

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
METHODOLOGY REVIEW PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to discuss possible methodology review topics for models used to develop regulatory specifications for the 2019-2020 biennium. In addition, the SSC discussed methodologies to be reviewed.

The GMT proposed these methodologies for review:

- Sablefish and lingcod Individual Fishery Quota discard mortality rates.
- Commercial nearshore discard mortality rates for cowcod, yelloweye, and canary rockfish.
- Review of the nearshore catch projection model improvements.
- Review non-nearshore catch projection model improvements.

Methods identified by the SSC for review are provided below:

- Development of new catch per unit effort standardization methods.
- Evaluation of the effects of autocorrelation in recruitment for the steepness prior (h).
- Updating of the prior on natural mortality (M).
- Evaluation of applying Dirichlet multinomial weighting of length and age composition data as well as other select changes to the Stock Synthesis model.
- Adjustments to sigma.

Methodologies related to productivity may be identified at the productivity workshop to be held in December 2016. The SSC groundfish subcommittee can discuss the workload and timing of review meetings at the November Council meeting.

Review of models employed by the GMT in regulatory specification development can take place later in the year, though estimates of discard mortality used in both the projection models and stock assessments should take place before March to facilitate timely application prior to review of the assessments themselves in spring and summer of 2017. The timing of review will be better assessed at the November Council meeting.

Materials will need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance of the review, and a primary analyst should be present at the reviews to facilitate a thorough review.