

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

The Council has annually considered updates to the Scientific and Statistical 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, 23 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 for 2005-2006 (Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 1). Additionally, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Region staff have requested complete estimation and reporting of all necessary management parameters and reference points in groundfish stock assessments. Initial review of this Terms of Reference occurred at the September Council meeting. The SSC and GMT statements detailing their recommendations from the September meeting are included as Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 2 and Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 3, respectively for this agendum. One of the Council tasks under this agendum is to adopt a final Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2005-2006.

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 (Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 4). 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 additions or 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 the Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses that will guide authors on how to incorporate formal rebuilding plan reviews in their rebuilding analyses. Additionally, the Council should resolve the schedule for final adoption of this Terms of Reference.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Adopt a final Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2005-2006.**
- 2. Provide Guidance to the SSC on Finalizing the Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 1: Draft Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2005-2006.

2. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 2: Supplemental SSC Report from the September 2004 meeting on Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Plan Review and Stock Assessment Review Panels.
3. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 3: Supplemental GMT Report from the September 2004 meeting on Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Plan Review and Stock Assessment Review Panels.
4. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 4: SSC Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. SSC Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Terms of Reference for STAR Panels

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