

## 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 April 2024 statement under this agenda item.

The SSC Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee proposes a virtual meeting on August 5, 2024 to review further development of risk tables for groundfish and their applications in support of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4 to report to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) at the September 2024 Council meeting. Anticipated participants include members of the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) and the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS). The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will also be invited.

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. Jason Schaffler (SSC Chair), Cameron Speir (SSC Vice-Chair), Cheryl Barnes, Chris Free, and the SSC Staff Officer plan to attend.

The SSC proposes that the full SSC hold a meeting to discuss Phase 2 Stock Definition analyses as an extra day added to the September SSC meeting in Spokane. The SSC notes that a full day may be necessary to review major elements of Phase 2 including 1) a literature review on all remaining undefined groundfish species, and 2) federal/state waters catch proportion methods and analysis. Originally, the SSC Groundfish and Economics Subcommittees were proposed to review methods for the state/federal catch proportion analysis (recreational, commercial, and surveys) in summer of 2024. However, planning indicates that the availability of review materials and SSC timing could more effectively discuss this item during the three-day SSC September Agenda and provide recommendations under the Council agenda item for scoping. The ideal timing of these three days would begin two days prior to the Council meeting to allow sufficient time for writing and reviewing statements. This is because it can be challenging to prepare and review a statement the same day. The deadline for submitting a statement should be the following day or later.

If the Council finalizes a list of topics at the September meeting, 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 the week beginning September 30, 2024, at a time and place to be determined. The review would need to take place the week beginning September 30, 2024 to meet the November Advanced Briefing Book deadline. Documentation would need to be complete at the time of the September Council meeting to meet the SSC requirement for two weeks of review time.

The SSC proposes holding a Groundfish Methodology Review to consider the use of the Fourier Transformed Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-NIRS) method for estimating groundfish ages to be utilized in future stock assessments in the week beginning September 30, 2024. The SSC suggests that this could be a virtual meeting.

The Year-at-a-Glance summary (Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1) currently indicates the Groundfish Agenda Item “Methodology Review – Preliminary Impact Model Topics & Final Assessment Methods” is scheduled during the September 2024 Council meeting. Due to shifting the Groundfish Methodology Review later in the fall 2024, the SSC proposes to move the sub-portion of this topic “Final Assessment Methods” to the November 2024 Council meeting. Thus, the November 2024 Council meeting agenda item would encompass the final action for both the Impact Model Topics and Assessment Methods.

The SSC Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee proposes a virtual meeting in Fall 2024 to review krill indicators in the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team’s Ecosystem Status Report, as supported by the Council in March 2024. This topic and the risk tables topic were originally envisioned to be reviewed together but the presenters for the krill topic are not available in August.

The SSC proposes holding a workshop in 2024 on use of remotely operated vehicle (ROV) data in stock assessments to facilitate potential inclusion in future groundfish assessments, dependent on proponents’ readiness and the provision of additional information to review by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This includes review of abundance estimates for quillback rockfish and consideration of methods for integration of results in future stock assessments. Rather than hold a separate workshop on “Approaches to Deal with Large Closed Areas and Other Spatial Issues in Stock Assessments,” as suggested in earlier planning statements, the SSC proposes to use the ROV meeting as an opportunity to begin discussions of this topic, focusing on a presentation of an ongoing literature review on this topic by Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) staff.

The SSC proposes the Groundfish Subcommittee hold a virtual meeting to discuss and prepare the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments in 2025 and 2026 document in early 2025 to prepare the final draft document for the Council agenda item scheduled for March 2025.

The SSC proposes the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee conduct a review of the new Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC)/NWFSC integrated survey in late 2025 in order to identify any issues or any additional analyses to be conducted prior to the use of the results from the survey in CPS stock assessments.

PFMC  
06/11/24

**Proposed Workshops and SSC Subcommittee Meetings for 2024 and Beyond**

*Italic items are noted as potential or preliminary*

*Shaded rows indicate newly added items since the prior statement*

<b>Workshop/Meeting</b>		<b>Potential Dates</b>	<b>Sponsor/ Tentative Location</b>	<b>SSC Reps.</b>	<b>Additional Reviewers</b>	<b>AB Reps.</b>	<b>Council Staff</b>
<b>1</b>	Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Subcommittee Review of Risk tables	August 5, 2024	Council/Virtual	EBM Subcommittee	NA	EWG EAS	Bellman
<b>2</b>	CCC Scientific Coordination Subcommittee Meeting (SCS8)	August 26-29, 2024	NEFMC/ Boston, MA	Jason Schaffler, Cameron Speir, Christopher Free, Cheryl Barnes	NA	NA	Bellman
<b>3</b>	Review Phase 2 Stock Definition Analysis + Methods for State/Federal Catch Proportion Analysis	Extra SSC day added to September SSC meeting	Council/Spokane	Full SSC	NA	NA	Bellman
<b>4</b>	Salmon Methodology Review	Week of September 30, 2024	Council/TBD	Salmon Subcommittee	NA	STT MEW	Bellman/Ehlke
<b>5</b>	Groundfish Methodology Review of FT-NIRS Method for Estimating Fish Ages Utilized in Stock Assessments	Week of September 30, 2024	NWFSC/Virtual	Groundfish Subcommittee Members	CARE O. Shelton	NA	Bellman
<b>6</b>	Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Subcommittee Review of Krill indicators	Fall 2024 TBD	Council/Virtual	EBM Subcommittee	NA	EWG EAS	Bellman
<b>7</b>	<i>Use of ROV Data in Stock Assessments Workshop</i>	<i>November 2024 TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee Members</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>Bellman</i>

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<b>8</b>	<i>Approaches to Deal with Large Closed Areas and Other Spatial Issues in Stock Assessments</i>	<i>November 2024 TBD</i>	<i>Council/TBD</i>	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee Members</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>GMT GAP Advisors</i>	<i>Bellman</i>
<b>9</b>	Groundfish Stock Assessment Accepted Practices Guidelines for 2025-2026	Early 2025	Council/Virtual	Groundfish Subcommittee	NA	GMT GAP Advisors	Bellman
<b>10</b>	<i>SWFSC/NWFSC Integrated Survey</i>	<i>Late 2025</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>CPS Subcommittee Members</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>CPSMT CPSAS</i>	<i>Bellman/ Doerpinghaus</i>