

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
METHODOLOGY REVIEW – PRELIMINARY FISHERY IMPACT MODEL TOPICS

Christian Heath (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Thompson Banez (California Department of Fish and Wildlife) discussed the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) Report on Non-trawl Mortality Projection Tools (Supplemental GMT Report 1) with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

Several models used by the GMT to project catch during the biennial groundfish harvest specifications process and for in-season management are no longer producing satisfactory estimates for a variety of reasons. The SSC agreed with the GMT recommendations to discontinue use of the nearshore catch projection tool due to changes in the footprint of the fishery and loss of observer coverage in state waters. The SSC recommends exploring minor changes to the non-nearshore sablefish catch projection tool to improve predictions of bycatch for non-target species.

The GMT identified the need for a shelf catch projection tool for the next management cycle. Workload capacity could necessitate the use of a contractor to develop this tool. The SSC recommends moving forward with the development of this tool and is willing to review any models for use in management when they are developed.

As a first step, the SSC suggests focusing on the discard rate component of the catch projection models. This could be the most tractable way to address current model misspecifications and could be useful for in-season management without a model that predicts effort and catch.

PFMC
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