

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
VERMILION ROCKFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT STATUS

At the March Council meeting, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed information provided by Dr. Alec MacCall summarizing previously unavailable 1970's California commercial passenger fishing vessel size composition data for vermilion rockfish. Dr. MacCall reported that these new data now make a conventional length-based assessment of vermilion rockfish feasible and are likely to produce results that can be used for fishery management. The SSC concurs and recommends that a full stock assessment be attempted.

For species not previously assessed, it is often not possible to know in advance if a full stock assessment will be feasible. Once a decision is made to conduct a stock assessment, the assessment should be developed to the extent possible and presented to the Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel for evaluation. Even analyses that do not result in a full stock assessment will produce a data summary useful for management and identify data gaps that need to be filled to develop a full assessment. The decision on whether or not the assessment is adequate for management should be made by the STAR Panel and, if necessary, the SSC.

PFMC  
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