

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
STOCK ASSESSMENT CHECK-IN AND PLAN – FINAL ACTION

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a presentation from Dr. Jim Hastie (Northwest Fisheries Science Center) regarding the scheduling of Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panels for species identified at the June Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting for assessment in 2023, ageing priorities, and whether there is a need to assess copper rockfish in Oregon and Washington given decisions regarding stock definitions under [Agenda Item G.5](#) of this meeting. Petrale sole and canary rockfish ageing will take substantial time and the SSC recommends review of these assessments at the last STAR panel to allow more time to complete the age readings. Ideally, the review of length-based assessments for shortspine thornyhead and rex sole would take place at the first STAR panel to allow University of Washington students to participate in the completion of the assessments during the preceding quarter.

The SSC previously provided guidance at the November 2021 Council meeting to delineate status determinations for copper rockfish at the state boundaries ([Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, November 2021](#)). There are no additional genetic or other pertinent data sources to support an alternative stratification. Stratification at 40°10' N. lat. would not align with state-specific data sources. In addition, stratification at 40°10' N. lat. would require a new assessment for 40°10' N. lat. through the California-Oregon border, posing a trade-off given limited assessment capacity, and prohibiting assessment of rex sole. Thus, the SSC continues to recommend stratification of status determination of copper rockfish at state boundaries.

Generally, the SSC prefers to assess all areas for a species in a single cycle to take advantage of efficiencies, make use of parameter estimates that can be shared between areas, and make consistent assumptions ([Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, June 2022](#)). However, given the lack of additional data to inform new Oregon and Washington copper rockfish assessments in 2023 and the recency of assessment results from the previous biennium, the SSC would endorse use of the 2021 assessment results for status determination if a coastwide perspective on status is needed. Forgoing length-based data-moderate assessments for shortspine thornyhead or rex sole to conduct further assessments for copper rockfish in Oregon and Washington is undesirable because shortspine thornyhead and rex sole have not been assessed since 2013.

PFMC  
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