

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIZATION FOR THE 2019-20 MANAGEMENT CYCLE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the NOAA document “Stock Assessment Prioritization for West Coast Groundfish” (Agenda Item I.7.a, Attachment 1) and received a presentation on the topic by Dr. Jim Hastie (NWFSC). Ms. Kristan Blackhart (NOAA Affiliate) was also available to answer questions. The prioritization process will develop quantitative scores for ranking stocks to be assessed, with the aim of providing a more comprehensive and systematic basis for the rankings. Many elements of the process are similar to how the Council has prioritized stocks for assessment in recent groundfish assessment cycles. Final scores for ranking stocks will be derived by assigning weights to the different prioritization factors to calculate a weighted average for each stock. Developing these weights will require consultation with the Council and its advisory bodies, currently proposed for the March Council meeting. For these scores to be fully objective the weights should be assigned to the factors in advance of seeing the final scores. The SSC recommends that the score for recreational importance of different stocks be based on the number of trips, which would approximate the value of the recreational fishery to anglers and regional economies.

PFMC  
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