

## 2006 WEST COAST GROUND FISH STOCK ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS

Three workshops will be hosted by the NW Fisheries Center (NWFSC) during this off-year assessment cycle. The workshops include: 1) The Data and Modeling Workshop, 2) The Pre-recruit Survey Workshop co-hosted with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and 3) The NWFSC Bottom Trawl Survey Workshop. These workshops have been identified as being critical in support of the upcoming 2007 assessments.

The Data and Modeling workshop will be held August 8-10 in Seattle, Washington. The workshop will address a number of topics relating to the treatment of data in assessments and other modeling issues, including a review of the features and functionality of the SS2 modeling platform. Additional topics that are likely to be covered in this workshop include:

- A general review of available data sources for west coast groundfish (detailed reviews of data to be used in individual stock assessments are envisioned to occur during pre-assessment workshops in early 2007);
- Standardized methods for constructing age and length compositions and ageing-error matrices, and the treatment of sample-size issues;
- Dealing with uncertainty in parameter values (use of priors).

Organized in cooperation with the SW Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC), the Pre-recruit Survey workshop will be held September 13-15 in Santa Cruz, California to address issues relating to young-of-the-year groundfish surveys. The workshop will focus on:

- Review and finalization of protocols for an integrated, coastwide pre-recruit survey, to be conducted by the SWFSC and the NWFSC, in cooperation with the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative;
- Evaluation of methods for including existing pre-recruit survey data in groundfish stock assessments, based on several case studies;
- Evaluation of the usefulness of pre-recruit abundance indices in assessing the status of groundfish stocks.

The NWFSC Bottom Trawl Survey workshop will be held October 31-November 2 in Seattle, Washington. The workshop will address the integration of the NWFSC shelf-slope survey into groundfish assessments. The major topics to be covered in this workshop include:

- Review of data collected by the NWFSC survey;
- Discussion of methods for developing biomass estimates and summaries of biological data;
- Comparison of survey selectivity and catchability between the NWFSC and Alaska Fisheries Center (AFSC) triennial surveys, for a set of shelf species;
- Comparison of results from including these surveys as separate or continuous time series, for the same set of shelf species.

The three workshops are open to the public. For more information on the workshops or the 2007 west coast groundfish stock assessments, please contact Ms. Stacey Miller, Northwest Fisheries Science Center Stock Assessment Coordinator, at (206) 860-3480 or by email at [Stacey.Miller@noaa.gov](mailto:Stacey.Miller@noaa.gov).