

OFF-YEAR SCIENCE IMPROVEMENTS

Intensive groundfish science activities other than stock assessments are typically scheduled in even years (i.e., 2018), since odd years are devoted to conducting and reviewing stock assessments. Such science activities include workshops and methodology reviews to prepare for the following assessment cycle and to resolve scientific issues that play a significant role in groundfish decision-making. The Council will prioritize requested science activities under this agenda item.

There are many activities that should be considered for science improvements. Some of these activities may be planned and sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) fisheries science centers; some activities may be planned and sponsored by the Council or the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee; and some activities have been recommended by Stock Assessment Teams and Review Panels this year (Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1).

The Council should consider the proposals and advice of the NMFS fisheries science centers, Council advisory bodies, other agencies, and the general public regarding science improvements, and plan and prioritize science activities for 2018.

Council Action:

Adopt a Plan for Improvements in Groundfish Management Science.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1: Recommendations for Future Research and Data Needs from Recent Stock Assessments, STAR Panel Reports, SSC Methodology Reviews, and Past Advisory Body Reports on Off-Year Science Improvements (**Electronic Only**).

Agenda Order:

- E.2 Off-Year Science Improvements John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Plan for Improvements in Groundfish Management Science