

OFF-YEAR SCIENCE IMPROVEMENTS

This year is considered the “on-year” for intensive science activities as new groundfish stock assessments and rebuilding analyses are formally approved for fishery management decision-making for 2011 and 2012 groundfish fisheries. While it is not entirely accurate to characterize the biennial management cycle in terms of an “on-year” and “off-year” for science, it is correct to distinguish the year in which stock assessments are conducted (the “on year”) and the year other science activities are planned to prepare for the following assessment cycle and to resolve scientific issues that play a significant role in groundfish decision-making.

There are many activities that should be considered for “off-year” science improvements. Some of these activities may be planned and sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service fishery science centers; some activities may be planned and sponsored by the Council or the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) (e.g., a post-assessment review workshop to review how well the assessment process worked this year and a second harvest policy evaluation workshop); and some activities have been recommended by Stock Assessment Review Panels this year (Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 1).

The Council should consider the proposals and advice of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Council advisory bodies, other agencies, and the general public regarding off-year science improvements, and plan and prioritize science activities for 2010.

Council Action:

Prioritize and Plan Science Activities for 2010.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.a, Attachment 1: Recommendations for off-year science improvements.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Northwest Fisheries Science Center Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Prioritize and Plan for 2010 Activities

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