



NOAA
FISHERIES

Agenda Item F.3.a
Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1
June 2024

Groundfish Assessment Prioritization for 2025

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2025 STAR Panel Capacity

- Staffing to support a total of 6 benchmark assessments that will be reviewed across 3 STAR panels.
 - The 6 assessments could include data-moderate assessments if they include age data within the model requiring STAR panel review.
- A graduate course at UW is planned for spring 2025 that will conduct at least one update assessment.
 - If multiple update assessments are selected then a ranking prioritization should also be provided.



Species Identified in March

Species	Assessment Type	Species	Assessment Type
Chilipepper	Benchmark or Data-Moderate	Sablefish	Benchmark
English sole	Data-Moderate	Widow rockfish	Update
Petrале sole	Benchmark	Yelloweye rockfish	Benchmark or Update
Quillback rockfish (CA)	Benchmark	Yellowtail rockfish N. of 40° 10' N. Lat.	Benchmark or Update
Rougheye and blackspotted rockfish	Benchmark	Yellowtail rockfish S. of 40° 10' N. Lat.	Benchmark



Considerations for 2025

- Sablefish
 - A benchmark assessment would provide the opportunity to address issues identified in the 2019 assessment and provide more informed estimates of the recent strong recruitments.
- Rougheye and blackspotted rockfish
 - Last assessment was conducted in 2013, in the absence of a new assessment there is the potential for this assessment to be designated as Category 3 at some point in the future.
 - There is new genetic research examining the proportion of each species off the West Coast along with new estimates of growth and maturity by species.



Considerations for 2025

- Quillback rockfish in California
 - A new benchmark assessment will evaluate all available data and provide an updated stock status estimate.
- Chilipepper
 - Based on the complexities in the existing assessment from 2007, and the update in 2015, this species should be considered for a benchmark assessment not a data-moderate assessment.
- English sole
 - Average ACL attainment between 2018-22 was approximately 2.6%.
 - Currently, available projections end in 2025-26.
 - Given the low attainment, should this species be reverted to Category 3?



Considerations for 2025

- Yelloweye rockfish
 - The stock is projected to have a greater than 50% probability of rebuilding by 2028.
 - If assessed in 2025 and the stock is not rebuilt, an additional assessment would be required to determine the stock rebuilt which would reduce capacity to conduct assessment for other species.
- Petrale sole
 - Given the limited assessment capacity, and the lack data indicating changes in the population, the Science Center does not recommend conducting another assessment in 2025.
 - Errors were found in the environmental index sensitivity included in the 2023 assessment report and should not be considered representative of what a future assessment that included this index would estimate.



Considerations for 2025

- Yellowtail rockfish

- There are three options:
 - Update assessment for yellowtail rockfish north only,
 - Benchmark assessments for both areas north and south, or
 - Benchmark assessment for yellowtail rockfish south and an update assessment for yellowtail rockfish north.
- Genetics indicates a southern and northern stock split at Cape Mendocino.
- South of 40° 10' N. Lat.
 - There remains a lack of age structures collected within standard sampling protocols from the commercial and recreational fisheries. The 2017 STAR panel noted this as a critical data need.
 - The source with the greatest age structures, NWFSC HKL survey, may or may not be included in the assessment given the limited area sampled relative to the assessment area (south of 40° 10' N. Lat.).



Preliminary List of Species for 2027

- Species where assessments were conducted at least 10 years ago.
 - Assessment year can be found in the [2024 Overall Ranking online](#) (also available in the extra slides).
- Species ranked high in 2024 prioritization, would be at the target assessment frequency, and/or with projected future high attainment:
 - black rockfish (last assessed in 2023),
 - lingcod (last assessed in 2021),
 - redbanded rockfish (Category 3),
 - rosethorn rockfish (Category 3), and
 - stripetail rockfish (Category 3).
- Should also consider including any species identified in March that are not selected for 2025.



Catch-Only Projections

- Catch-only projections are commonly considered when all of the following criteria* are met:
 - Catches are below the ACL,
 - future ACLs are appreciably decreasing due to full attainment assumptions, and
 - future ACLs are anticipated to constrain sector(s).
- Alternatively, a catch-only projection may be appropriate if catches have exceeded the ACL(s) which would revise future OFLs and ACLs accordingly.



Catch-Only Projections

- For species assessed in 2023 with limiting ACLs for 2025-26, the impact of a catch-only projection in 2025 will be minimal but may still be important to consider to maximize management flexibility:
 - black rockfish (Oregon),
 - canary rockfish,
 - copper rockfish (California),
 - petrale sole, and
 - shortspine thornyhead.
- There may be additional species that could be considered for catch-only projections in 2025.



Council Meetings and Anticipated Deadlines in 2025

2025

STAR Panel Options

May						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

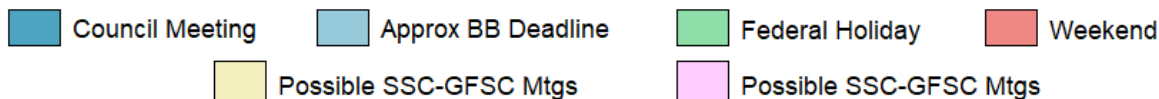
June						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

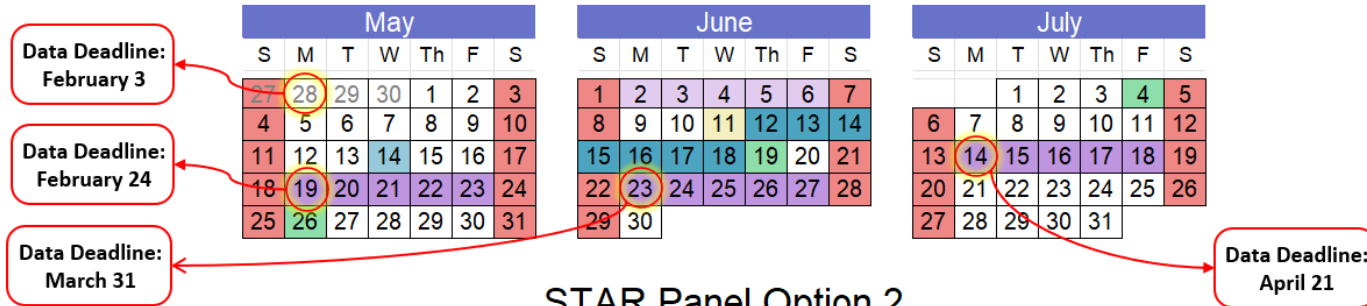


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Potential STAR Panel Timing

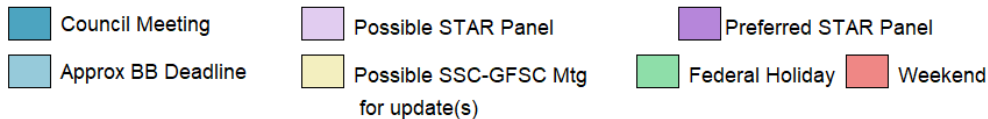
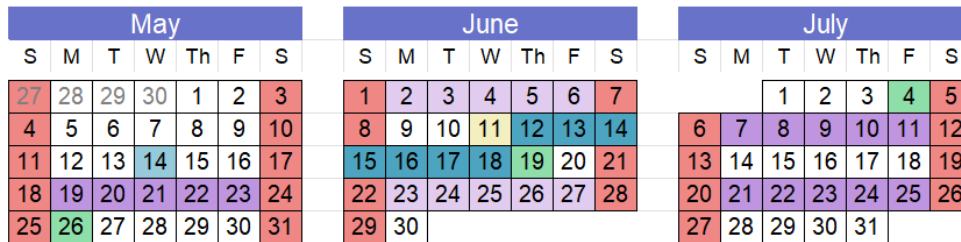
2025

STAR Panel Option 1



STAR Panel Option 2

If both weeks adjacent to the June meeting are viewed as last resorts



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Next Steps

- This meeting:
 - Select a final list of species for assessment in 2025 and the associated assessment type.
 - Identify a preliminary list of species for assessment in 2027.
 - Select species where a catch-only projection would provide additional management flexibility in 2027-28.
- July - August 2024:
 - Ageing prioritization meeting to be held to review available age structures and set priorities for ageing to be done to support assessments in 2025.
- December 1, 2024
 - Deadline for data for 2023 and earlier to be provided to stock assessment teams for 2025 assessments.



Questions?



Preliminary List of Species for 2027

Species with assessments that will be at least 10 years old:

2009	2011	2013	2015	2017
Splitnose rockfish	Greenspotted rockfish	Aurora rockfish	<i>Chilipepper</i>	Arrowtooth flounder
		Brown rockfish	China rockfish	Blackgill rockfish
		<i>English sole</i>	Kelp greenling	Blue and deacon rockfish
		Longspine thornyhead		Bocaccio
		<i>Rougheyeye and blackspotted rockfish</i>		California scorpionfish
		Sharpchin rockfish		Darkblotched rockfish
				Pacific ocean perch
				<i>Yelloweye rockfish</i>
				<i>Yellowtail rockfish N.</i>

Nearshore Species

Species Included in the March 2025 List