

NMFS Groundfish Science Report

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March 2019 presentation to the
Pacific Fishery Management Council



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Overview

- **Changes at the NW Fisheries Science Center**
- **Furlough impacts on 2019 groundfish science**
 - **Assessments and Reviews**
 - **Surveys**
 - **Fishery observations**
 - **Economics**

Changes at the NW Fisheries Science Center

- **Former Fishery Resource Analysis and Monitoring Division Director Michelle McClure started a new position as the Director of the Pacific Marine Environmental Lab**
- **Acting Division Directors will each serve up to 4 months, until a permanent replacement can be hired**
 - **Dr. Jim Hastie: February through late-May**
 - **Dr. Shallin Busch: Mid-May through early-September**
 - **Dr. Owen Hamel: September through December**
- **Jim Hastie will serve as the primary NWFSC liaison to the Council process for groundfish matters after the March Council meeting until a permanent Director is selected**

Federal Furlough Impacts on Groundfish Science

2019 Stock Assessments and Reviews

- **The NWFSC/PSMFC ageing lab lost 4-5 weeks of ageing time**
 - **Some assessments will have fewer ages than planned; Ageing for Full assessments has been prioritized**
 - **We have requested moving Update assessments from the June to September Council meeting to provide agers additional time to age these species**
 - **WDFW has generously offered to help age Petrale Sole (survey)**
- **NMFS assessors lost 4-5 weeks of preparation time**
 - **Assessments likely to include fewer model explorations**
- **Skate Catch History Reconstruction Review was missed and is rescheduled for March 27**
- **The lack of new confidential data agreements with CDFW will likely mean that recreational CPUE series will not be extended**
- **STAR Panels will be held as originally scheduled**

Federal Furlough Impacts on Groundfish Science

2019 Survey-related Impacts

- Availability of 2018 survey data was delayed by approx. 5 weeks
- AFSC's international workshop to evaluate impacts of reductions in survey resources was postponed until 2020
- Contracting for this year's two trawl survey vessels was delayed, but expect to be completed in time for survey
- Acoustic survey staff planning for reduced 2019 ship time was delayed
- Permitting processes for 2019 surveys are delayed
- A trilateral trawl survey workshop (with Canada and Mexico) will be postponed indefinitely

Federal Furlough Impacts on Groundfish Science

2019 Observer-related Impacts

- Data finalization for quota accounts was only slightly delayed
- Protected species reports for the Groundfish BiOp are moved from the April to June Council meeting

2019 Economics Program Impacts

- A survey of charter boat operators continued through the furlough, using contracted interviewers
 - Response rate may be reduced as a result of NMFS staff were unavailable to address questions

One Touch Reporting Project

National Project objectives:

1. Streamline reporting systems to optimize a captain's interactions with NOAA Fisheries.
2. Optimize fisheries management analysis and decision-making by providing more integrated data systems.
 - Regionally driven, multi-platform and multi-year

Project Leaders:

- Dr. Todd Hay (Data Management Specialist at NWFSC)
- Brett Alger (NMFS HQ; Electronic Technologies Coordinator, NOP)

****Plan to start with West Coast**

Todd to meet with GMT and GAP in April.

End of Presentation