment;
- Do a cabezon assessment based on the recommendation of the SSC;
- Advise which assessments can be full or update assessments;
- Advise as to the total number of full and update assessments that can be accommodated with workload constraints (the preliminary number was 22 or 23).

Dr. Clarke is expected to consider these recommendations and report back to the Council regarding the availability of data for those stocks the Council wanted to assessed in the upcoming cycle and answer any other questions the Council might have regarding the list of stocks for assessment and activities leading to final Council adoption in 2005. The Council task is to consider advice from Dr. Clarke, Council advisors, and the public before recommending a final plan for completing and reviewing stock assessments for use in 2007-2008.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt a final plan for completing and reviewing stock assessments for use in 2007-2008 groundfish fisheries.**

### **References:**

None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Stock Assessment Plan

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03/22/04