SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON METHODOLOGY REVIEW – PRELIMINARY FISHERY IMPACT MODEL TOPICS AND FINAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the meeting report from the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee's June 2022 workshop on Methods for Standardizing Hook-and-Line Survey Indices of Abundance and Methodology Review of the Species Distribution Model in Template Model Builder (sdmTMB) software. The SSC recommends adopting the Subcommittee report and endorses the use of the sdmTMB software for index standardization in 2023 assessments and beyond. The sdmTMB software performed as expected with results similar to the previously endorsed Vector Autoregressive Spatio-Temporal (VAST) software used for index standardization. The SSC recommends that the 2023 Accepted Practices Guidelines for Stock Assessments, which is a compilation of guidelines for groundfish and coastal pelagic species stock assessment scientists, be updated with the recommended practices for standardizing hook-and-line survey data in the workshop report. Finally, the Council Research Priorities should be updated to reflect the future research recommendations developed during the workshop.

The Groundfish Management Team has adjusted the sablefish daily trip limit model used for inseason management to address problems with model predictions. The SSC supports use of the adjusted model for actions this year, but recommends the model go through a formal review next year.

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