

Groundfish Assessment Process Review Scientific and Statistical Committee's Groundfish Subcommittee and 2021 Stock Assessment Review Participants

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Via Webinar

January 25, 2022

Instructions for how to connect to the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) webinar will be posted on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's home page under [Upcoming Events](#) prior to the first day of the meeting.

SSC meetings are open to the public and a public comment period has been scheduled. Additional public comments may be taken at the discretion of the Chair. Times on this agenda are subject to change once the meeting begins.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 – 12:30 PM

A. Call to Order

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| 1. Call to Order and Introductions | John Budrick |
| 2. Webinar Instructions | John DeVore |
| 3. Overview of Webinar Objectives | John Budrick and John DeVore |
| 4. Assign Rapporteurs | John Budrick |
| 5. Approve Agenda | |

B. Perspectives on the 2021 Stock Assessment Process

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| 1. Center of Independent Experts | Matt Cieri |
| 2. Groundfish Management Team | Whitney Roberts, Lynn Mattes and Mel Mandrup |
| 3. Groundfish Advisory Sub-Panel | Gerry Richter |
| 4. STAR Panel Chairs | John Budrick, John Field, and Theresa Tsou |
| 5. Stock Assessment Teams | Jason Cope, Vlada Gertseva, Ian Taylor, Kelli Johnson, E.J. Dick, Melissa Monk, Brian Langseth and Chantel Wetzel |
| 6. Council Staff
(12:45 p.m.) | John DeVore and Todd Phillips |

BREAK (2:00 – 2:15 p.m.)

C. Recommendations for Improving the Stock Assessment Process

1. Pre-Assessment Planning

- a. Improving timely data delivery to STATs.
- b. Discussion of format, process and optimization of pre-assessment data workshops.
- c. Discuss collaboration and planning between Science Centers.
- d. Require pre-assessment workshops in TOR or specify necessity when selected.
- e. Document modeling frameworks agreed upon during pre-assessment workshop.
- f. Increasing attendance of pre-assessment workshops.
- g. Pre-assessment workshop or another process for specifying stock structure.
- h. Advance agreement on deadlines by STAT and Council staff documented.
- i. Public assessment calendar communicating important dates online.
- j. List for each STAT the state-specific points of contact for data sources.
- k. Reduce workload related stress by limiting involvement in multiple assessments etc.
- l. Minimum of two weeks between STAR panels for consistency CIE/repeat participants.
- m. Minimize time zone differences in scheduling or CIE participant selection.

2. Stock Assessment Reviews

- a. Should decisions made at pre-assessment workshops be binding?
- b. Status determination from data-moderate stocks with additional data for full?
- c. Specify criteria for sufficient clarity of requests.
- d. Establish points of contact for requests i.e., Council staff, lead, supervisor.
- e. Determine category, states of nature and catch at STAR, decision tables after.
- f. More timely provision of input on data-moderates or STAR process.
- g. GFSC review no sooner than three weeks from Council meeting review.
- h. Inclusive roll for the GMT/GAP in data-moderate assessments like full assessments.
- i. Alternative to FTP site i.e., document list with links avoiding downloading large folders.
- j. Send presentations ASAP, at least night before when possible. Add language to TOR?
- k. Include complete written responses to requests with key findings in presentation slides.

(2:15 p.m.)

- D. Recommendations for the Stock Assessment Terms of Reference
1. Establish criteria and guidance on how to determine stock assessment/management units.
 - a. Consider the approach to pooling in the North Pacific SSC.
 - b. Workshop to better define criteria?
 2. Require a table listing catch streams approved by the state, date and approval?
 3. Require documentation of modeling frameworks agreed on at pre-assessment workshop.
 4. Require regulation histories from each state that affect the stock (currently Council staff).
 5. Specify who presents model results to the GFSC- panel Chair vs. STAT.
 6. More time dedicated to complete review of catch-only projections to catch errors.
 7. Guidance on when to turn on/off recruitment deviations or perform sensitivities.
 8. Consider adding SPAY plots to R4SS comparing consistency of recruitment across sources.
 9. Add separate weighting of discarded and retained catches in SS and TOR guidance.
 10. Guidance on sex specific selectivity options with greater flexibility than an offset.
 11. Guidance on application of the Lorenzen M to account for length/age specific M.
 12. Guidance on time varying selectivity and time blocking.
 13. Guidance on interpretation, causes and addressing uncertainty from retrospective patterns.
11. Other Recommended Changes?
(3:15 p.m.)

BREAK (4:15 – 4:30 p.m.)

E. Recommendations for the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments

1. Scheduled Workshops
 - a. Application of ROV-based survey data in stock assessments.
 - b. Accounting for closed areas in assessments.
 - c. Hook and line survey index development.
2. Unrelated Items
(4:30 p.m.)

F. Additional Items

1. A priori stock delineation. FMP amendment vs. a focal species process step.
 2. Defining substantive change in stock assessments.
 3. Approach to Council request to revisit sigma framework for Category 2 and 3 assessments.
 4. Long-term requests for length-based data-moderate assessments from NWFSC.
 - a. Requested for post-mortem, need alternative timeline/process for review.
- (5:00 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
5:20 p.m. (or immediately following Agenda Item F)
Public comments, including comments on issues not on the agenda, are accepted at this time.

ADJOURN

PFMC
1/24/22