

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The (SSC) was asked to comment on the timing for implementation of discard mortality rates for longnose skate and spiny dogfish, adopted by the Council at the March 2012 meeting, in producing estimates for groundfish mortality reports.

Stock assessments for both species assume less than 100 percent discard mortality. At the March 2012 meeting, the SSC recommended that discard mortality assumptions be consistent between assessments and management. The assessment discard mortality assumptions are based on limited information, but they represent the best information available.

The SSC agrees that the best available scientific information should be used for catch accounting now. Moreover, ideally the recommended discard mortality rates should be applied retrospectively to longnose skate and spiny dogfish mortality estimates in groundfish mortality reports.

PFMC  
11/03/12