



# Considerations for Selecting Groundfish Species for Assessment in 2013

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**

# Species Factors to Consider

- **Data: availability/adequacy; or new data series?**
- **Species Vulnerability score**
- **Species importance to the fishery and ecosystem**
- **Time since last assessment, if ever**
- **Can existing issues/problems be resolved?**
- **Recent direction of survey trend, (if available)**
- **Is it tracked in the FSSI**

# Overview of Recent Survey Data

	Vulnerability Score	2007-2011 NWFSC Survey Average annual number of:		
		lengths	otoliths	hauls > 0
copper rockfish	2.27	23	23	7
rougeye rockfish	2.27	110	104	31
redstripe rockfish	2.16	351	173	12
cowcod	2.13	31	31	16
<b>aurora rockfish</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>rosethorn rockfish</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>sharpchin rockfish</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>38</b>
bank rockfish	2.02	100	61	14
redbanded rockfish	2.02	169	167	49
silvergray rockfish	2.02	48	41	8
California skate	2.12	370	-	70
big skate	1.99	303	113	89
Swordspine Rockfish	1.94	271	64	6
yellowtail rockfish	1.88	805	471	43
squarespot rockfish	1.86	283	76	12
<b>Pacific grenadier</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>2,531</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>shortspine thornyhead</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>356</b>
<b>stripetail rockfish</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>spotted ratfish</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>2,642</b>	-	<b>337</b>
<b>longspine thornyhead</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>4,250</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>255</b>
Pacific cod	1.34	219	74	29
<b>rex sole</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>6,145</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>418</b>
flathead sole	1.26	289	41	39
<b>halfbanded rockfish</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Pacific sanddab</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>3,620</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>221</b>
curlfin sole	1.23	323	114	68

	Vulnerability Score	2007-2011 NWFSC Survey Average annual number of:		
		lengths	otoliths	hauls > 0
<b>spiny dogfish</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>222</b>
blackgill rockfish	2.08	104	31	40
widow rockfish	2.05	173	12	27
canary rockfish	2.01	31	16	43
yelloweye rockfish	2.00	694	96	13
greenspotted rockfish	1.98	478	54	41
<b>petrale sole</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>289</b>
bocaccio	1.93	61	14	28
<b>darkblotched rockfish</b>	<b>1.92</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>greenstriped rockfish</b>	<b>1.88</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>splitnose rockfish</b>	<b>1.82</b>	-	<b>70</b>	<b>145</b>
Pacific ocean perch	1.69	113	89	48
<b>longnose skate</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>sablefish</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>435</b>
<b>lingcod</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Dover sole</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>569</b>
<b>chilipepper</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>arrowtooth flounder</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>English sole</b>	<b>1.19</b>	-	<b>337</b>	<b>262</b>

# Additional Considerations

- **Possible Enhanced *Data-Limited* assessments**
  - Draft TOR in September, after Methods Review
  - Propose 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 STAR panel for species reviews
- **Workload / Capacity**
  - NMFS can likely lead only 8 full assessments
- **Streamlined assessment products**
  - Data report -- Canary and Yelloweye rockfishes
  - Update -- Bocaccio (subject to spring 2012 review of survey)

# Proposed Assessments

- **Benchmark**

- petrale sole, darkblotched rockfish, cowcod, shortspine and longspine thornyheads
- Other choices
  - aurora and yellowtail rockfish, rex sole, sanddabs, widow, canary, bocaccio, and black (N+S) rockfishes

- **Update or data report**

- POP, bocaccio, sablefish, canary, yelloweye rockfish

# Possible Species for Enhanced Data-Limited Assessments

- **Previously assessed**
  - yellowtail rockfish, English sole, arrowtooth fl.
- **Other species where creation of a trawl survey index of abundance may be possible**
  - aurora, halfbanded, redbanded, rosethorn, rougheyeye, sharpchin, stripetail rockfishes, Pacific cod, Pacific grenadier, curlfin, flathead, and rex soles, sanddabs, spotted ratfish

# Assessment Timeline

## 2012

- June** Council selects Benchmark species, if possible, so age-reading can proceed  
SSC conducts Methods Review of Enhanced Data Limited (EDL) approaches
- July-Aug.** If Review endorses an EDL approach, SSC creates draft TOR for EDL methods
- Sept.** Council considers EDL recommendation and TOR; finalizes planning for 2013 assessments
- Nov.** Adopts EDL TOR (if needed)

## 2013

- Jan.-May** Assessment development ramps up
- May** EDL review of 5-10 species, based on Council preferences and modeling success  
STAR for first two Benchmark assessments
- June** SSC & Council consider EDL, Update, and 2 Benchmark assessments
- July-Aug.** 3 STAR Panels conducted, with 6 Benchmark assessments
- Sept.** SSC & Council consider 6 Benchmark assessments  
Mop-up / Review of Rebuilding Analyses
- Nov.** SSC & Council consider Rebuilding Analyses and any assessments review in  
Mop-up