

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

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

The SSC anticipates conducting its March 2024 meeting in person and the April 2024 meeting remotely. If the April 2024 SSC meeting is remote, as currently suggested by the Council, the SSC suggests meeting Wednesday and Thursday, April 3 and 4 (or April 4 if it is a one-day meeting) to accommodate those members who also participate in the Salmon North of Falcon process, as well as those members who have limited access to workspace on the weekends or family care obligations.

The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee proposes holding a stock assessment process review meeting in mid-January 2024, as a one-day webinar with participation from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). An exact date is yet to be determined.

The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee proposes holding a two-day meeting to review revisions to the Terms of Reference for Groundfish Stock Assessment Review Process and Accepted Practices Guidelines Documents for the next stock assessment cycle (2025-2026) as a webinar to be held January 17-18, 2024 with participation from the GMT and the GAP.

Members of the SSC will conduct a stock assessment review (STAR) panel for the Pacific sardine stock assessment from February 21-23, 2024 to be held in La Jolla, California and chaired by Dr. Andre Punt with participation from SSC members Dr. Tien-Shui Tsou and Dr. John Budrick, and Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) representatives.

The SSC proposes the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee hold a meeting to discuss methods for the state/Federal catch proportion analysis (recreational and commercial) in spring of 2024 prior to application of these methods in the Phase 2 groundfish stock definition analyses with participation from the GMT and the GAP.

The SSC proposes holding a Groundfish Methodology Review to consider the use of Fourier Transformed Near-Infrared Spectrophotometry (FT-NIRS) method for estimating groundfish ages to be utilized in future stock assessments in June 2024 at a time and place to be determined with participation from the GMT.

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 Boston, MA. At least two members of the PFMC SSC are expected to attend.

The SSC Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee proposes a one-day meeting in August or September 2024 to review topics associated with the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team’s Ecosystem Status Report with participation from the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) and the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS).

The SSC proposes the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee hold a meeting to discuss Phase 2 Stock Definition analyses prior to the September Council meeting at a time and place to be determined with participation from the GMT and the GAP, and possibly the SSC Economics Subcommittee.

The SSC proposes the SSC Salmon Subcommittee hold a Salmon Methodology Review with participation from the Salmon Technical Team (STT), and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) in October 2024 at a time and place to be determined.

The SSC proposes the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee hold a meeting to discuss “Approaches to Deal with Large Closed Areas and Other Spatial Issues in Stock Assessments” by November 2024 at a time and place to be determined, with participation from the GMT and the GAP.

The SSC proposes holding a workshop on use of remotely operated vehicle (ROV) data in stock assessments to facilitate inclusion in future groundfish assessments by November 2024. This includes review of abundance estimates for quillback rockfish and consideration of methods for integration of results in future stock assessments.

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.

Proposed Workshops and SSC Subcommittee Meetings for 2024 and Beyond

Workshop/Meeting		Potential Dates	Sponsor/ Tentative Location	SSC Reps.	Additional Reviewers	AB Reps.	Council Staff
1	Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review	January 2024 TBD	Council/Webinar	Groundfish Subcommittee Members/STAT	CIE Continuity	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
2	Groundfish Review of Revisions to the Terms of Reference and Accepted Practices Documents (2025-2026)	January 17-18, 2024	Council/Webinar	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	Science Center Staff	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
3	CPS STAR Panel for Pacific Sardine	February 21-23, 2024	Council/La Jolla, CA	Punt - chair Tsou, Budrick	CIE TBD	CPSMT CPSAS	Doerpinghaus Bellman
4	Meeting to Discuss Methods for the State/Federal Catch Proportion Analysis (Recreational and Commercial)	Spring 2024	Council/TBD	Groundfish/ Economics Subcommittee Members	NA	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
5	Groundfish Methodology Review of FT-NIRS Method for Estimating fish Ages Utilized in Stock Assessments	June 2024 TBD	NWFSC	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	CARE	GMT	Bellman
6	CCC Scientific Coordination Subcommittee Meeting (SCS8)	August 26-29, 2024	NEFMC/ Boston, MA	SSC members TBD	NA	NA	Bellman
7	Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Committee Review of CCIEA topics	Aug/Sep 2024	Council/TBD	EBM Subcommittee	NA	EWG EAS	Bellman

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8	Review Phase 2 Stock Definition Analysis	Before September 2024 Council Mtg	Council/TBD	Groundfish/ Economics Subcommittees	NA	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
9	Salmon Methodology Review	October 2024 TBD	Council/TBD	Salmon Subcommittee	NA	STT MEW	Bellman/Ehlke
10	Approaches to Deal with Large Closed Areas and Other Spatial Issues in Stock Assessments	By November 2024 TBD	Council/TBD	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	NA	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
11	Use of ROV Data in Stock Assessments Workshop	By November 2024 TBD	TBD	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	TBD	NA	Bellman
12	Sablefish MSE Workshop	2024 TBD	TBD	Groundfish/ Economics Subcommittee Members	TBD	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
13	Proposed Workshop to Develop Alternative Harvest Control Rules for Spiny Dogfish	TBD	TBD	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	TBD	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman