

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FINAL STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
GROUND FISH AND COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES

Dr. Jim Hastie briefed both the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and Groundfish Management Team (GMT) on stock assessment planning for 2019 and 2021. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations on stock assessment planning.

Full Assessments for 2019

The GAP is in agreement with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and believes the following stocks are good candidates for full assessments in 2019:

Sablefish
Cabezon (Oregon and California)
Longnose skate
Big skate
Cowcod
Gopher rockfish/Black and Yellow (as a complex)
Yellowtail rockfish south

Update Assessments for 2019

Petrable sole
Widow rockfish

Catch Only Projections for 2019

Lingcod
Canary rockfish
Black rockfish

The Council's March Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) recommended Dover sole as a potential candidate for a 2019 full assessment but age reading related issues make this stock better suited for a 2021 full assessment. The GAP believes we should delay doing a full assessment for Pacific cod until 2021 to allow for more time to sort out some compositional data issues as well as complete genetic studies currently taking place. The GAP agrees with the GMT to give a higher priority to both Petrale sole and Widow rockfish as an update assessment in 2019. Petrale is a critical component of the trawl individual transferable quota (ITQ) fishery and has great variability in recruitment so needs to be monitored closely. The GAP supports the GMT recommendations for the catch only projections for 2019.

Full Assessments for 2021

At this very preliminary juncture in the process, in order of priority the GAP believes the following stocks to be good candidates for full assessments in 2021.

Vermilion rockfish/Sunset rockfish
Copper rockfish
Bank rockfish
Pacific cod
Black rockfish
Dover sole
Yelloweye rockfish
Petrale sole
Lingcod

Vermilion rockfish/Sunset rockfish would be assessed as a complex for the south and a single species for the north. Vermilion rockfish is very important to both recreational and commercial fixed gear fishermen as it makes up a substantial percentage of the shelf rockfish take, particularly in the south. It has not been assessed so should warrant strong consideration for a full assessment in 2021. Copper rockfish is important to the non-trawl fisheries coastwide. Bank rockfish is an important commercial slope species for the southern trawl fishery and to a lesser extent the fixed gear fishery. Bank rockfish has not been assessed since 2000. Pacific cod is important to the northern area trawl fleet (especially the tribal fishery). It is also one of the portfolio of species being reviewed for re-certification of the groundfish trawl fishery under the Marine Stewardship Council program. Therefore, the GAP sees merit in planning to assess Pacific cod in 2021. Pacific cod could also be a good candidate for a transboundary stock assessment with British Columbia, Canada. Pending results of age data restoration and genetic differentiation research, lingcod may also be a good candidate for a new assessment in 2021.

Terms of Reference

The GAP understands the SSC is recommending delaying adoption of the revisions to the Terms of Reference until September. The GAP will review those revisions once the SSC has finalized its recommendations.

PFMC
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