

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 March 2025 statement under this agenda item.

Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel 1 will cover the yellowtail rockfish North of 40°10'N. Lat. benchmark assessment on May 19-23, 2025 in Seattle, WA. The meeting will be conducted in-person, and broadcast for listening and remote public comment. 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 potentially one additional reviewer with knowledge of West Coast groundfish stock assessments. Representatives from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are requested.

The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee (GFSC) should meet in-person in Rohnert Park, CA to review update stock assessments for widow rockfish and yelloweye rockfish at 9:00 AM on June 11, 2025, the day prior to the full SSC at the June 2025 Council meeting. The meeting will be conducted in-person, and broadcast for listening and remote public comment. Representatives from the GMT and GAP are requested. The SSC GFSC may also discuss topics in preparation for the upcoming biennial harvest specifications.

The SSC notes that Salmon Council Operating Procedure (COP) 15 edits are shaded for September 2025 Year-at-a-Glance ([H.3 Attachment 3](#)) and could be completed should the Council request. The SSC encourages dialogue between Council staff and members of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee during document preparation in advance of this agenda item.

STAR Panel 2 will cover benchmark assessments for chilipepper rockfish and California quillback rockfish on June 23-27, 2025 in Santa Cruz, CA. The meeting will be conducted in-person, and broadcast for listening and remote public comment. The STAR Panel will be Cheryl Barnes (chair), two CIE reviewers, and one additional reviewer with knowledge of West Coast groundfish assessments. 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 meeting will be conducted in-person, and broadcast for listening and remote public comment. 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 feedback from the SSC Economics Subcommittee and the SSC can be addressed, prior to final action scheduled in November. This review could occur as a virtual meeting in late August or early September 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 be in-person, and broadcast for listening and remote public comment.

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 full week of October 2025, pending proposal and selection of final topics and completion of materials, at a time and place to be determined. The Salmon Subcommittee requests that, if the meeting will take more than one day, it be scheduled as one full day and one partial day, rather than two partial days.

The SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee anticipates conducting its annual review of Ecosystem Status Report Science Topics in Fall 2025 (virtual), based on the proposals put forward by the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment team at the March 2025 Council meeting.

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.

The SSC has noted that the publication of Pre-Season Report I occurs within a few days of the March SSC meeting and this can limit comprehensive and careful review by all members. The SSC reiterates that it (or the SSC Salmon Subcommittee) could give a comprehensive review of Pre-Season Report I 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.

The SSC has previously raised concerns with preparing statements for the Council on the first day of a meeting due to the need to provide clear, complete, and accurate scientific advice. The June 2025 quick reference agenda ([Agenda Item H.3 Attachment 2](#)) has two groundfish items, Adopt Stock Assessments for 2027-28 and Initiative 4: Risk Tables, which may require SSC input on the first day of the Council meeting. This would require an SSC member to miss some portion of the last day of the SSC meeting where much of the statement writing takes place and limiting their input on critical issues.

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

9	<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>
10	<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
04/14/25