

OFF-YEAR SCIENCE IMPROVEMENTS REPORT

The combination of the new biennial management cycle in the groundfish management process and improvements in groundfish scientific capabilities has spawned an ambitious plan to assess about one-quarter of all the stocks in the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. In preparation for assessing 23 groundfish stocks next year, the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) have co-sponsored a number of workshops this year to resolve data and modeling issues. Dr. Elizabeth Clarke, director of the Fishery Resource Analysis and Monitoring Division of the NWFSC, will brief the Council on these workshops and improvements made in this “off-year” for conducting stock assessments and other important groundfish science initiatives. The Council task is to provide guidance to the NWFSC regarding the off-year science improvement process.

Council Task:

Provide guidance to the NWFSC regarding the off-year science improvement process.

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Northwest Science Center Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion and Guidance

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