

## FINAL STOCK ASSESSMENTS AND CATCH REPORTS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process for setting groundfish harvest levels and other specifications depends on periodic assessments of the status of groundfish stocks and a report from an established assessment review body or Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panel. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviews this information and makes a recommendation relative to the standards of 1) the best available science, and 2) soundness for use in groundfish fishery management decision-making by the Council. The Council then approves the new assessments and relevant analyses used to set groundfish harvest levels and other specifications for the following biennial management period.

The SSC will review four update assessments at this meeting for arrowtooth flounder, blackgill rockfish, bocaccio, and darkblotched rockfish. The Executive Summaries of these assessments are provided in Attachments 1 through 4, respectively. **The update assessments in their entirety are available on the Council website (electronic only).** The SSC will also review a new catch report for cowcod to assess whether rebuilding progress for this stock has been adequate based on an evaluation of total catch relative to annual catch limits specified in the rebuilding plan (Attachment 5).

Members of the Groundfish Subcommittee of the SSC, the Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel are scheduled to review the four updated assessments and the cowcod catch report on Wednesday, June 7 (see SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Agenda).

The Council should consider the assessments and catch report, as well as the advice of the SSC, other advisory bodies, and the public before adopting the new stock assessments and the cowcod catch report for use in groundfish management in 2019 and beyond.

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt the stock assessments and the cowcod catch report if endorsed by the SSC.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of “2017 Assessment Update for the U.S. West Coast Stock of Arrowtooth Flounder.”
2. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 2: Executive Summary of “DRAFT Stock assessment update of blackgill rockfish, *Sebastes melanostomus*, in the Conception and Monterey INPFC areas for 2017.”
3. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 3: Executive Summary of “Stock Assessment Update: Status of Bocaccio, *Sebastes paucispinis*, in the Conception, Monterey and Eureka INPFC areas for 2017.”
4. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 4: Executive Summary of “Status of the Darkblotched Rockfish Resource off the Continental U.S. Pacific Coast in 2017 (Update of 2015 Assessment Model).”
5. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 5: Total Mortality for Cowcod (*Sebastes levis*) and Related Harvest Specifications, 2013-2016.

Agenda Order:

- F.4. Final Stock Assessments and Catch Reports John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Approve Final Stock Assessments and Cowcod Catch Report for 2019-2020 Management

PFMC  
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