

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
INITIAL STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Dr. Jim Hastie, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Mr. John DeVore (Council staff), and Dr. Chantel Wetzel (NMFS) briefed the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) on stock assessment planning for 2023 and 2025. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations on stock assessment planning.

Full Assessments for 2023

The GAP recommends the following species for full assessments in 2023:

Black rockfish
Copper rockfish
Quillback rockfish
Petrale Sole
Yellowtail rockfish

Black rockfish is an important species for the recreational sector and has some new data to better inform a new full assessment.

Copper rockfish is one of the more important nearshore rockfish species economically for non-trawl fisheries in Oregon and California. They are a major component of the nearshore rockfish take in southern California and are caught in both the nearshore and shelf rockfish fisheries. There is new data that could better inform a full assessment.

Quillback rockfish is another key nearshore species for the recreational and commercial sectors. New data to inform a new full assessment is sparse. If there isn't sufficient data to conduct a full assessment, the GAP suggests prioritizing quillback for a full assessment in 2025.

Petrable sole is an important trawl target species. The most recent update assessment suggested a decline in recruitment occurring in recent years, possibly as far back as 2013. A full assessment may be advisable should the 2021 Northwest Fisheries Science Center bottom trawl survey index indicate continuing declines in recruitment.

Yellowtail rockfish is a very important stock both recreationally and commercially, particularly for fisheries north of 40°10' N. lat.

Data-Moderate Assessments for 2023

Longspine Thornyhead
Shortspine Thornyhead
Rex Sole
English Sole

These four stocks could be assessed at a single stock assessment review (STAR) panel review.

2022 Workshops

Mr. DeVore briefed the GAP on upcoming workshops this year which include a hook-and-line survey workshop in late June or early July and an August workshop that will focus on closed area data gathering. A GAP representative is expected to attend these workshops.

Terms of Reference

The GAP supports the SSC recommendation that future data-moderate assessments be reviewed in a STAR panel.

PFMC

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