

PROPOSED AGENDA

Groundfish Methodology Review:
Suitability of Fish Age Estimates Developed Using Fourier
Transformed Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-NIRS)
in Groundfish Stock Assessments

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Online Meeting

October 1 and 2, 2024

The Groundfish Subcommittee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council's) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will convene a methodology review meeting, which is open to the public and public comment periods have been scheduled. Additional public comments may be taken at the discretion of the Chair. Instructions for how to connect to the meeting will be posted on the Council's [website](#) prior to the first day of the meeting.

The purpose of this groundfish methodology review meeting is aimed at evaluating FT-NIRS to provide a reliable alternative to traditional ageing for use in groundfish stock assessments. This review is planned in preparation for the 2025 groundfish stock assessment cycle. Reported recommendations from this review by the Groundfish Subcommittee are not considered final until reviewed by the full SSC at a future Council meeting.

Committee member work assignments are noted in parentheses at the end of each agenda item. The first name listed is the discussion lead and the second, the rapporteur.

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 – 8:00 AM

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| A. Call to Order | John Field/Cheryl Barnes |
| 1. Introductions, Announcements, etc. | |
| 2. Overview of Review Objectives | |
| 3. Review and Approve Agenda, Assign Rapporteurs | |
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| B. Review of FT-NIRS Approach to Ageing | |
| 1. Overview and basic principles of FT-NIRS, NMFS Initiative
(8:15 a.m.; Schaffler; Budrick) | Tom Helser (NMFS AFSC) |
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| 2. Overview of FT-NIRS data and neural network modeling
(9:00 a.m.; Schaffler; Budrick) | John Wallace (NMFS NWFSC) |

BREAK (10:00 - 10:15 a.m.)

B. Review of FT-NIRS Approach to Ageing (*continued*)

3. Overview of model results for sablefish age estimation (10:15 a.m.; **Tsou; Hamel**) Jim Hastie (NMFS NWFSC)

4. Overview of model results for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish age estimation (10:45 a.m.; **Tsou; Hamel**) John Wallace (NMFS NWFSC)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
11:15 a.m. (or immediately following Agenda Item B.4)
Public comments are accepted at this time.

C. Coordination of Follow-up Requests and/or Report Writing (11:30 a.m.; **Field; Barnes**)

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 – 8:00 AM

A. Call to Order

4. Overview of Day 1 outcomes and Day 2 expectations

B. Review of FT-NIRS Approach to Ageing (*continued*)

5. Presentation of results from any day 1 requests, discussion (8:15 a.m.; **Moore; Free**) John Wallace (NMFS NWFSC)

6. Overview of model results for Pacific hake age estimation (8:45 a.m.; **Moore; Free**) John Wallace (NMFS NWFSC)

BREAK (9:45 - 10:00 a.m.)

7. Review of sablefish assessment sensitivity with FT-NIRS (10:00 a.m.; **Punt; Marshall**) Chantel Wetzel (NMFS NWFSC)

8. Review of AFSC assessment sensitivities with FT-NIRS (10:30 a.m.; **Punt; Marshall**) Tom Helser (NMFS AFSC)

9. Panel Discussion (**Punt; Marshall**)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
11:15 a.m. (or immediately following Agenda Item B.9)
Public comments are accepted at this time.

C. Coordination of Report Writing
(11:30 a.m.)

John Field/Cheryl Barnes

ADJOURN

PFMC
09/20/24