

VERMILION ROCKFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT STATUS

Last year, the Council decided which groundfish species would be assessed this year in time to inform the 2007-2008 management decision-making process. Of the 23 stocks considered for assessment this year, vermilion rockfish was recommended to be a status report designed to explore the available data and their implications for management, but not a stock assessment. Since then, new data has surfaced that is now regarded by the assessment author, Dr. Alec MacCall, to be sufficient to complete a full assessment (Agenda Item B.1.a, Attachment 1). The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) considered these new data at their March meeting and are prepared to advise the Council on the feasibility of conducting a full assessment of the vermilion rockfish stock. Additionally in March, Dr. Elizabeth Clarke of the NMFS Northwest Fishery Science Center, informed the Council that a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel has already been scheduled to review the vermilion rockfish data report. She explained there would be no logistic complication if the STAR Panel were to review a full vermilion rockfish assessment rather than a data report.

The Council task at this meeting is to consider the advice of the SSC, the Council's other advisory bodies, and public comment before deciding whether to schedule a full assessment of vermilion rockfish this year.

Council Action:

Consider scheduling a full assessment of vermilion rockfish.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.1.a, Attachment 1: Reconsideration of the Feasibility of a Vermilion Rockfish Stock Assessment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Scheduling of Stock Assessment

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