

STOCK ASSESSMENTS AND REBUILDING ANALYSES 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) the soundness of the scientific information relative to use in groundfish fishery management decision-making by the Council. The Council then approves the new assessments and relevant analyses for use in setting groundfish harvest levels and other specifications for the following biennial management period.

Two full assessments were recommended for a final “mop-up” STAR panel in the initial reviews by STAR panels and the SSC earlier this year. The southern black rockfish and blue rockfish assessments were subsequently reviewed at the “mop-up” STAR panel, which convened October 1-5 in Seattle, Washington. The executive summaries of these assessments and the associated STAR Panel reports are provided as Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachments 1-4. Additionally, draft rebuilding analyses for seven overfished rockfish species were reviewed at the “mop-up” STAR panel. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 5 is a memorandum sent to authors of rebuilding analyses and SSC Groundfish Subcommittee members regarding the requested runs for rebuilding analyses that was sent prior to the “mop-up” STAR panel. Rebuilding analyses for the seven overfished rockfish species with the requested runs are provided as Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachments 6-12. **All the assessments in their entirety, STAR Panel reports, and rebuilding analyses under Council consideration at this meeting are included in the CD copy of meeting materials.**

The Council should consider the new full assessments, STAR Panel reports, and new rebuilding analyses, as well as the advice of the SSC, other advisory bodies, and the public in deciding whether or not to adopt the new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses for use in 2009-2010 groundfish management.

Council Action:

Approve stock assessments and rebuilding analyses recommended by the SSC.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of “The Status of Black Rockfish off Oregon and California in 2007.”
2. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 2: Southern Black Rockfish STAR Panel Report.
3. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 3: Executive Summary of “Assessment of Blue Rockfish (*Sebastes mystinus*) in California.”
4. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 4: Blue Rockfish STAR Panel Report.

5. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 5: September 4, 2007 Memorandum Entitled, "Requested Rebuilding Analyses for Overfished Groundfish."
6. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 6: Bocaccio Rebuilding Analysis for 2007.
7. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 7: Rebuilding Analysis for Canary Rockfish Based on the 2007 Stock Assessment.
8. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 8: Cowcod Rebuilding Analysis.
9. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 9: 2007 Darkblotched Rockfish Rebuilding Analysis.
10. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 10: Rebuilding Update for Pacific Ocean Perch.
11. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 11: Rebuilding Analysis for Widow Rockfish in 2007 – An Update.
12. Agenda Item D.3.a, Attachment 12: Updated Rebuilding Analysis for Yelloweye Rockfish Based on the Stock Assessment Update in 2007.
13. Agenda Item D.3.c, SSC GF Subcommittee Report: SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Report on Rebuilding Analyses for Overfished Rockfish.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
- b. Agency and Tribal Comments
- c. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report Bob Conrad
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. Council Action: Approve Remaining Stock Assessments and Rebuilding Analyses

PFMC
10/17/07