

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Hilton Vancouver Washington
Hemlock Room
301 W Sixth Street
Vancouver, WA 98660 USA
360-993-4500

June 21-22, 2023

Members in Attendance

Dr. Cheryl Barnes, Oregon State University, Newport, OR
Dr. John Budrick, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Belmont, CA
Mr. Alan Byrne, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, ID
Dr. John Field, National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Santa Cruz, CA
Dr. Chris Free, University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA
Dr. Owen Hamel, National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, WA
Dr. Michael Hinton, San Diego, CA
Dr. Dan Holland (SSC Chair), National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, WA
Dr. Galen Johnson, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, WA
Dr. Tommy Moore, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, WA
Dr. André Punt, University of Washington, Seattle, W
Dr. Matthew Reimer, University of California Davis, Davis, CA
Dr. William Satterthwaite, National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Santa Cruz, CA
Dr. Jason Schaffler (SSC Vice-Chair), Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Auburn, WA
Dr. Ole Shelton, National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, WA
Dr. Cameron Speir, National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Santa Cruz, CA
Dr. Tien-Shui Tsou, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA

Members Absent

Dr. Kristin Marshall, National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, WA

SSC Recusals for the June 2023 Meeting		
SSC Member	Issue	Reason
Dr. Owen Hamel	H.3 Amendment 31 Stock Definitions	Dr. Hamel co-authored Agenda Item H.3.a NWFSC Report 1

SSC Administrative Matters

Dr. Dan Holland (SSC Chair) called the meeting to order at 0800. Mr. Merrick Burden briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on their tasks at this meeting. The June 2023 SSC agenda was approved, with the additional clarification to provide an open session under C.7. for discussion and a potential statement. Several suggested edits were made to the April 2023 SSC Minutes. Thus, the June 2023 briefing book version of the April 2023 SSC Minutes will be updated to reflect SSC approved changes and the final document will be posted to the [SSC minutes archive website](#). Subcommittee assignments were confirmed with no modifications.

C. Administrative Matters

7. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures (SSC Open Session)

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed and discussed the report “Recommendations for a Respectful and Harassment-free Workplace” (Agenda Item C.7 Attachment 6). The SSC is supportive of efforts to address the issue of appropriate conduct and formalize these policies. The SSC has the following recommendations:

1. The SSC strongly recommends that the Council consult experts (in workplace law, human resources, and sociology, for example) and review the literature on best practices in prevention of, and response to, harassment. Other organizations, including those involved in Council activities, have existing guidelines and policies in place, as well as experienced staff to implement these. Expert input throughout the process is the best way to ensure that Council policies are comprehensive and consistent with currently accepted norms. For example, academic institutions have experience distinguishing between academic free speech and inappropriate behavior. NOAA Fisheries has a National Program Office for Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity that can offer support or resources¹. Further, several organizations have publicly available guidelines for review².

Consulting outside experts on the development and application of codes of conduct is important because participants in the Council process may not be knowledgeable enough to develop effective policies. There is a risk of causing more harm than benefit if best practices are not followed. Also, personnel who are part of existing organizational management structures may not be the best suited

¹ <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/about/eoo-diversity>

² Federal government Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) task force: <https://www.eeoc.gov/select-task-force-study-harassment-workplace-report-co-chairs-chai-r-feldblum-victoria-lipnic>

University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences: https://fish.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2022/11/SAFSCCodeOfConduct_Sept2022.pdf

American Fisheries Society: <https://fisheries.org/about/governance/standards-of-professional-conduct/>
<https://fisheries.org/about/governance/afs-meetings-code-of-conduct/>

to understand how to better include communities and individuals that are currently underrepresented.

2. Effective training is essential to harassment prevention. This training should ensure that Council participants are aware of and comprehend the Council policies and, at minimum, include unconscious bias, bystander intervention, and effective reporting of inappropriate behavior. Training for Council participants that would investigate reports of inappropriate behavior is also necessary.

Unconscious bias training helps to promote a more inclusive meeting for all involved in the Council process. Bystander intervention training would equip meeting participants, especially meeting chairs, with the tools to identify and effectively deal with inappropriate behavior as it happens. Training on reporting procedures would encourage individuals who experience or observe harassment to come forward by reducing uncertainty on how to report. Training on reporting procedures would also make it more likely that participants effectively document behavior and provide the response team with the information it needs. Training on how to investigate reports of inappropriate behavior would help ensure that investigations are fair and effective.

3. The specifics of the reporting process and outcomes of investigations should be better defined and documented. Neither the [PFMC Harassment Procedures Policy](#), nor Agenda Item C.7 Attachment 6 include specifics of what information will be communicated to the parties involved (such as whether the reporter's claim was substantiated by the response team, what information will be made public, who will see non-public information, or expected time frames for resolution). Further, while the PFMC Harassment Procedures Policy clearly states that the Council will not tolerate retaliation against those who report harassment, neither the consequences for retaliation nor how reporters will be protected are specified.

4. The SSC recommends that there be a common set of ground rules for conduct rather than separate ground rules for each advisory body or meeting. This will allow for a consistent set of expectations for conduct and appropriate interactions among those participating in Council activities. Language at the top of page 2 in Agenda Item C.7 Attachment 6 should be changed from: "on funded council travel" to "Council-related travel or other Council-related activities" to ensure that codes of conduct apply to all Council participants in online or in-person settings.

5. The SSC recognizes the need for a process for anonymous reporting for accusers who do not feel comfortable talking to the points of contact at the Council. Anonymous reporting would help the Council track patterns of inappropriate or unwelcome behavior and enable policy or procedural modifications without formal investigation.

SSC Notes

SSC members are not experts on these issues. We are not in a position to conclude that these standards are effective or consistent with best practices. All of our comments are from the perspective of participants in the Council process who could be, or have been, affected by these issues and behaviors.

The SSC made a statement on this issue at the March 2023 meeting. The SSC's input was not mentioned in Agenda Item C.7 Attachment 6 and most of the SSC comments were not addressed by Agenda Item C.7 Attachment 6. Those previous comments remain relevant (Comment 1 from March 2023 is reiterated as Comment 1 in this statement).

1. It would be useful to review harassment and conduct policies for other organizations, particularly those involved in Council activities, to ensure Council policies are comprehensive and consistent with currently accepted norms.

2. It would be useful for the policies to include clear definitions and specific examples of harassment and misconduct to ensure a clear understanding of what is and is not acceptable conduct.

- Clearly defined responses to Code of Conduct violations will also be useful for increased transparency. These items were reflected in the SSC's March 2023 statement and in [Agenda Item G.5.a Tribal Report 1, March 2023](#).*
- The first two paragraphs under "Additional Recommendations" mention that this is possible, but Agenda Item C.7 Attachment 6 does not include specific examples.*

3. There should be diversity in the designated set of people to whom allegations of harassment or misconduct can be reported and in the methods of reporting. For example, at a minimum, there should be more than one gender represented in the points of contact.

4. It would be useful to clarify the types of actions the Council might take against the offending individual in response to harassment and misconduct, and the anticipated time period for a response.

- This recommendation was reflected in the SSC's March 2023 statement and in [Agenda Item G.5.a Tribal Report 1, March 2023](#).*

This document covers a lot of the things we discussed and could provide a good basis for more suggestions for our process at PFMC:

https://www.eeoc.gov/sites/default/files/migrated_files/eeoc/task_force/harassment/report.pdf

One example of what happens when non-experts design policies to prevent and respond to workplace harassment can be heard on [This American Life episode 800 "Jane Doe"](#).

A helpline and/or online reporting form similar to those provided by NOAA could be developed specifically for the PFMC. See the reference to the SASH helpline on page 5 of Agenda Item C.7 Attachment 6.

C. Administrative Matters

7. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures (SSC Closed Session)

G. Coastal Pelagic Species

2. Pacific Mackerel Assessment and Biennial Management Measures

Dr. Peter Kuriyama (Southwest Fisheries Science Center) presented the results of the Pacific mackerel stock assessment (Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1), and Dr. André Punt of the Scientific

and Statistical Committee (SSC) presented a report on the Pacific mackerel Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel (Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 2).

The Stock Assessment Team's (STAT's) preferred assessment model differs from that on which the 2019 assessment was based because it includes age-composition data for the Acoustic-Trawl (AT) survey based on age data from the survey, with an updated age-reading error matrix, a revised age-specific maturity ogive, a prior on age-dependent natural mortality, updated AT survey estimates of abundance, and a prior on survey catchability (Q) for 2016-2021. The assessment did not make use of the AT survey data for 2022 as the SSC did not endorse that year's data for use in Pacific mackerel assessments.

The SSC endorses the STAT-preferred assessment model as the best scientific information available for management of Pacific mackerel. This assessment is assigned to [category 2d](#) because of high uncertainty regarding the scale of the biomass, sensitivity to assumptions, and the fact that much of the biomass derives from the most recent year-class, which is not informed by data. The acceptable biological catch (ABC) should therefore be based upon the category 2 sigma of 1.4426 for the 2023-24 fishing season and 1.8852 for the 2024-25 fishing season. These values for sigma differ from those reported in Section 4 of Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1. Updated overfishing limit (OFL)-ABC tables are given below. Given that the 2022 AT survey was not used in the assessment, and the high value for natural mortality, a larger proportion of the 2023-24 and particularly 2024-25 OFLs reflect the biomasses of cohorts whose sizes were inferred from the stock-recruitment relationship than was the case for the 2019 assessment.

The SSC endorses the OFLs of 11,693 mt for 2023-24 and 12,765 mt for 2024-25, and the associated 1+ biomasses on 1 July 2023 and 2024 of 55,681 mt and 60,785 mt. The 2024-25 overfishing limit could be recalculated if the ABC for 2023-24 is less than the harvest guideline for that year. The final ABCs depend on the Council's risk tolerance as reflected in the choice of P^* .

The SSC noted that a catch-only projection is scheduled for 2025 for use in setting management measures for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 fishing years. However, this means that the 2021 survey will provide the most recent information on abundance for management decision making in 2025, even though AT survey estimates of biomass should be available for 2023 and 2024. Alternatively, an update assessment could be scheduled. Any decision on how to set 2025-26 and 2026-27 management measures should consider the workload for the analysts, the magnitude of landings relative to the annual catch limit (ACL), and the estimates of biomass from the AT survey, as well as the desire to use the most recent information on biomass. In the longer-term a management system such as that for northern anchovy using the survey estimates of biomass could be explored.

a) Fishing year 2023-24

Harvest Control Rule Formulas					
OFL = BIOMASS * E_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION					
ABC _{P-star} = BIOMASS * BUFFER _{P-star} * E_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION					
HG = (BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION					
Harvest Formula Parameters					
BIOMASS (ages 1+, mt)	55,681				
P-star	0.45	0.40	0.35	0.30	0.25
ABC Buffer _{Cat 1}	0.9133	0.8330	0.7573	0.6851	0.6148
ABC Buffer _{Cat 2}	0.8342	0.6939	0.5736	0.4693	0.3779
E_{MSY} =FRACTION	0.30				
CUTOFF (mt)	18,200				
DISTRIBUTION (U.S.)	0.70				
Harvest Control Rule Values (MT)					
OFL =	11,693				
ABC _{Cat 1} =	10,679	9,740	8,855	8,011	7,189
ABC _{Cat 2} =	9,754	8,114	6,707	5,488	4,419
HG =	7,871				

b) Fishing year 2024-25

Harvest Control Rule Formulas						
OFL = BIOMASS * E_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION						
ABC _{P-star} = BIOMASS * BUFFER _{P-star} * E_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION						
HG = (BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION						
Harvest Formula Parameters						
BIOMASS (ages 1+, mt)	60,785					
P-star	0.45	0.40	0.35	0.30	0.25	
ABC Buffer _{Cat 1}	0.8883	0.7876	0.6954	0.6100	0.5295	
ABC Buffer _{Cat 2}	0.7891	0.6203	0.4836	0.3721	0.2804	
E_{MSY} =FRACTION	0.30					
CUTOFF (mt)	18,200					
DISTRIBUTION (U.S.)	0.70					
Harvest Control Rule Values (MT)						
OFL =	12,765					
ABC _{Cat 1} =	11,339	10,054	8,877	7,787	6,759	
ABC _{Cat 2} =	10,073	7,918	6,173	4,750	3,579	
HG =	8,943					

SSC Notes

The SSC endorsed the research recommendations in the report of the STAR Panel and identified several topics related to additional research and data needs:

- Develop methods for incorporating the 2022 AT survey data for the area south of Cape Mendocino based on a prior for survey Q that accounts for the expected proportion of the stock in this area.
- Continue sampling in Mexican waters.
- Document and explore the consequences of the assumptions underlying the stock-recruitment relationship, including accounting for the losses due to natural and fisheries mortality to the spawning biomass and changes to maturity-at-age that occur between the start of the model year (July 1) and spawning the following spring. Develop a way to capture the uncertainty associated with steepness (pre-specified at 0.75 in the assessment) for the OFL and especially the OFL several years following the most recent assessment.

The 2024-25 OFL is based on catches for 2023 and 2024 set to the average catch during 2019-2022.

The section on landings (Section 2.1.1 of Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1) needs to be revised.

The document is inconsistent in sometimes referring to the 2022 AT survey as “unavailable” (e.g., page ii) versus “available but deemed unsuitable” (e.g., p. 16).

Key new features of the 2023 assessment are that it includes age-composition data for the Acoustic-Trawl (AT) survey based on age data from the survey, uses a new age-reading error matrix for the AT survey age-composition data, includes a revised age-specific maturity ogive, gives equal weight to the AT and fishery age-composition data, models natural mortality (M) using the Lorenzen function with the base M estimated using a prior with a median of 0.675 yr^{-1} , estimates an offset parameter for the initial recruitment, uses updated AT survey estimates of abundance, allows fishery selectivity to change over time, estimates survey Q for 2016-2021 based on a prior parameterized using results of the 2021 survey, which covered Mexico and the U.S., and treats survey Q for earlier years as a random walk process.

G. Coastal Pelagic Species

3. Essential Fish Habitat Amendment

Kerry Griffin (Council staff) described the final alternatives from the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review. Eric Chavez (National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Regional Office, Long Beach) was also present to answer questions. The two alternatives derived from this review are: Alternative 1a) No action and Alternative 1b) Adoption of a new EFH Appendix.

The primary difference between the two alternatives is that EFH is defined specifically for market squid in Alternative 1b. There are no substantial changes to krill EFH, CPS finfish EFH, fishing impacts, and conservation measures in Alternative 1b compared to Alternative 1a. The SSC appreciates the considerable amount of work that was done to compile the information in the proposed new EFH Appendix, although the details of the Species Distribution Models were not fully documented. Nevertheless, the scientific literature, data, and information contained in the report represent a comprehensive review of CPS data currently available. The SSC found that there is a reasonable scientific basis for the alternative.

In the future, if the Council would like SSC input on EFH, the SSC should be involved earlier in the process.

SSC Notes

An EFH for market squid is proposed primarily because of their differences in life history and habitat preferences from the CPS finfish. The proposed EFH for market squid would be spatially smaller than is currently defined (because market squid are now lumped with CPS finfish).

The market squid seaward boundary was defined using a species distribution model (SDM) that was modified from a model built for Pacific sardine and northern anchovy (Muhling et al. 2020). This model was not reviewed by the SSC. The logic for choosing the seaward extent of the EFH (defined by the 5.8% probability of market squid distribution from the SDM) was not presented.

Although an Appendix describing the SDM methodology was provided in Attachment 2, the SSC found it lacked sufficient detail.

It would be beneficial if the methodology used to set the EFH habitat thresholds be described so it is reproducible.

The non-fishing impacts were incorporated by referencing the Kiffney et al. 2022 report. The impacts listed in this report were developed for all four FMPs (not just CPS) and individual activities listed in the report may not be relevant to CPS.

- C. Administrative Matters
- 2. Council and Process Efficiencies

The SSC was briefed on this agenda item, followed by Committee discussion.

- H. Groundfish Management
- 3. Amendment 31 Stock Definitions – Final Action

Todd Phillips (Council staff) briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the analytical document and preliminary preferred alternatives (PPAs) for Amendment 31 (Agenda Item H.3 Attachment 1) that are being considered for final action regarding 14 priority groundfish species. Vermilion rockfish and vermilion/sunset rockfish were the only two species without PPAs. Alternative 2A, which identifies a combined Washington-Oregon stock and a separate California stock, was added as a potential option for quillback rockfish. As stated in March 2023, the SSC finds scientific support for defining stocks of vermilion rockfish and vermilion/sunset rockfish at a scale finer than coastwide, but does not find scientific justification for a particular alternative. The SSC reiterates from its March 2023 statement ([Agenda Item F.7.a Supp SSC Report 1, March 2023](#)) that there is scientific support for Alternative 3 (stock delineation at state boundaries) for quillback rockfish.

The presentation also outlined two alternative timelines for the process of stock definition, which will ultimately be integrated into Council Operating Procedure 9. The SSC recommends adopting Proposal 2 (Agenda Item H.3 Attachment 1, Fig. 4) for the biennial groundfish management cycle. Proposal 2 involves accepting final action on stock definitions prior to the pre-assessment phase, as recommended by the SSC in November 2021 ([Agenda Item E.2.a Supp SSC Report 1, Nov 2021](#)).

The SSC concurs with the recommendations provided by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) report on proposed approaches for combining multiple sub-area assessments (Agenda Item H.3.a NWFSC Report 1). The simplest and most intuitive approach to estimating acceptable biological catch (ABC) would be to weight sub-area sigmas by the proportional sub-area overfishing limits (OFLs) to estimate stock-level sigma. The standard approach to increasing sigma over time should then be applied. When multiple area assessments are conducted, the SSC recommends applying 40-10 and 25-5 harvest control rules to the stock-level ABC to calculate stock-level annual catch limits (ACLs) in each year. The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will

revisit questions regarding whether and how to define stock status for stocks with multiple sub-area assessments and stock categories at an upcoming meeting in August 2023.

The SSC reviewed draft language for Amendment 31 to the Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (Agenda Item H.3 Attachment 2) and has no concerns with the revised text.

H. Groundfish Management

7. 2025-2026 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Planning

The SSC discussed the proposed process and timeline for 2025-2026 harvest specifications and management measures and has the following comments.

The SSC suggests that the Council request an updated rebuilding analysis for quillback rockfish off California, assuming that that area is designated as a stock at this meeting, to be reviewed and endorsed in time for the November Council meeting.

Materials from the third STAR panel will be provided as supplemental rather than in time for the advance briefing book deadline of August 9, 2023.

SSC Notes

The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee (GFSC) will provide guidance on the quillback rockfish rebuilding analysis at its meeting during August 14-15, 2023, as needed.

The SSC GFSC will consider how to best ensure thorough review of the accuracy of OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs in the specifications table prior to the November Council meeting.

STAR Panel 1 went reasonably smoothly, and we do not expect any of the assessments from that Panel to be sent to the “mop-up” review in September 2023.

Particularly given the experience in STAR Panel 1, we are in need of a Code of Conduct for participants in the Council process (including STAR Panels), and for SSC-related meetings in particular, which clarifies that comments should be constructive, positive, and kind, and avoid denigration of the work presented or persons conducting that work.

The SSC notes that the “catch-only updates” are preferably referred to as “catch-only projections” as these are not new assessments, but simply the old assessments with updated recent and projected catch streams.

Further Sablefish Trip Limit model review by the SSC Economics and Groundfish Subcommittees could occur during the week of September 25, 2023, if no assessments are sent to the mop-up.

SSC Administrative Matters

NMFS Technical Guidance for National Standard 1 Status Determination Reference Points

Dr. Richard Methot provided an overview presentation to the SSC regarding a draft of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Technical Memorandum document in the briefing book under SSC Materials. This document was also discussed at a recent Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) meeting (May 22-25, 2023). Initial feedback from the SSC was summarized and provided to Dr. Methot informally, as well as noted for future SSC reporting to the Council. A Council meeting agenda item is anticipated in September 2023.

SSC Administrative Matters

Estimation of nearshore groundfish catch distributions

Dr. Sean Matson provided an overview presentation to the SSC regarding a methodology for estimating nearshore groundfish catch distribution shoreward and seaward of three nautical miles (federal versus state waters) to inform scoping during Phase 2 of groundfish stock definitions. Initial feedback from the SSC was summarized and provided to Dr. Matson informally, as well as noted for future SSC reporting to the Council. A Council meeting agenda item is anticipated in November 2023 for scoping Phase 2 stock definition complexes.

C. Administrative Matters

8. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed workload planning and has the following updates to its April 2023 statement under this agenda item.

The SSC recommends holding its September meeting in person.

The SSC will participate in the two remaining stock assessment review (STAR) panels for groundfish assessments in July of 2023 with participation from the SSC, Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). The SSC plans to hold STAR panels as in-person meetings, with web broadcast to allow for remote public comment.

- Groundfish STAR Panel 2 for black rockfish will be held July 10-14, 2023 in Santa Cruz, CA with Dr. John Budrick as chair and Drs. Joseph Powers and Yong Chen as CIE reviewers and Dr. Martin Dorn as an additional reviewer.
- Groundfish STAR Panel 3 for petrale sole and canary rockfish will be held July 24-28, 2023 in Seattle, WA with Dr. John Field as chair and Drs. Joseph Powers and Martin Cryer as additional CIE reviewers as well as Dr. Kristin Marshall of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee (GFSC).

The SSC recommends holding SSC GFSC meetings to prepare harvest specification recommendations in August 2023 as webinars. The SSC recommends two meetings with the first held on August 14-15, 2023 to address the first two STAR panels, as well as catch-only projections, and the second on August 28-29, 2023 to address the third STAR panel, the sablefish assessment update and any outstanding items informing the harvest specification deliberations at the September Council meeting, both with participation from Groundfish Subcommittee members and representatives from the GMT and the GAP.

The SSC Ecosystem-based Management Subcommittee recommends scheduling a meeting with the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) and the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) to review the proposed risk table approach and two pilot risk tables being developed under the new Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) initiative as a webinar in September or October of 2023.

The SSC will participate in the Groundfish Mop-up Panel, if needed, September 25-29, 2023 at a place to be determined with participation from Groundfish Subcommittee members, the GMT, and the GAP.

The SSC recommends holding a Salmon Methodology Review on October 11-12, 2023 with participation from the SSC Salmon Subcommittee, the Salmon Technical Team (STT), and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW). The meeting will be in-person but the time and place is yet to be determined but proposals include either Portland, OR or Sacramento, CA.

The SSC Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee recommends holding a meeting in Fall of 2023 to review accepted practices guidelines for CPS stock assessments with participation from the CPS Management Team (CPSMT) and the CPS Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS).

The SSC Economics and Groundfish Subcommittees recommend holding a Groundfish Methodology Review of the Sablefish Trip Limit Model in September or October of 2023 as a webinar with participation from the GMT.

The SSC will participate in a STAR panel for the Pacific sardine stock assessment in March of 2024 to be held in La Jolla, California and chaired by Dr. Andre Punt with participation from the CPSMT and CPSAS.

The Council Coordination Committee's (CCC) Scientific Coordination Subcommittee meeting (SCS8) will be hosted by the New England Fishery Management Council and will be held during the week of August 26, 2024 in Portland, Maine. At least two members of the PFMC SSC are expected to attend.

The SSC recommends participation in the next Sablefish Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Workshop in 2024 at a time and place to be determined with participation from the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee, the GMT, and the GAP and possibly the SSC Economics Subcommittee.

The SSC proposes holding a Workshop to Develop Alternative Harvest Control Rules for Pacific Spiny Dogfish in 2024 at a time and place to be determined.

SSC Notes

Consider a workshop for exploration of age determination methods for Pacific spiny dogfish. This may be proposed as a groundfish methodology review topic in September 2023.

A groundfish methodology review to consider the use of ages from the spectroscopy method in stock assessments could be considered as a new groundfish methodology review topic in September 2023 to be undertaken in winter 2023-2024.

The SSC Economics Subcommittee would like to review the Sablefish Trip Limit Model a second time, sometime in October/November 2023. At the first review in May, the Groundfish and Economics Subcommittees recommended some significant changes both to the model structure and to the metrics used to evaluate alternatives. Given the significance of the recommended changes and the need for accurate catch projections, the revised model would benefit from this additional review.

Proposed Workshops and SSC Subcommittee Meetings for 2023 and Beyond

Workshop/Meeting		Potential Dates	Sponsor/ Tentative Location	SSC Reps.	Additional Reviewers	AB Reps.	Council Staff
1	Groundfish STAR Panel 2 for black rockfish	July 10-14, 2023	SWFSC/ Santa Cruz, CA/ in-person with web broadcast	Budrick - chair	CIE (Joseph Powers, Yong Chen) Martin Dorn	GMT GAP	Bellman
2	Groundfish STAR Panel 3 for petrale sole and canary rockfish	July 24-28, 2023	NWFSC/ Seattle, WA/ in-person with web broadcast	Field - chair Marshall	CIE (Joseph Powers, Martin Cryer)	GMT GAP	Bellman
3	Groundfish Subcommittee Meetings to Prepare harvest specification recommendations	August 14-15 and 28-29, 2023	Council/Webinar	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	TBD	GMT GAP	Bellman
4	Ecosystem Subcommittee Meeting with Groundfish Subcommittee to review FEP initiative product	Sept/Oct 2023	Council/Webinar	Ecosystem and Groundfish Subcommittee Members	NA	EWG EAS	Bellman
5	Groundfish Mop-up Panel, if needed	Sept 25-29, 2023	Council/TBD	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	TBD	GMT GAP	Bellman
6	Economics and Groundfish Subcommittees Sablefish Trip Limit Model Methodology Review	Sept/Oct 2023	Council/Webinar	Economics and Groundfish Subcommittees	NA	GMT	Bellman

Proposed Workshops and SSC Subcommittee Meetings for 2023 and Beyond

Workshop/Meeting		Potential Dates	Sponsor/ Tentative Location	SSC Reps.	Additional Reviewers	AB Reps.	Council Staff
7	Salmon Methodology Review	October 11-12, 2023	Council/TBD (Portland, OR or Sacramento, CA)	Salmon Subcommittee Members	NA	STT MEW	Ehlke Bellman
8	CPS Subcommittee Meeting to develop Accepted Practices Guidelines for Stock Assessments	Fall 2023	Council/Webinar	CPS Subcommittee Members	NA	CPSMT	Bellman Doerpinghaus
9	CPS STAR Panel for Pacific Sardine	March 2024	Council/La Jolla, CA	Punt - chair TBD	CIE TBD	CPSMT CPSAS	Bellman Doerpinghaus
10	CCC Scientific Coordination Subcommittee Meeting (SCS8)	August 26-29, 2024	NEFMC/ Portland, ME	SSC members TBD	NA	NA	Bellman
11	Sablefish MSE Workshop	2024 TBD	TBD	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	TBD	GMT GAP	Bellman
12	Proposed Workshop to Develop Alternative Harvest Control Rules for Spiny Dogfish	2024 TBD	Council/Webinar	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	TBD	GMT GAP	Bellman

SSC Administrative Matters
 Research and Data Needs planning/update

The SSC discussed plans to update the Council’s research and data needs as anticipated in the Year-at-a-Glance with reporting to the Council in March 2024. The SSC provided feedback to Council staff to obtain clarification of Council expectations and objectives, as the desired outcomes may affect the planning framework. The SSC Subcommittee chairs will continue to coordinate progress on tasks to complete in preparation for the upcoming cycle.

SSC Subcommittee Assignments

Salmon	Groundfish	Coastal Pelagic Species	Highly Migratory Species	Economics	Ecosystem-Based Management
Alan Byrne	John Budrick	André Punt	John Field	Cameron Speir	Kristin Marshall
John Budrick	Cheryl Barnes	John Budrick	Cheryl Barnes	Chris Free	Cheryl Barnes
Owen Hamel	John Field	Alan Byrne	Michael Hinton	Michael Hinton	John Field
Galen Johnson	Chris Free	John Field	Dan Holland	Dan Holland	Chris Free
Tommy Moore	Owen Hamel	Owen Hamel	Kristin Marshall	André Punt	Dan Holland
Will Satterthwaite	Kristin Marshall	Michael Hinton	André Punt	Matthew Reimer	Galen Johnson
Jason Schaffler	Tommy Moore	Will Satterthwaite	Matthew Reimer		Tommy Moore
Ole Shelton	André Punt	Tien-Shui Tsou			André Punt
Cameron Speir	Jason Schaffler				Matthew Reimer
Tien-Shui Tsou	Tien-Shui Tsou				Will Satterthwaite
					Ole Shelton
					Cameron Speir

Bold denotes Subcommittee Chairperson

ADJOURN

PFMC
 06/27/23