

PART I OF STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR 2011-2012 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 petrale sole and splitnose rockfish 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, 2, 4, and 5. The petrale sole assessment is more pessimistic than the last one done in 2005. The stock is overfished according to the proxy biomass thresholds used for groundfish. However, the STAR Panel recommends consideration for managing petrale using the biomass thresholds estimated in the assessment, which would result in the stock being in the precautionary zone. The National Marine Service has requested explicit advice from the SSC on a management strategy for petrale sole in light of the new assessment results as specified in Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 3. The splitnose rockfish assessment is the first one done for this stock and the result is the stock is at a healthy level of abundance. While the STAR Panel recommends the assessment for determining the status of the splitnose stock, they are urging caution in using the assessment result for setting harvest specifications.

Members of the Groundfish Subcommittee of the SSC, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are scheduled to review four updated assessments Thursday preceding the June Council meeting (see Ancillary Agenda A). The executive summaries of these four updated assessments are provided as Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachments 6-9 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.**

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 2011-2012 groundfish management.

Council Action:

Consider approving stock assessments.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of “Draft Status of the U.S. Petrale Sole Resource in 2008.”
2. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 2: Petrale Sole STAR Panel Report.

3. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 3: May 27 letter from Frank Lockhart to Don McIsaac Regarding SSC Considerations for Managing Petrale Sole.
4. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 4: Executive Summary of “Status of the U.S. Splitnose Rockfish (*Sebastes diploproa*) resource in 2009.”
5. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 5: Splitnose Rockfish STAR Panel Report.
6. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 6: Executive Summary of “Status of the U.S. Canary Rockfish Resource in 2009 (Update of the 2007 Assessment Model).”
7. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 7: Executive Summary of “Updated Status of Cowcod, *Sebastes levis*, in the Southern California Bight.”
8. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 8: Executive Summary of “Status and Future Prospects for the Darkblotched Rockfish Resource in Waters off Washington, Oregon, and California as Updated in 2009.”
9. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 9: Executive Summary of “Status and Future Prospects for the Pacific Ocean Perch Resource in Waters off Washington and Oregon as Updated in 2009.”

Agenda Order:

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| a. Agenda Item Overview | John DeVore |
| b. Presentation of Petrale Sole and Splitnose Rockfish Assessments | Allan Hicks, Vladlena Gertseva |
| c. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report | Steve Ralston |
| d. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| e. Public Comment | |
| f. Council Action: Approve Stock Assessments | |

PFMC
05/29/09