

## STOCK ASSESSMENTS AND REBUILDING ANALYSES FOR 2007-2008 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

The Council process for setting groundfish harvest levels and other specifications depends on periodic assessments of the status of groundfish stocks and a report from an established assessment review body or, in the Council parlance, a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviews new assessments and STAR Panel reports, as well as new rebuilding analyses for depleted groundfish species, and recommends the data and analyses that should be used to set groundfish harvest levels and other specifications for the following biennial management period (see Agenda Item H.3).

At its September meeting, the Council adopted new stock assessments for English sole, starry flounder, gopher rockfish, cowcod, California scorpionfish, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, cabezon (California only), sablefish, Dover sole, shortspine thornyhead, longspine thornyhead, widow rockfish, bocaccio, blackgill rockfish, kelp greenling (Oregon only), yelloweye rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish (Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 1—**CD copy of assessments**). On the advice of the SSC and/or the respective STAR Panels, the Council deferred adoption of new assessments for petrale sole, canary rockfish, and lingcod pending further review at the September 26-30 STAR Panel and November SSC meetings. The September STAR Panel did approve these assessments (see Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 2, Supplemental Attachment 4, and Attachment 6) and the SSC will consider recommending these assessments for management use at this meeting.

New rebuilding analyses for bocaccio, canary rockfish, cowcod, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, widow rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish were also reviewed at the September STAR Panel (Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachments 8 through 15). The September STAR Panel did approve these rebuilding analyses (see Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 8) and the SSC will consider recommending these analyses for management use at this meeting. A lingcod rebuilding analysis was not prepared since the STAR Panel-approved assessment (Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 7) indicated the stock has rebuilt to above its target biomass.

The Council should consider the new assessments and STAR Panel reports, as well as the advice of the SSC, other advisory bodies, and the public before adopting the new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses for use in 2007-2008 groundfish management.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Approve New Stock Assessments for Petrale Sole, Canary Rockfish, and Lingcod for 2007-2008 Groundfish Fisheries.**
- 2. Approve New Rebuilding Analyses for Bocaccio, Canary Rockfish, Cowcod, Darkblotched Rockfish, Pacific Ocean Perch, Widow Rockfish, and Yelloweye Rockfish for 2007-2008 Groundfish Fisheries.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 1: *CD copy of assessments*, STAR Panel reports, and rebuilding analyses.
2. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 2: Petrale Sole, STAR Panel Report.
3. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 3: Executive summary of “Stock Assessment of Petrale Sole, 2004”.
4. Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental Attachment 4: Canary Rockfish, STAR Panel Report.
5. Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental Attachment 5: Executive summary of “Status of the U.S. canary rockfish resource in 2005”.
6. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 6: Lingcod, STAR Panel Report.
7. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 7: Executive summary of “Assessment of Lingcod (*Ophiodon elongatus*) for the Pacific Fishery Management Council in 2005”.
8. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 8: Rebuilding Analyses for Overfished Groundfish Stocks, STAR Panel Report.
9. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 9: Bocaccio Rebuilding Analysis for 2005.
10. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 10: Updated Rebuilding Analysis for Canary Rockfish Based on Stock Assessment in 2005.
11. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 11: Cowcod Rebuilding Analysis 2005: Analysis of the Progress Towards Rebuilding in the Southern California Bight.
12. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 12: Update of Darkblotched Rockfish (*Sebastes crameri*) Rebuilding Analyses.
13. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 13: Rebuilding Update for Pacific Ocean Perch.
14. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 14: Rebuilding Analysis for Widow Rockfish in 2005.
15. Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 15: Rebuilding Analysis for Yelloweye Rockfish for 2005.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. SSC Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Approve Remaining Stock Assessments and Rebuilding Analyses for 2007-2008 Groundfish Fisheries

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