GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ADOPT STOCK ASSESSMENTS - NEW PROPOSED SIGMA APPROACH

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) had limited time to review and discuss Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) report Agenda Item G.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 2, September 2025. Based on our initial review and conversations on the SSC report and understanding of the Council process, the GMT recommends that the Council request the SSC to propose these changes for the November Council meeting, which better follows the intent[1] of the Terms of Reference description for making proposed changes to time-varying sigma, while still allowing such changes to be considered and potentially implemented for the current specifications cycle in November 2025. Addressing the proposed change in November would increase the transparency of this change for stakeholders and better support open communication to and understanding from the public.

PFMC
09/22/25

[1] The Terms of Reference state "If changes to the sigma values are proposed, these should be adopted prior to the April Council meeting in odd years to facilitate their application in stock assessments, to prevent the need for revisions in catch projections due to changes made after completion of the assessments"