

STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR 2009-2010 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 this information and makes a recommendation relative to the standards of 1) the best available science and 2) soundness for use in groundfish fishery management decision-making by the Council. The Council then approves the new assessments and relevant analyses used to set groundfish harvest levels and other specifications for the following biennial management period.

New full assessments for sablefish and longnose skate were recently prepared and reviewed by a STAR Panel. The executive summaries of these assessments and the associated STAR Panel reports are provided as Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachments 1-4. Additionally, members of the Groundfish Subcommittee of the SSC, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are scheduled to review five updated assessments during the weekend preceding the June Council meeting (see Ancillary Agenda A). The executive summaries of these five updated assessments are provided as Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachments 5-9 and **all the assessments in their entirety and STAR Panel reports under Council consideration at this meeting are included in the CD copy of meeting materials.**

A shortbelly rockfish assessment was done in 2005 and reviewed outside the Council process. It was published last year in a NOAA Technical Memorandum. The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee, GMT, and GAP will also review this assessment and the comments from last year's reviewers. Since there is no executive summary available for this assessment, only an electronic copy of the assessment and the reviewers' comments are available on the CD copy of meeting materials.

The Council should consider the new full and updated 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 for use in 2009-2010 groundfish management.

Council Action:

Approve stock assessments recommended by the SSC.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of "Status of the Sablefish Resource off the Continental U.S. Pacific Coast in 2007".
2. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 2: Sablefish STAR Panel Report.
3. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 3: Executive Summary of "Status of the Longnose Skate (*Raja rhina*) off the continental U.S. Pacific Coast in 2007.
4. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 4: Longnose Skate STAR Panel Report.
5. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 5: Executive Summary of "Updated U.S. English Sole Stock Assessment: Status of the Resource in 2007".

6. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 6: Executive Summary of “Status and Future Prospects for the Pacific Ocean Perch Resource in Waters off Washington and Oregon as Assessed in 2007”.
7. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 7: Executive Summary of “Status of the Widow Rockfish Resource in 2007: An Update”.
8. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 8: Executive Summary of “Status of Cowcod, *Sebastes levis*, in the Southern California Bight”.
9. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 9: Executive Summary of “Update to the Status of Yelloweye Rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) off the U.S. West Coast in 2007”.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. SSC Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Approve Stock Assessments

John DeVore
Bob Conrad

PFMC
05/25/07