

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR GROUND FISH REBUILDING PLAN REVIEW
AND STOCK ASSESSMENT REVIEW PANELS

The Council has annually considered updates to the Scientific and Statical Committee's (SSC's) Terms of Reference for developing and reviewing groundfish stock assessments. Now, with the multi-year management process in place, stock assessments will be conducted every other year. In 2005, 22 groundfish stock assessments are planned, which will require a significant overhaul of the Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review (STAR) Process (Agendum C.8.b, Attachment 1). Additionally, the Groundfish Management Team and the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Regional staff have requested complete estimation and reporting of all necessary management parameters and reference points in groundfish stock assessments. The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee has begun considering modifications to the Terms of Reference for the Groundfish STAR Process. The Council should consider recommended changes to this Terms of Reference and provide guidance to the SSC for finalizing this document.

The SSC's Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses was developed by the SSC in 2001 and adopted by the Council in April 2001 (Agendum C.8.b, Attachment 2). This Terms of Reference has guided authors of groundfish rebuilding analyses, which are critical for developing rebuilding plans for overfished groundfish stocks. Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Amendment 16-1, which set the process and standards by which the Council specifies rebuilding plans for overfished groundfish stocks, provided for the development of species-specific standards for determining when progress has been adequate for each rebuilding plan. The SSC, other advisors, and the Council should consider modifications to the SSC Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses to incorporate species-specific standards for rebuilding plan reviews. The Council task is to provide guidance to the SSC for finalizing this Terms of Reference.

Both Terms of Reference are scheduled for final Council adoption at the November 2004 meeting. Council guidance at this meeting will be an important step in developing complete Terms of Reference which will guide the development of scientific elements necessary for accomplishing Council groundfish management objectives.

Council Task:

- 1. Provide guidance on finalizing the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process Terms of Reference.**
- 2. Provide guidance on finalizing the SSC Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agendum C.8.b, Attachment 1: Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2005-2006.
2. Agendum C.8.b, Attachment 2: SSC Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses.
3. Agendum C.8.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Guidance on Finalizing Terms of Reference

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08/26/04