

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON REVIEW OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) was provided with a summary of the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) report on the quality and quantity of information used to determine whether CPS stocks are in the Active or Monitored categories ([Agenda Item E.5.a, CPSMT Report 1](#)).

The Categories specified in the Terms of Reference for groundfish and CPS stocks (1, 2, and 3) are used to set the sigma values based on the uncertainty of the associated stock assessments, and are based in part on the nature of the data on which the assessment is based. In contrast, the distinction between Active and Monitored for CPS stocks relates to assessment frequency, type of harvest control rule, and the perceived need for active management. This seems unnecessary given the overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL) structure which applies to all Council-managed stocks. Therefore, the SSC does not see the need for Active and Monitored Categories for CPS given that other fishery management plans (FMPs) operate without this structure.

The Active Category for CPS is similar to the way groundfish stocks are managed, in the sense that annual OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs are set for groundfish stocks every 2nd year based on the most recent assessments using OFL harvest control rules that differ among species groups (rockfish, flatfish, and roundfish). However, annual assessments are not conducted for groundfish stocks. Rather, groundfish stocks are selected for assessment based on the Council's stock prioritization approach. The OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs for data-poor groundfish stocks are usually unchanged from one management cycle to the next, similar to the situation for CPS stocks in the Monitored Category.

In contrast to CPS stocks in the Active Category, those in the Monitored Category are managed using default control rules and there is no regular review of OFLs and ABCs by the SSC.

If the Active and Monitored Categories are retained, the SSC supports the development of a set of review questions for Monitored stocks (draft given in Attachment 1 in [Agenda Item E.5.a, CPSMT Report 1](#)), which will provide a way to better document the review of the assignment of stocks to Categories (Active / Monitored). The SSC suggests that the review process would be more decisive if the questions were based on quantitative criteria. The SSC is willing to review proposals by the CPSMT for such criteria. In addition to tracking numerical values of the indicators that may be used by the CPSMT to assign CPS stocks to Categories, the CPMST should examine the technical basis and shortcomings of the indicators.

The SSC notes that the proposed review questions, as currently developed, do not lead to a decision or recommendation, such as whether the CPMST would recommend that a stock be moved from the Monitored to the Active Category. The SSC suggests that the review process be structured to lead to outcomes that can be used in the management process.