

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT REAUTHORIZATION IMPLEMENTATION

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the draft revisions to Council Operating Procedures (COP) 4 and 12.

- COP 4 reflects changes recommended by the SSC in September 2007. The SSC requests one additional change, namely, deletion of the second sentence in the “Subcommittees” section of the COP (p. 5) pertaining to formation of a socioeconomic subcommittee. This sentence appears superfluous as the SSC already has a socioeconomic subcommittee and the COP gives the SSC general discretion to establish subcommittees as necessary. The SSC also notes that additional revisions to this COP may be required once guidance is received from the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding new provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- COP 12 specifies a five-year outlook for the Council’s Research and Data Needs, as well as a five-year revision cycle. The SSC notes that a five-year cycle is reasonable, given the pace of research progress, and that the COP also provides the flexibility of out-of-cycle changes as needed. As a minor change, the SSC suggests that, in the first bullet in the “Purpose” section, the phrase “including sections” be changed to “including separate sections”.