SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
SABLEFISH ECOSYSTEM INDICATORS

An update on the ongoing work to evaluate oceanic drivers of sablefish recruitment was presented to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) by Dr. Melissa Haltuch (NWFSC) and Dr. Nick Tolimieri (NWFSC). A written document was not made available prior to the meeting, which limited substantive discussion. The sablefish modelling group incorporated the SSC recommendation to use residuals from the spawner-recruit relationship in lieu of recruitment estimates in the new analyses. The analyses could not be extended to the most recent years (2011-2014) due to changes in the Regional Ocean Modelling Systems (ROMS) model that provides environmental covariates used as potential drivers of recruitment in the model. The process of creating a consistent time series of ROMS model output representing environmental conditions is complex and will require resources and expertise in oceanic modelling beyond those of the sablefish modelling group. The source of those resources has not yet been identified. The SSC encourages the sablefish modelling group to continue working with Canadian and Alaskan colleagues in understanding sablefish stock structure and developing a population model consistent with that understanding. If the stock being assessed is defined to cover a broader spatial range, it may be necessary to obtain ROMS outputs that cover a broader spatial range as well. Due to the complexity of the remaining tasks, a completed revision of this analysis is not anticipated in time for incorporation into a stock assessment in 2019.

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