

Agenda Item F.10.a
Supplemental NWFSC Presentation 1
November 2017



NOAA
FISHERIES

NWFSC Comments on Off-year (2018) Science and Stock Assessment Methodology Reviews

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November 2017 comments to the
Pacific Fishery Management Council

Overview

- **Center-identified high-priority research areas**
 - Expansive range of activities (F.10 NWFSC Report)
- **Planned Center research on Council groundfish priorities**
- **Opportunity for Council questions**

High-priority research/activities

- Top Tier

1. *2018 Hake assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
2. Update stock-assessment prioritization analysis for 2018 selection of species to be assessed in 2019 and 2021 (prelim.).
3. Service on Council advisory bodies.
4. Complete Climate Vulnerability Analysis.
5. *Impacts of reduced survey data availability on stock assessment results.

Many of the remaining topics address issues we see as:

- important to address before the 2019 assessment process,
- needed to enhance our future ability to account for environmental drivers in our assessments

Planned Center Research on Council-SSC Priorities

- **Expanded assessment options**
 - Recommendations from the NWFSC's 2014 Programmatic Review of assessments
 - Work towards expanded toolbox; increased flexibility
 - Concern over our ability to 'keep up' with assessment needs (especially as we address increasing *sigma* [from P*-sigma] with assessment age)
 - Expand data-moderate option to allow for inclusion of compositional data (**SSC's 1st Workshop recommendation**)
 - Explore allowing greater flexibility in Update assessments

Planned Center research on Council-SSC priorities (cont.)

- **Historical catch reconstruction**
 - NMFS will work with State agency staff to develop landings and discard histories for skate species
 - NMFS will work with the SSC and State agencies to facilitate a suitable workshop/review of those estimates, prior to initiating the 2019 assessments (**SSC's 2nd Workshop recommendation**)
 - Subject to available time for both parties, the NWFSC will consult with WDFW on reconstruction efforts for other remaining species (primarily flatfish)

Planned Center research on Council-SSC priorities (cont.)

- **Methodology Reviews**

- The SWFSC will develop materials to support a review of a proposed new Bayesian approach for improving estimates of species that are managed as part of assemblages (**SSC #1**)
- NMFS will provide review and consultative support for a review of ROV survey methods in place in Oregon or proposed in California, and the use of data from such in groundfish assessments (**SSC #2**)

Planned Center research on Council-SSC priorities (cont.)

- **SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Activities**
 - The NWFSC will develop materials to support SSC review of the representativeness of age sampling available for use in assessments (**SSC #1**)
 - Identify where concerns/problems exist
 - Identify appropriate remedial measures
 - The NWFSC will continue research to inform SSC discussion of alternatives for increasing *sigma* with assessment age (**SSC #2**)

Planned Center research on Council-SSC priorities (cont.)

- **Other**

- The NWFSC will analyze data obtained from Canada (DFO) for several species assessed in 2017
 - Evaluate the consistency of population trends and recruitment success across regions
 - Initiate discussions regarding those results with DFO
 - Transboundary sablefish assessment
- Conduct research on existing and alternative methods of developing sport-fishery CPUE estimates with VAST
- Develop additional informational materials regarding VAST's estimation processes and best usage practices

Many of the remaining topics address issues we see as:

- important for the 2019 assessment process,
- needed to enhance our future ability to account for environmental drivers in our assessments

Any questions on these or other topics included in our briefing statement?