

## STOCK ASSESSMENT PLAN AND TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) - FINAL ACTION

This agenda item concerns planning for new groundfish stock assessments that are anticipated to be completed in 2021 and 2023, and which will be used to inform the harvest specifications and management measures decisions for groundfish fisheries in 2023 and beyond.

The Council adopted a preliminary list of stock assessment priorities in March. Candidate stocks for full assessment in 2021 include bank rockfish, brown rockfish, copper rockfish, Dover sole (to be determined whether this will be a full or data-moderate assessment), lingcod, petrale sole (to be determined whether this will be a full or update assessment), squarespot rockfish, vermilion and sunset rockfishes (to be assessed as a complex), and yellowtail rockfish. Pending a final decision in June, the Council also selected darkblotched rockfish and spiny dogfish as back-up candidates for full assessment in 2021 if the other candidate stocks are determined to be a lesser priority for a full assessment. The Council selected sablefish as a candidate stock for an update assessment in 2021. Black rockfish and quillback rockfish are candidate stocks for full assessment in 2023.

Dr. Jim Hastie, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), will provide feedback on this assessment priority list with a further evaluation of the quantity and quality of data to conduct these assessments (Attachments 1 and 2). Dr. Hastie will also propose a schedule of 2021 Stock Assessment Review panels.

The Council adopted a draft terms of reference (TOR) for the groundfish and coastal pelagic species stock assessment review process in 2021 and 2022 (appended to the Scientific and Statistical Committee's [\[SSC\] March statement](#)). The Council also recommended no changes to the TOR for groundfish rebuilding analysis and methodology reviews, as recommended by the SSC. The SSC continued work on revising the draft stock assessment TOR, which included engagement with the Council's Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species advisory bodies. The revised stock assessment TOR is provided in Attachment 3 for Council consideration.

The Council will consider the input from NMFS, state and Tribal agencies, the advisory bodies, and the public before deciding a final list of stock assessment priorities by species, type of assessment (full, data-moderate, or update), and language for the three draft TORs to guide the 2021 stock assessment process. The Council will also refine the list of stocks to be assessed in 2023.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt a Final List and Schedule of Stocks for Assessment in 2021,**
- 2. Adopt a Refined List of Stocks for Assessment in 2023,**
- 3. Adopt a Final Terms of Reference for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments,**
- 4. Adopt a Final Terms of Reference for Methodology Reviews, and**
- 5. Adopt a Final Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1: Summary of the NWFSC West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl Survey Data for Select Species from 2003-2019.
2. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2: NMFS Assessment Prioritization Workbook (Electronic Only).
3. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 3: Draft Revised Terms of Reference for the Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Process for 2021 and 2022.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.2 Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference (TOR) – Final Action John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final List and Schedule of Groundfish Stocks for Assessment in 2021, the Stock Assessment and Methodology Review TORs for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species, and the Rebuilding TOR for Overfished Groundfish Stocks; Refine the Preliminary List of Stocks for 2023 Assessments

PFMC  
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