

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR GROUND FISH REBUILDING PLAN REVIEW

The Scientific and Statistical Committee's (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 F.3.a, Attachment 1). This Terms of Reference has guided authors of groundfish rebuilding analyses, which are critical for developing rebuilding plans for overfished groundfish stocks. Sections 4.5.3.3 through 4.5.3.6 of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) specify the process for development and approval of rebuilding plans, provisions for updating key rebuilding parameters, implementation of actions required under the rebuilding plan, and provisions for periodically reviewing rebuilding plans (Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 2). In section 4.5.3.6, the FMP states, "The Council, in consultation with the SSC and GMT, will determine on a case-by-case basis whether there has been a significant change in a parameter such that the chosen management target must be revised."

The first step in evaluating rebuilding plan progress is developing an analytical evaluation tool. The SSC is developing this analytical tool which will be described and incorporated in the Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses. The second step in evaluating rebuilding plan adequacy will occur when new rebuilding analyses are considered and approved through the Council process. It is expected that all new rebuilding analyses will be approved by the November 2005 Council meeting. This would be when the SSC, Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and Council will formally review affected rebuilding plans and determine on a case-by-case basis whether rebuilding/management targets need to be revised.

The Council first considered additions or modifications to the SSC Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses at their September 2004 meeting and again addressed the issue in November 2004. At that time, the SSC committed to working with the Council to develop the guidelines and tools for evaluating rebuilding status. They anticipated the tool would be Dr. Andre Punt's rebuilding population simulation program, the model endorsed by the SSC for conducting rebuilding analyses (Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 3). Since then, a group of stock assessment scientists, including some members of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee, met to discuss this project and have produced a draft issue paper with their recommendations (Agenda Item F.3.b, Attachment 1). The recommended protocols for evaluating rebuilding progress are further explored in Agenda Item F.3.b, Attachment 2.

The SSC will review these recommendations at the March meeting and consider endorsing these protocols. The Council task for this agenda item is to provide guidance to the SSC for finalizing the Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses and adopt this draft Terms of Reference for public review. The Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses is scheduled for final adoption at the April Council meeting.

Council Action:

Provide guidance to the SSC on finalizing the Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses and adopt a draft Terms of Reference for public review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 1: SSC Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses.
2. Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 2: Sections 4.5.3.3 – 4.5.3.6 of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.
3. Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 3: Punt, A. E., 2003, Evaluating the Efficacy of Managing West Coast Groundfish Resources Through Simulations, Fish. Bull. 101:860-873.
4. Agenda Item F.3.b, Attachment 1: Establishing Quantitative Criteria for Assessing Adequacy of Progress Towards Rebuilding Overfished West Coast Groundfish Stocks.
5. Agenda Item F.3.b, Attachment 2: Evaluating Alternative Rebuilding Revision Rules for Assessing Progress Towards Rebuilding of Overfished West Coast Groundfish.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. SSC Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt a Draft Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses for Public Review

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