



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

NWFSC
SWFSC

F.3: Groundfish Stock Assessment Planning

Review and Selection of Pacific Coast Groundfish Species for Assessment in 2023

June 2022 Presentation to the
Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Overview

- **Goal:** Identify species to be assessed in 2023, and the type of assessment
- Review species considerations
- Review workload and possible 2023 STAR Panels
- Discuss Attachments, if desired

Assessment age overview

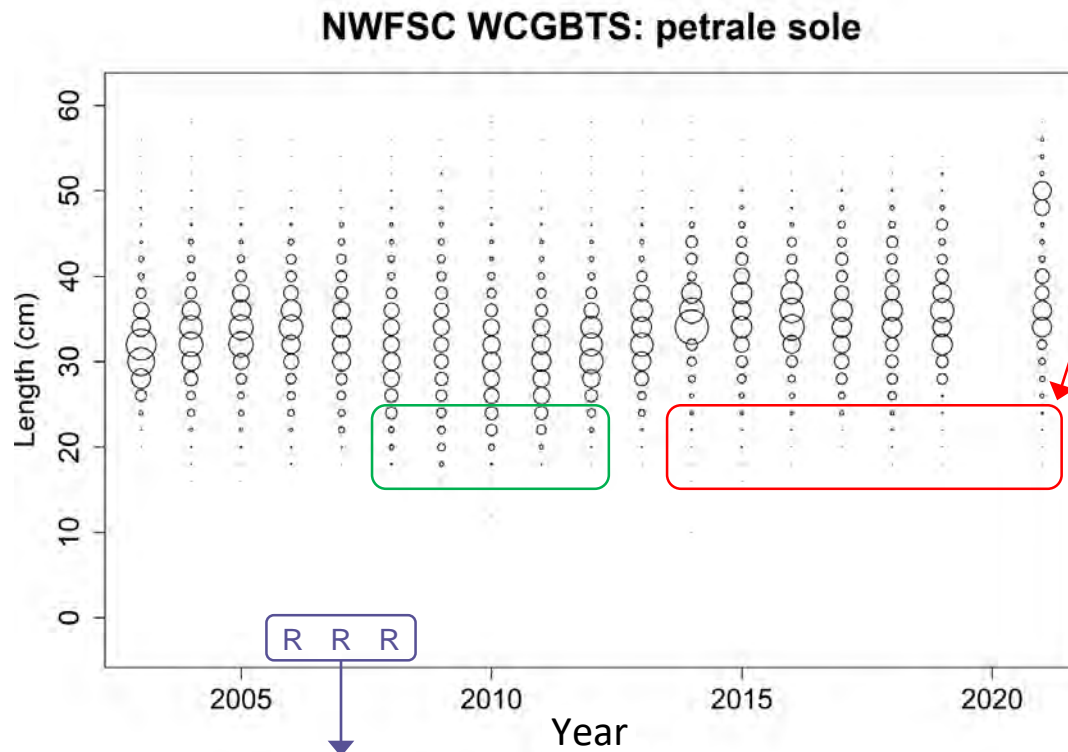
- We have conducted benchmark assessments for 35 species and data-moderates for another 8
 - The latest versions of these assessments have involved 48 (benchmark) and 15 (data-moderate) assessment areas
- We currently have:
 - **11** species that were last assessed **in 2013 (or earlier)**, including 7 benchmarks
 - **5** that were last assessed **in 2015**, and
 - **9** that were last assessed **in 2017**

Species Considerations

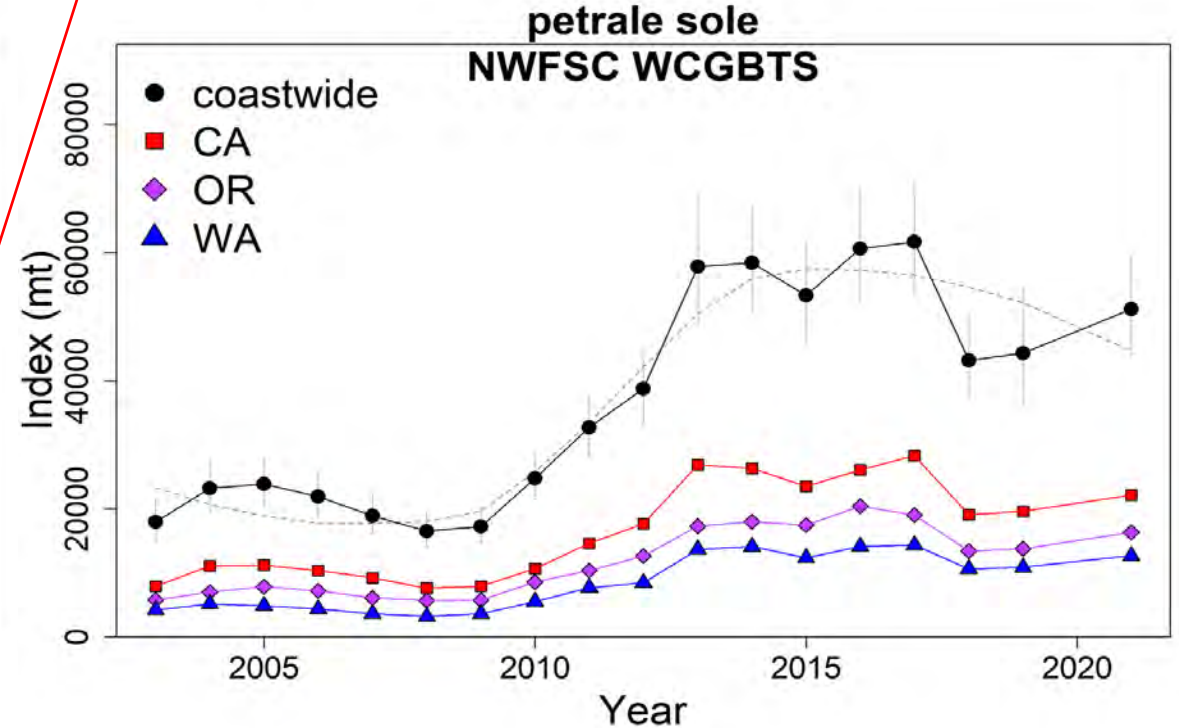
- **Black rockfish (#1)** is a highly-important stock to both comm. and rec. fleets.
 - There will likely be new survey data available in Oregon, and perhaps elsewhere.
 - Likely to have area-specific assessments (2015 used 3 state areas).
- **Canary rockfish (#1)** is a highly-important stock.
 - The 2015 assessment used a single 3-area model, with many area-specific fleets
- The last assessment of **shortspine thornyhead** was in 2013.
 - Ranked #21, overall, and the #5 commercial revenue producer
 - Prior assessment was effectively a length-based data-moderate (with the survey index), since we have not yet found a way to age thornyheads reliably
- **Rex sole** was last assessed as a catch-index data-moderate in 2013.
 - Ranked #21, overall, and the #15 commercial revenue producer
 - Well-sampled by the bottom-trawl survey

Species Considerations (cont.)

- The last full assessment of **petrale sole** (#3) was in 2013 (update in 2019).
 - New ecosystem driver of recruitment should be included in the next full assessment
 - No sign of strong incoming recruitment since 2010:



The last assessment estimated very large recruitments in 2006, 2007, and 2008. 20-25 cm fish would be 2-3 years old



Species Considerations (cont.)

- **Copper rockfish (#29)** had a length-based, data-moderate assessment in 2021; A full assessment in 2023 could include the following sources of additional data for California:
 - **Recreational indices** of abundance N. & S. of Pt. Conception (often uncertain),
 - **CCFRP indices** of abundance (limited to 0-20 fm),
 - Historical **length observations** N. of Pt. Conception (as reviewed in the 2021 mop-up panel),
 - NWFSC hook & line **survey age data** S. of Pt. Conception
 - Very limited additional **recreational ages**, and
 - Potential use of CDFW ROV data

Species Considerations (cont.)

- **Quillback rockfish** had a length-based, data-moderate assessment in 2021.
- It was highly ranked (#4) this year due to several factors:
 - 1) fishing mortality was 212% of the OFL contribution,
 - 2) potential to be a future choke species, and
 - 3) combined coastwide stock status of 26%.
- Some new abundance data might be available in 2023
- However, it is not clear that there would be enough new age data to estimate a California-specific growth curve
- We are encouraged by plans to increase the collection of age structures for some of these challenging species in California fisheries, as this will enhance the chances for more thorough modeling in 2025, and beyond.

Species Considerations (cont.)

- The last assessment of **rougheye and blackspotted rockfishes (#27)** was in 2013.
- **Future catches could approach ACL contributions** from that assessment's projections, as the size of the scientific buffer increases.
- Genetic testing since then should confirm the low proportion of blackspotted rockfish and could warrant revising the current category-2 designation to category 1, but the SSC could review those data without a new assessment.
- **However, we became aware at this meeting that there are substantially more unaged rougheye age structures than we had previously realized.**
 - We support postponing this assessment, and will be trying to find avenues to address the ageing backlog in the interim

Workload and STAR Panels

Two options reflecting the GMT/GAP recommendations for coastwide benchmarks:

Species	Modeled Areas	Agency Staff	
		Needed	Available
Option A	9	9	10
Panel 1 Black rf	3	3	
Panel 2 Petrale sole	1	2	
Canary rf	1 (3)	2	
Copper rf CA-only	2	2	
Panel 3 LB-DM:		Grad student class	
Shortspine	1	@ UW, led by	
Rex sole	1	NWFSC staff	

Catch-only updates:

- Cowcod
- Widow rf
- Yelloweye rf

Species	Modeled Areas	Agency Staff	
		Needed	Available
Option B	9	9	10
Panel 1 Black rf	3	3	
Copper rf CA-only	2	2	
Panel 2 LB-DM:			
Shortspine	1		2
Rex sole	1		
Panel 3 Canary rf	1 (3)		2
Petrale sole	1		Grad student class

Catch-only updates:

- Cowcod
- Widow rf
- Yelloweye rf

In either option, Panel 3 would need to occur in late May – early June, for the class

Option A would allow more time for ageing petrale and canary, which have the most unread structures

2023 Calendar, with potential review meeting dates

Planning calendar for the 2023 Groundfish assessment review process.

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Council Meetings

Prospective Briefing Book deadlines

Possible SSC-GSC Aug. Assessment Review

Holidays

Possible STAR Panel weeks, for review in June

Tighter turnaround for June review

Possible STAR Panel weeks, for review in Sept.

Tighter turnaround for September review

Week for additional 'mop-up' review, if needed



2023 Calendar, with potential review meeting dates

Review of a class-developed assessment at UW would best be scheduled the week of May 22-26 or June 5-9, in Seattle

Planning calendar for the 2023 Groundfish assessment review process.

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Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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July						
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30	31					

August						
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September						
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2025 Planning

Species	Last Assessed	GMT recommendation	NMFS Rank	Updated* NMFS Rank	Assessment Area
Sablefish	2021	Full	5	1	Coastwide
Rougeye/Blackspotted rockfish	2013	Full	27	15	Coastwide
Pacific spiny dogfish	2021	Full	43	21	Coastwide
China rockfish	2015	Full	25	17	State/region specific
Aurora rockfish	2013	Full	63	51	Coastwide
Yelloweye rockfish	2017	Full or Update	9	10	Coastwide
Quillback rockfish	2021	Full	4	2	State/region specific
Yellowtail rockfish	2017	Full or Full and Update	10	5	State/region specific

* Updated ranks based on assessing the GMT recommended species in 2023

Other notable species

Brown rockfish	2013 (D-M)	Full or D-M	2	4	State/region specific
Widow rockfish	2019	Full or Update	12	7	Coastwide
Bocaccio	2017	Full or Update	19	14	State/region specific

Questions?