

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 2021 and 2023. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations on stock assessment planning.

Full Assessments for 2021

The GAP agrees with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) Supplemental Report 1 for this agenda item and believes the following stocks are candidates to be considered for full assessments in 2021:

Yellowtail rockfish
Vermilion rockfish/Sunset rockfish as a complex
Lingcod
Copper rockfish
Spiny Dogfish
Darkblotched rockfish #1 Back-up
Spiny Dogfish #2 Back-up
Dover sole- either a full or data moderate assessment
Petrale sole- The GMT are recommending either a full or update assessment
Sablefish- update assessment

The GMT statement provides detailed rationale for each stock selected and the GAP agrees with the rationale provided.

The only suggestion the GAP wishes to make is to prioritize darkblotched rockfish ahead of spiny dogfish. Darkblotched rockfish is one of the more constraining species for the whiting and bottom trawl fisheries. Industry has reported they are seeing evidence of strong recruitment. Recent NWFSC bottom trawl survey data suggests an increase in abundance with a potentially very large year class moving into the fisheries.

Full Assessments for 2023

At this early stage in the process the GAP recommends consideration for full assessments of black rockfish, brown rockfish, quillback rockfish and bank rockfish in 2023. Black rockfish may be a strong candidate as Oregon may have new data available from its visual/hydroacoustic and ROV surveys.

Terms of Reference

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