

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
STOCK ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE – FINAL ACTION

In June 2018, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the Terms of Reference (TOR) for stock assessments, rebuilding analyses, and methodology reviews. The SSC endorsed the TORs for rebuilding analyses and methodology reviews but delayed the adoption of the stock assessment TOR to incorporate proposed changes from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) and comments from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT). Subsequently, the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee, Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee, GMT, and the CPS Management Team conducted a webinar to discuss the proposed changes on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. David Sampson presented the revised TOR for 2019 and 2020 groundfish and CPS stock assessments ([Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1](#)) to the full SSC.

The SSC endorsed the revised TOR with the following changes:

Section 1. “Summary of Major Changes ...” (pp.4-5), add the following new bullets, which reflect changes in existing text:

- Section added on State / Tribal Data Experts and State / Tribal Responsibilities.
- SSC identified as the overseer of the assessment review process, responsible for monitoring progress against milestones/deadlines.
- Final data must be provided to the STATs at least eleven weeks in advance of the STAR panel meeting.
- Data deadlines and STAT leads added to the Appendix A table.

Recommended changes to other sections:

1. Add a new bullet item to Appendix G (Accepted Practices Guidelines).
  - Provide guidance regarding reasonable approaches for documenting step-by-step transition to the new assessment model from a previous assessment model, if applicable.
2. P.21, last paragraph, replace the last sentence with the following:  
"Each STAT conducting a full assessment should appoint a representative to attend the Council meeting where the assessment is scheduled to be reviewed and give presentations of the assessment to the SSC and other Council advisory bodies. The STAT is strongly encouraged to attend the associated Groundfish Subcommittee that precedes the Council review. In addition, the STAT should be prepared to respond to MT or Council staff requests for model projections to facilitate development of ACL alternatives."
3. P.22, third paragraph, replace the last sentence with the following:  
"For stocks identified as needing a rebuilding analysis, associated STATs must attend the Groundfish Subcommittee meeting that precedes the September Council meeting. Groundfish rebuilding analyses are typically reviewed at the mop-up panel."
4. Council staff will add a row to the table in Appendix A for the late summer Groundfish Subcommittee meeting for review of the assessments from STAR panels 2-4; and a column of STAT lead/contact for each assessment.
5. Council staff will fix some typographical errors.