

## NMFS REPORT ON STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANNING FOR 2013

At its March meeting, the Council adopted a preliminary set of species for full assessments in 2012: aurora rockfish, bocaccio, cowcod, darkblotched rockfish, longspine thornyhead, Pacific sanddabs, petrale sole, and shortspine thornyhead. Additional analysis has been conducted for bocaccio rockfish since March to help inform current management discussions and consideration of whether it should have a full or updated assessment in 2013. We understand that the SSC will be providing the Council with guidance on this latter question, as part of this agenda item.

The main body of Table 1 includes bocaccio as a full assessment, as tentatively adopted by the Council in March. Assuming the process of developing data-moderate methods and assessments continues to move forward, review of several such assessments would be conducted in late April. Updated assessments for POP and sablefish, and data reports for canary and yelloweye rockfishes would be presented to the SSC in June, along with the findings of the May STAR panel (which tentatively includes petrale and sanddab). The remaining six full assessments would be reviewed in 3 panels in July and August, with those results presented to the SSC in September. A review of rebuilding analyses and any mop-up issues would follow the week after the September Council meeting. The schedule shown in Table 1 is based on the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) leading full assessments for Pacific sanddab, cowcod, and bocaccio, and contributing to the data-moderate review, as appropriate. All other assessments would be led by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC). In order to reduce travel costs for NMFS, all STAR meetings are planned for Seattle or Santa Cruz.

If the assessment for bocaccio is changed to an update, the SWFSC has indicated that it would not be able to accommodate a replacement full assessment. In that event, the NWFSC could conduct a 6<sup>th</sup> full assessment, but would be unable to update the sablefish assessment in 2013. Two candidate species to replace bocaccio in the full assessment list would be rex sole and roughey rockfish. Roughey rockfish has a much higher vulnerability score and has been experiencing high catch, relative to its OFL contribution (calculated using DB-SRA) in recent years, but has very little fishery independent data (only 31 positive hauls per year, for 2007-2011). Rex sole has a low vulnerability score, but has a considerable amount of data from west coast bottom-trawl surveys (over 400 positive hauls per year, for 2007-2011). Both of the species are included in NMFS's Fishery Stock Sustainability Index. In order to minimize travel costs for the stock assessment teams, there would also be some reshuffling of STAR Panel pairings, as well, as indicated in Table 1b.

**Table 1.—Tentative groundfish stock assessment schedule for 2013.**

<b>Review Meeting</b>	<b>Document Deadline</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Tentative Location</b>	<b>Species</b>	
Hake Treaty	Early Feb.	Late Feb.	Canada	Pacific Hake	
Data-Moderate Panel	4/15	4/29-5-3	Santa Cruz or Seattle	Number and Names To Be Determined	
Full Panel 1	4/29	5/13-5/17	Seattle or Santa Cruz	Petrale sole	Pacific sanddabs
June Council Meeting	~5/29	6/18-6/25	Orange County	Petrale sole & Pacific sanddab STAR reports POP & sablefish updates Canary & yelloweye data reports.	
Full Panel 2	6/24	7/8-7/12	Seattle	Darkblotched	Aurora rockfish
Full Panel 3	7/8	7/22-7/26	Seattle	Shortspine thornyhead	Longspine thornyhead
Full Panel 4	7/22	8/5-8/9	Santa Cruz	Cowcod	Bocaccio
Sept. Council Meeting	~8/21	9/10-9/17	Boise	STAR reports for: shortspine and longspine thornyheads, darkblotched and aurora rockfishes, cowcod, and bocaccio	
Mop-up/ Rebuilding	7/8	9/23-9/27	Seattle	Rebuilding analyses and continuing issues, as determined to be necessary	

**Table 1b.--Alternative schedule elements, if bocaccio is changed to an update:**

Full Panel 1	4/29	5/13-5/17	Seattle	Petrale sole	Rex sole <sup>1</sup> Rougheye rockfish <sup>1</sup>
June Council Meeting	~5/29	6/18-6/25	Orange County	Petrale sole & TBD STAR reports POP & bocaccio updates Canary & yelloweye data reports.	
Full Panel 4	7/22	8/5-8/9	Santa Cruz	Cowcod	Pacific sanddabs
Sept. Council Meeting	~8/21	9/10-9/17	Boise	STAR reports for: shortspine and longspine thornyheads, darkblotched and aurora rockfishes, cowcod, and Pacific sanddab	

<sup>1</sup> Rougheye rockfish has a much higher vulnerability score and has been experiencing high catch, relative to its OFL contribution (calculated using DB-SRA) in recent years, but has very little fishery independent data. Rex sole has a low vulnerability score, but has a considerable amount of data from west coast bottom trawl surveys.