

STOCK ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE – FINAL ACTION

The Council adopted a stock assessment prioritization plan for 2019 groundfish stock assessments at their June meeting. In addition to deciding those stocks to be assessed next year, the Council adopted two terms of reference that inform assessment science and scientific advice on management decisions (i.e., a methodology review terms of reference and a groundfish rebuilding analysis terms of reference). The Council deferred final adoption of the terms of reference that guides the process for conducting and reviewing new stock assessments for groundfish and coastal pelagic species until this meeting, in order to provide the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) more time to review recommended changes provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center that became available after the June briefing book deadline.

The SSC's Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) subcommittees discussed the proposed revisions to the stock assessment terms of reference at an August 2nd webinar. A draft version of this terms of reference with their proposed revisions in "track changes" is provided in Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1. The Council should consider the SSC's recommendations, as well as those provided by other Council advisors and the public, before adopting a final version of the stock assessment terms of reference for groundfish and CPS stock assessments in 2019-2020.

Council Action:

Adopt a Final Terms of Reference for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference for the Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Review Process for 2019-2020.

Agenda Order:

- I.4 Stock Assessment Terms of Reference – Final Action John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Terms of Reference for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments