

FINAL STOCK ASSESSMENTS AND REBUILDING ANALYSES

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. There is a new stock assessment for Pacific ocean perch and a new yelloweye rebuilding analysis being considered for adoption at this meeting.

The SSC recommended deferring the adoption of a new Pacific ocean perch assessment at their September meeting pending a review of additional model runs that incorporate the Triennial survey data and estimate steepness ([Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, September 2017](#)). The SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee reviewed these model runs during their September 28 webinar and have recommended an alternative base model. The SSC will complete their review at this meeting. The Executive Summary of the new revised Pacific ocean perch assessment is provided in Attachment 1. **The assessment in its entirety is available on the Council website (electronic only).**

A new yelloweye rockfish rebuilding analysis was prepared (Attachment 2) and reviewed by the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee during their September 28 webinar. The new rebuilding analysis included rebuilding runs requested by the Groundfish Management Team ([Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, September 2017](#)), as well as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife ([Agenda Item E.8.a, WDFW Report 1, September 2017](#)). The SSC will complete their review of the new yelloweye rockfish rebuilding analysis at this meeting.

The Council should consider the new Pacific ocean perch stock assessment and yelloweye rockfish rebuilding analysis, as well as the advice of the SSC, before adopting the new assessment and rebuilding analysis for use in groundfish management in 2019 and beyond.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt the Pacific ocean perch stock assessment endorsed by the SSC.**
- 2. Adopt the yelloweye rockfish rebuilding analysis endorsed by the SSC.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of "Status of Pacific ocean perch (*Sebastes alutus*) along the U.S. west coast in 2017."
2. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 2: Rebuilding analysis for yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) based on the 2017 stock assessment.

Agenda Order:

F.4 Final Stock Assessments and Rebuilding Analyses

John DeVore

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Stock Assessments and Rebuilding Analyses For Use in 2019-2020 Management Cycle and Beyond

PFMC

10/20/17