

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON INITIAL STOCK ASSESSMENT PLAN AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Dr. Jim Hastie briefed the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) on stock assessment planning for 2019 and 2021. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations on stock assessment planning.

Full Assessments for 2019

The GAP is in agreement with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and believes the following stocks are good candidates for full assessments in 2019:

Sablefish

Cabazon

Longnose skate

Big skate

Cowcod

Gopher rockfish/Black and Yellow (as a complex)

Vermilion rockfish/Sunset rockfish as a complex for the south/single species to the north

Cabazon would likely be a multi-area assessment, so may require an entire Stock Assessment Review Panel devoted to the review.

Gopher and Black and Yellow rockfish are closely related, if not a single species, so should be reviewed together.

Vermilion rockfish is very important to both recreational and commercial fixed gear fishermen, as it makes up a substantial percentage of the shelf rockfish take, particularly in the south. It has not been assessed, so may warrant consideration for a full assessment.

Full Assessments for 2021

The GAP also agrees with the SSC on full assessment considerations for 2021. Brown, Copper, and Quillback rockfish are important nearshore species for both commercial and recreational fishermen. It is believed that time is needed for data mining to better prepare these assessments for 2021. Bank rockfish is an important commercial slope species for the southern trawl fishery and to a lesser extent the fixed gear fishery. It has not been assessed since 2000.

Terms of Reference

The GAP also reviewed the revisions to the Terms of Reference and finds those revisions acceptable.