

FINAL STOCK ASSESSMENTS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (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 benchmark assessments for bocaccio, China rockfish, black rockfish, Oregon kelp greenling, and widow rockfish were conducted and reviewed in STAR panels this summer. The executive summaries of these assessments are provided in Attachments referenced below (**the assessments in their entirety are available on the Council website (electronic only)**). The STAR panel reports for these assessments are also provided in Attachments referenced below.

The Council should consider the 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 groundfish management in 2017 and beyond.

Council Action:

Adopt those stock assessments recommended by the SSC.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of “Status of Bocaccio, *Sebastes paucispinis*, in the Conception, Monterey and Eureka INPFC areas for 2015.”
2. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 2: Bocaccio Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report.
3. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 3: Executive Summary of “Status of China rockfish off the U.S. Pacific Coast in 2015.”
4. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 4: China Rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report.
5. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 5: Executive Summary of “Assessments of Black Rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) Stocks in California, Oregon and Washington Coastal Waters.”
6. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 6: Black Rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report.
7. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 7: Minority report from a member of the Black Rockfish STAT: “Why it is silly to allow sex-specific values for natural mortality (M) for young black rockfish.”
8. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 8: Executive Summary of “Status of Kelp Greenling (*Hexagrammos decagrammus*) along the Oregon Coast in 2015.”

9. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 9: Kelp Greenling Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report.
10. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 10: Executive Summary of “The Status of Widow Rockfish (*Sebastes entomelas*) Along the U.S. West Coast in 2015.”
11. Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 11: Widow Rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report.

Agenda Order:

- H.3 Final Stock Assessments John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Approve Final Stock Assessments for 2017-2018 Management

PFMC
08/18/15