

**SUPPLEMENTAL ADDITIONS TO THE
DATA AND ANALYSIS SUPPORTING THE PRIORITIZATION OF
SPECIES FOR STOCK ASSESSMENTS IN 2019 AND 2021**

After the March Briefing Book deadline, additional materials were developed in support of the Council identifying its preliminary preferences for species to be assessed in 2019. In addition to the new tabs included in the Supplemental Excel workbook, minor additions and corrections were made to other sheets. Therefore it is recommended that the entire Supplemental workbook be used for discussions of this agenda item. The two major additions to this workbook are new tabs addressing data availability for potential assessments and a preview of species that are likely to be highly ranked in 2021, given decisions made for 2019.

The Data Availability tab takes the rankings, scores, and recent assessment information from the Factor Summary tab and adds to it a considerable amount of summarized data regarding sampling in surveys and fisheries. Immediately to the right of the scoring information are 3 columns that provide a qualitative, stop-light overview of length, age, and index data for each species, along with notes regarding the number of assessment areas that are anticipated, and some additional items.

Moving to the right, overviews of trawl and hook-and-line survey data are provided, along with recent maturity samples and assessment that would be available to support an assessment. For the trawl survey, the number of positive tows is also provided, as this indicates not only the robustness of the sampling, but also the likelihood of being able to develop a useful index of abundance. Keep in mind that a smaller number of samples or positive tows will provide relatively more information for a species having a limited latitudinal or depth distribution along the coast.

The next section summarizes average numbers of lengths, sex determinations, and ages of fish, along with the number of sampling clusters, from sampling of the commercial fishery by state port samplers. These data are partitioned into earlier and later periods to provide more insight into potential assessment modeling issues. Also, length data in the more recent (2002-16) period are summarized by state, in order to provide a sense of the geographic distribution of those data. At this time, the number of total age structures was only available from Washington, and so is not presented. This information, which is important to knowing where new ageing effort could support an assessment is expected to be complete by the time of the Council's final decision in June. The last section summarizes sample collections in recreational fisheries over the past 10 years.

The other new tab, which is the next in the supplemental workbook, provides users with the ability to consider ‘what-if’ scenarios for 2021, based on species selected for assessment in 2019. This sheet again shows the basic score and rank information from the Factor Summary. While many of the factors will change in unpredictable ways over the next 2 years, the two where the effect of *doing* an assessment that can be known with certainty are the Target Frequency and New Information Factors. Column G allows the user to specify species (with an ‘X’) for selection in 2019, which then triggers changes in the scoring of the two mentioned factors, leading to a new base score and rank for 2021, which are shown in columns S and U, respectively.

The only other significant addition is new trawl survey trend information, up through 2016, for sablefish and petrale sole, in the Trends tab. As indicated in the original submission, it is hoped that new trend figures can be provided through 2017 data in time for the June Council meeting.