

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REVISION OF NATIONAL STANDARD 1

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received the “Report of the NMFS Standard 1 Guidelines Working Group” by Dr. Richard Methot. In general, the SSC is encouraged that the revised language to National Standard 1 guidelines responds to several concerns with the current language, such as:

- the 10-year rebuilding discontinuity has been removed;
- the term “overfished” has been replaced by “depleted” and the term Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) has been replaced with B_{lim} ;
- the specification of B_{lim} has been simplified; and
- it is now possible to apply Status Determination Criteria to assemblages, as well as individual stocks.

The SSC will work with Council staff to provide specific comments through the chair of the SSC within the next two weeks. Some areas of continuing concern include:

- the problem of defining “prevailing” environmental conditions when establishing biomass targets and limits;
- exceptions to the requirement that B_{lim} be determined, especially in situations where data are adequate to do so;
- classification of stocks as either “core” stocks or into stock “assemblages;”
- lack of clarity in the guidelines for determining progress towards rebuilding depleted stocks; and
- the extent to which the guidelines apply to short-lived species, such as salmon and squid.

PFMC
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