

E.3 STOCK ASSESSMENT PROCESS REVIEW AND PROPOSED PROCESS REVISIONS

Council Tasks:

Part I Saturday, June 13

1. Review draft Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Report, advisory body reports, and public comments.

Part II Sunday, June 14

2. Discuss proposed revisions to the stock assessment process and Terms of Reference.
3. Provide guidance, taking into account Council and Center capacity, on updates to the stock assessment process:
 - a. Establish priorities for the 2027 stock assessment process taking into account staff resources and timelines.
 - b. Identify items of interest for the Term of Reference discussion under Agenda Item E.7.
 - c. Provide guidance regarding the development of a Council Operating Procedure for the Stock Assessment Process.

d. Provide guidance on long-term priorities.

Written Guidance E.3

Priorities for 2027

- Proceed with all “Clarity In Process Navigation” items in 1a in [Agenda Item E.3 Attachment 2](#)
 - Include a discussion of how an assessment process works (e.g., from data to BSIA determination)
- Pre-assessment engagement
 - Expand pre-assessment workshop to include update assessments
 - Expand pre-assessments workshop focus to emphasize stakeholder information, including review of fishery prosecution, and stakeholder input on fishery dependent data used in assessments.
- Develop a plan for sharing assessment results with stakeholders once the assessment is finished but before the STAR panel.

- Add an additional GAP or GAP-recommended representative to the STAR panel process (amendment to the TOR).
- Task SSC with elaborating on improved communication with Council regarding BSIA determinations

Long-term Priorities

- Refine pause/offramp mechanism:
 - Have staff work with appropriate NMFS staff to develop a discussion paper that explores how a pause/offramp could work and remain consistent with MSA.
 - Develop a technical referral protocol that standardizes when the SSC should re-review materials.
 - Detail circumstances when an assessment process should entirely halt.
 - Detail pathways for catch limit setting when the SSC cannot reach a BSIA determination, or when

finalizing an assessment that needs additional evaluation that will conclude after the specifications cycle.

- Explore a centralized data portal (e.g., Fisheries OS product from Knudsen.earth)