

ADOPT FINAL STOCK ASSESSMENTS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process for setting groundfish harvest specifications depends on periodic assessments of the status of groundfish stocks and a report from an established assessment review body or Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panel. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviews this information and makes a recommendation relative to the standards of 1) the best scientific information available, and 2) soundness for use in groundfish fishery management decision-making by the Council. The Council then approves the new assessments and relevant analyses used to set groundfish harvest specifications for the following biennial management period.

The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee reviewed benchmark assessments in August for cabezon, big skate, longnose skate, sablefish, cowcod, and gopher/black-and-yellow rockfishes. They also reviewed new update assessments for petrale sole and widow rockfish, as well as catch-only updates for a number of previously assessed stocks. The Executive Summaries of these assessments and the corresponding Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel reports are provided in Attachments 1 through 14, respectively. **The assessments in their entirety are available on the Council website (electronic only).** Further, the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee reviewed catch-only updates for black rockfish, blackgill rockfish, California blue and deacon rockfishes north of Pt. Conception, canary rockfish, China rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, Dover sole, lingcod, longspine thornyhead, roughey and blackspotted rockfishes, and shortspine thornyhead, as well as revised projections of acceptable biological catches (ABCs) of yelloweye rockfish. These catch-only updates are provided in Attachments 15-25, respectively. Attachment 26 provides the catch report for yelloweye rockfish.

The Council should consider the assessments and catch-only updates, as well as the advice of the SSC, other advisory bodies, and the public before adopting the new stock assessments and catch-only updates for use in groundfish management in 2021 and beyond.

Council Action:

Adopt the stock assessments, catch-only updates, and the yelloweye ABC projections and catch report endorsed by the SSC.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of “Assessing Cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*) stocks in waters off of California and Oregon, with catch limit estimation for Washington State.”
2. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 2: Cabezon Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
3. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 3: Executive Summary of “Status of Big Skate (*Beringraja binoculata*) Off the U.S. Pacific Coast in 2019.”
4. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 4: Big Skate Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
5. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 5: Executive Summary of “Stock assessment of the longnose skate (*Beringraja rhina*) in state and Federal waters off California, Oregon and Washington.”

6. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 6: Longnose Skate Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
7. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 7: Executive Summary of “Status of the sablefish stock in U.S. waters in 2019.”
8. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 8: Sablefish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
9. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 9: Executive Summary of “Status of Cowcod (*Sebastes levis*) in 2019.”
10. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 10: Cowcod Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
11. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 11: Executive Summary of “The Combined Status of Gopher (*Sebastes carnatus*) and Black-and-Yellow Rockfishes (*Sebastes chrysomelas*) in U.S. Waters Off California in 2019.”
12. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 12: Gopher/Black and Yellow Rockfishes Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Report.
13. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 13: Executive Summary of “Status of petrale sole (*Eopsetta jordani*) along the U.S. west coast in 2019.”
14. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 14: Executive Summary of “Stock Assessment Update: Status of Widow Rockfish (*Sebastes entomelas*) Along the U.S. West Coast in 2019.”
15. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 15: A 2019 Catch-Only Projection from the 2015 Assessment of the Status of Black Rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) along the U.S. West Coast.
16. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 16: A 2019 catch-only update/projection from the 2017 assessment update of blackgill rockfish (*Sebastes melanostomus*) in the Conception and Monterey INPFC areas.
17. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 17: Catch update for blue/deacon rockfishes (*Sebastes mystinus* and *diaconus*) along the U.S. California coast.
18. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 18: The status of canary rockfish (*Sebastes pinniger*) in the California Current in 2019: A catch-only update.
19. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 19: A 2019 catch-only projection from the 2015 assessment of the status of China rockfish (*Sebastes nebulosus*) along the U.S. West Coast.
20. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 20: Catch update for darkblotched rockfish (*Sebastes crameri*) off the U.S. West Coast.
21. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 21: Catch update for Dover sole (*Microstomus pacificus*) along the U.S. West Coast.
22. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 22: A 2019 catch-only projection of the 2017 Lingcod Stock Assessment.
23. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 23: Catch Only Update: Stock Assessment and Status of Longspine Thornyhead (*Sebastolobus altivelis*) off California, Oregon and Washington in 2019.
24. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 24: A 2019 catch-only projection from the 2013 assessment of the status of rougheyeye rockfish (*Sebastes aleutianus*) and blackspotted rockfish (*S. melanostictus*) as a complex along the U.S. West Coast.
25. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 25: A 2019 catch-only projection from the 2013 Stock Assessment of Shortspine Thornyhead.
26. Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 26: Catch report for 2017 and 2018 for yelloweye rockfish off the U.S West Coast.

Agenda Order:

- H.5 Adopt Final Stock Assessments John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Approve Final Stock Assessments for 2021-2022 and Beyond

PFMC
08/19/19