

## STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIZATION FOR THE 2019-20 MANAGEMENT CYCLE

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is proposing a new Stock Assessment Prioritization process to assure efficient use of limited assessment capacity. This process is designed to be implemented in collaboration with the Regional Fishery Management Councils so that it can be tailored to address regional assessment needs. Dr. Richard Methot, NMFS, will present an outline of the proposed stock assessment prioritization process (Agenda Item I.7.a, Attachment 1). The Council will use a stock assessment prioritization process next year (proposed for the March and June 2016 Council meetings) to decide those groundfish stock assessments to be conducted in 2017 to inform management in 2019 and beyond.

The Council should hear the presentation from Dr. Methot on the proposed stock assessment prioritization process and receive feedback from the Council's advisors and the public before deciding a groundfish stock assessment prioritization process.

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt a groundfish stock assessment planning process for 2017 assessments.**

### Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.7.a, Attachment 1: Stock Assessment Prioritization for West Coast Groundfish.

### Agenda Order:

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|---|-------------|
| I.7 Stock Assessment Prioritization for the 2019-20 Management Cycle  | John DeVore |
| a. NMFS Report  | Rick Methot |
| b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities  |             |
| c. Public Comment   |             |
| d. <b>Council Action:</b> Consider NMFS Proposed Stock Assessment Prioritization Process and Adopt a Groundfish Stock Assessment Planning Process |             |