

STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANNING FOR THE 2009-2010 FISHING SEASON

In March the Council adopted for public review a list of groundfish stocks to be assessed next year (Agenda Item F.3.b, Attachment 1), which will be used to decide the harvest specifications and management measures for 2009 and 2010 groundfish fisheries. As part of that decision, the Council announced that the yelloweye rockfish assessment, which is tentatively scheduled to be an updated assessment, may ultimately be scheduled as a full assessment. At this meeting, the Council should consider advice from the NMFS science centers, advisory bodies, and the public before deciding the list of groundfish stock assessments to be assessed next year.

Dr. Elizabeth Clarke, Division Director at the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), proposed a schedule of 2007 Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panels (Agenda Item F.3.b, Attachment 2) in her briefing to the Council. The Council is tasked to give guidance to the NWFSC on the proposed 2007 STAR Panel schedule after receiving advice from NMFS science centers, advisory bodies, and the public.

The Council also adopted for public review a draft stock assessment Terms of Reference (Agenda Item F.3.c, Attachment 1) with a request for focused input from the public and council advisory bodies on the concept of a more formal role for representatives from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) at future STAR Panels. Dr. Martin Dorn, the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee chair, is scheduled to report on the draft Stock Assessment Terms of Reference and may provide a new revised Terms of Reference as a supplemental attachment.

The Council is tasked at this meeting with final adoption of a list of groundfish stocks to be assessed next year, including full and updated assessments; a schedule of STAR Panels to review new full assessments (the Scientific and Statistical Committee will review updated assessments); and a Stock Assessment and Review Process Terms of Reference for 2007-2008.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt a Final List of Stocks To Be Assessed in 2007.**
- 2. Adopt or Provide Guidance on a Final 2007 Stock Assessment Review Schedule.**
- 3. Adopt a Final Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2007-2008.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3.b, Attachment 1: Possible schedule for West Coast groundfish assessments in 2007 and beyond.
2. Agenda Item F.3.b, Attachment 2: Proposed 2007 STAR Panel Schedule.
3. Agenda Item F.3.c, Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2007-2008.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Stock Assessment Option Update
- c. Final Stock Assessment Terms of Reference
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Terms of Reference, List of Stocks to be Assessed, and Stock Assessment Review Schedule

John DeVore
Elizabeth Clarke
Martin Dorn

PFMC
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