

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
APPROVAL OF STOCK ASSESSMENTS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the documents from the Mop-Up Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel. The GMT would like to acknowledge the time, effort, and work put in on all of the black rockfish assessments, especially the Oregon assessment that went to Mop-Up, and in particular, Dr. Jason Cope, Dr. Andi Stephens, and Dr. David Sampson. While the process to get to a working base model was very time and effort intensive and not ideal, it was not due to a lack of effort by the assessors or the STAR panels.

The GMT's discussion on the black rockfish assessment focused on: the differences between assumptions in California and Washington vs Oregon; how natural mortality was estimated; how the Oregon tagging index was handled; and the appropriate P* for the Oregon portion of the stock. We believe these issues have been thoroughly covered in other reports ([Agenda D.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report, June 2015](#), [Agenda J.2.b, Supplemental GMT Report September 2014](#)), and cannot add anything new to the discussions.

In regards to the overall stock assessment process this cycle, the GMT would like to see the continued involvement of state and GMT data experts at the beginning of the assessments. This allowed for many data issues to be addressed earlier in the process, rather than at a STAR panel, or later, which we see as an improvement. Additionally, the pre-assessments nearshore data workshop was valuable at getting experts involved in thinking and talking about the data available and how that data should be used in the assessments.

The GMT is also supportive of the workshop on the historical data reconstructions that is scheduled to happen next June.

Finally, the GMT requests having representation at the 2015 stock assessment "post mortem" meeting that is being scheduled for December 9-10 in Seattle, WA, as we are part of the STAR panel process, and would like to have the opportunity to provide our perspective on the assessments and process.

PFMC
11/15/15