

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 November 2024 statement under this agenda item.

The groundfish Pre-Assessment Data Workshop 3 (virtual) for rougheye/blackspotted rockfish and sablefish is scheduled for March 18, 2025.

The SSC anticipates conducting its April 2025 meeting remotely and anticipates meetings on Wednesday, April 9th and Thursday, April 10th.

Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel 1 will cover the yellowtail rockfish North 40°10'N. Lat. benchmark assessment on May 19-23, 2025 in Seattle, WA. The schedule will be for a full day on Monday and half days thereafter. The STAR Panel will be John Budrick (chair), one Center for Independent Experts (CIE) reviewer, Tommy Moore (SSC), and one additional reviewer with knowledge of West Coast groundfish stock assessments has been requested. Representatives from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are requested.

The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee should meet in-person in Rohnert Park, CA to review update stock assessments for widow rockfish and yelloweye rockfish on June 11, 2025, the day prior to the full SSC at the June 2025 Council meeting. Representatives from the GMT and GAP are requested.

The SSC notes that Salmon Council Operating Procedure (COP) 15 edits are shaded on the June 2025 Year-at-a-Glance (J.4 Attachment 1) and could be completed should the Council request.

STAR Panel 2 will cover benchmark assessments for chilipepper rockfish and California quillback rockfish on June 23-27, 2025 in Santa Cruz, CA. The STAR Panel will be Cheryl Barnes (chair), two CIE reviewers, and one additional reviewer with knowledge of West Coast groundfish assessments has been requested. Representatives from the GMT and GAP are requested.

STAR Panel 3 will cover rougheye/blackspotted rockfish and sablefish on July 14-18, 2025 in Seattle, WA. The STAR Panel will be John Field (chair), two CIE reviewers, and Chris Free (SSC). Representatives from the GMT and GAP are requested.

The SSC Economics Subcommittee proposes conducting a review of the Trawl Catch Share Program Review in advance of the September 2025 Council meeting so that final action can address findings of the SSC Economics Subcommittee and the SSC. This review could occur in the summer of 2025.

The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee should meet to review stock assessments, catch-only projections, rebuilding analyses [if needed], and to prepare harvest specifications before the September 2025 Council meeting. The SSC suggests a 1.5 or 2 day virtual meeting on August 12-13, 2025.

If further review and discussion of groundfish stock assessments not recommended by STAR Panels and rebuilding analyses (if needed) is warranted, the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meeting (commonly referred to as “mop-up”) is anticipated during the week of Sept 29-Oct 3, 2025. Depending upon the degree of complexity of any review materials, this meeting could potentially have a hybrid (in-person and online) format.

The SSC proposes the SSC Salmon Subcommittee hold a Salmon Methodology Review with participation from the Salmon Technical Team (STT), and any other appropriate advisory bodies or subcommittees in the first week of October 2025, pending proposal and selection of final topics and completion of materials, at a time and place to be determined.

The SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee anticipates conducting its annual review of Ecosystem Status Report Science Topics in Fall 2025 (virtual), pending proposals by the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment team in March 2025 (Agenda Item F.1).

The SSC proposes the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee conduct a review of the new SWFSC/NWFSC integrated survey in early 2026 to identify any issues or additional analyses to be conducted prior to use of the results from the survey in CPS stock assessments.

Given the considerable workload for the STT and the short window for review of the Pre-Season Report I by the SSC in March, scheduling additional review of this document for accuracy as well as potential trimming or consolidation of material could be completed outside of the March Council meeting. For example, the SSC (or SSC Salmon Subcommittee) could give a comprehensive review of Pre-Season Report I sometime between April and November, and both the SSC (or SSC Salmon Subcommittee) and STT might jointly or separately review what material could be removed to ease the workload while still delivering necessary information.

Proposed Workshops and SSC Subcommittee Meetings for 2025 and Beyond

Italic items are noted as potential or preliminary

Shaded rows indicate newly added items since the prior statement

	Workshop/Meeting	Potential Dates	Sponsor/ Tentative Location	SSC Reps.	Additional Reviewers	AB Reps.	Council Staff
1	Pre-Assessment Data Workshop 3: Rougheye/Blackspotted Rockfish Sablefish	March 18, 2025	Council/Virtual	Groundfish Subcommittee	NA	GMT GAP	Bellman
2	Groundfish STAR Panel 1: Yellowtail Rockfish North of 40°10'N.Lat.	May 19-23, 2025	Seattle, WA/ Hybrid	Budrick – Chair, Moore - Reviewer	CIE (TBD)	GMT GAP	Bellman
3	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee Review: Update Stock Assessments</i>	<i>June 11, 2025 (day prior to full SSC)</i>	<i>Council/ Rohnert Park, CA</i>	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>GMT GAP</i>	<i>Bellman</i>
4	Groundfish STAR Panel 2: Chilipepper Rockfish Quillback Rockfish - California	June 23-27, 2025	Santa Cruz, CA/ Hybrid	Barnes – Chair	CIE (TBD), <i>Invited Reviewer (TBD)</i>	GMT GAP	Bellman
5	Groundfish STAR Panel 3: Rougheye/Blackspotted Rockfish Sablefish	July 14-18, 2025	Seattle, WA/ Hybrid	Field – Chair, Free - Reviewer	CIE (TBD)	GMT GAP	Phillips/ Bellman
6	<i>Economic Subcommittee Meeting: Trawl Catch Share Program Review</i>	<i>Summer 2025</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>Economics Subcommittee</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>GMT GAP</i>	<i>Bellman</i>
7	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee Meeting: Stock Assessment/Rebuilding Review and Prepare Harvest Specifications</i>	<i>August 12-13, 2025</i>	<i>Council/Virtual</i>	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>GMT GAP</i>	<i>Bellman</i>
8	<i>Further Review of Groundfish Stock Assessments/Rebuilding Analyses</i>	<i>Sept 29-Oct 3, 2025 (After Sept CM)</i>	<i>Council/ Hybrid: Location TBD</i>	<i>Groundfish Subcommittee</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>GMT GAP</i>	<i>Bellman</i>

9	<i>Salmon Methodology Review</i>	<i>October 2025</i>	<i>Council/ Portland, OR</i>	<i>Salmon Subcommittee</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>STT</i>	<i>Bellman/ Forristall</i>
10	<i>Ecosystem Subcommittee Review: Ecosystem Status Report Science Topics</i>	<i>Fall 2025</i>	<i>Council/Virtual</i>	<i>Ecosystem Subcommittee</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>EWG EAS</i>	<i>Bellman</i>
11	<i>CPS Methodology Review: SWFSC/NWFSC Integrated Survey</i>	<i>Early 2026</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>CPS Subcommittee</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>CPSMT CPSAS</i>	<i>Bellman/ Bernaus</i>

PFMC
03/10/25