



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

Alaska Fisheries  
Science Center

# SSC “General recommendation” from October 2017

Grant Thompson

November 13, 2017

# Recommendation text

1. “The SSC recommends that, for those sets of environmental and fisheries observations that support the inference of an impending severe decline in stock biomass, the issue of concern be brought to the SSC, with an integrated analysis of the indices involved.”
  - “To be of greatest value, to the extent possible this information should be presented at the **October Council meeting** so that there is sufficient time for the Plan Teams and industry to react to the possible reduction in fishing opportunity.”
2. “The SSC also recommends explicit consideration and documentation of ecosystem and stock assessment status for each stock, perhaps following the framework suggested below, during the **December Council meeting** to aid in identifying areas of concern.”

# Sample table

		Stock Assessment status	
			
Ecosystem Assessment status		2006 EBS Pollock	2016 EBS Pollock
		"No red flags were indicated."	EBS Yellowfin sole

Zador and Harvey, In prep.

# A possible way forward

- List some questions that will need to be answered when responding to the SSC's recommendation
  - See next two slides for a starting point
  - Do not attempt to answer the questions today
- Form a workgroup to develop a process for responding to the SSC's recommendation
  - Process will need to include answers to the listed questions
  - Workgroup will need to obtain Joint Team approval of the process in sufficient time to:
    - Meet the October 2018 deadline for task #1
    - Meet the December 2018 deadline for task #2

# Some questions regarding task #1

- Who will make the determination that some set(s) of environmental and fisheries observations “support the inference of an impending severe decline in stock biomass?”
- What form should the “integrated analysis” take?
- Who should conduct the integrated analysis?

# Some questions regarding task #2

- Should the “thumbs” table be used to accomplish task #2?
  - If “yes,” then:
    - Who will make the “thumb” determinations with respect to stock assessment status and ecosystem assessment status?
    - What criteria will be used to make the “thumb” determinations?
    - Is “stock assessment status” supposed to correspond to either of the status determinations that we are required to make under the MSFCMA and, if not, how can readers be made to understand that the same term is being used to refer to two different things?
  - If “no,” then how should task #2 be accomplished?
    - Would the anticipated “Ecosystem-Socioeconomic Profiles” suffice and, if so, will they be ready in time?