

PROPOSED AGENDA

# Assessment Methodology Review of Length-Based Assessment Methods: Review of Short-Term Requests by the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee

Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Via Webinar

October 23, 2020

**Purpose:** A review of length-based stock assessment methods was conducted in May of 2020 and results of the review were reviewed by the SSC at the September 2020 Council meeting. The SSC agreed with the panel review that the short-term requests from the panel be addressed prior to approval by the Council. As a result, the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee was tasked with review of the requests forming the basis for the agendas organization. The Subcommittee will submit a report in the November Briefing Book for SSC review and potential endorsement at the November Council meeting where final consideration for adoption for use in 2021 assessments will take place.

**Friday, October 23, 2020 – 2:00 P.M.**

**A. Introduction (2:00 p.m.)**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Clarification of the Goals of the Methodology Review
3. Review and Approve Agenda

André Punt

**B. Review of Responses to Short-Term to requests from the Methodology Review Panel for Stock Synthesis with Catches and Lengths. (2:05 p.m.; Rapporteur: Melissa Haltuch)**

1. Conduct analyses to understand why the simulations for the 'perfect' / data-rich cases are biased.
2. Conduct analyses to understand why the results for over-estimated  $L_{\infty}$  were not as expected.
3. Conduct additional comparisons of benchmark and SS-CL assessments, including for species with uninformative length-composition data (the analysts should consult with previous assessment leads to identify such stocks) to better understand the limitations of the methods.

- a. Assessments meeting these criteria were not available. Sablefish was considered, but lengths are excluded due to data conflicts rather than being uninformative. It provides a new proposal for an exploratory long-term request to evaluate the difference in outcomes between the age centric benchmark and SS-CL.
  - i. Clarified request from the SSCGFSC to consider for longer-term analysis: Implement a set of SS-CL runs similar to those presented during the May 2020 methods review, applying the Appendix 4 flow chart from the review report, for sablefish with fixed life history parameters for  $M$ ,  $h$ , and growth based on the 2019 stock assessment.
4. Provide a standardized set of plots when exploring simulation performance ( $R_0$ , selectivity parameters, recruitment, depletion; plots of the estimated growth curves).
5. Summary of the Subcommittee comments and recommendations.

C. Long-term requests from the SSC for Stock Synthesis with Catches and Lengths.  
(3:15 p.m.; Rapporteur: Owen Hamel)

1. Provide a table of possible stocks (including those that are done already) with length composition sample sizes and temporal coverage.
  - a. Consider addition of the presence of sexual dimorphism and availability of sex data.
2. Potential additional long-term analyses for consideration:
  - a. Compare results of the simulated “perfect” data or a benchmark assessment with and without sex data and sex specific growth rates for species with sexual dimorphism and selection of both males and females in the fishery. If no sex data is associated with lengths, this can increase the variance in the length at age, presenting issues for data-moderate and full assessments alike. This analysis would inform the TOR and considerations surrounding prioritization.
3. Summary of the Subcommittee comments and recommendations.

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