



NOAA
FISHERIES

Alaska Fisheries

New assessment schedule

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Products expected under new schedule

Year	1-year cycle		2-year cycle		4-year cycle	
	Tiers 1-3	Tiers 4-6	Tiers 1-3	Tiers 4-6	Tiers 1-3	Tiers 4-6
1	full	full	full	full	full	full
2	full	full	partial	nothing	partial	nothing
3	full	full	full	full	partial	partial
4	full	full	partial	nothing	partial	nothing

13 assessments, 7 authors affected

- Not counting Tier 4-6 assessments that were already on 2-year cycles and stayed there, but now produce nothing during off years
- Estimated total average days saved per year: 37-58

Assessment	Author	Tiers 1-3	Frequency	
			Old	New
AI pollock	Barbeaux	yes	1	2
BSAI Greenland turbot	Bryan	yes	1	2
BSAI northern rock sole	Wilderbuer	yes	1	2
BSAI other flatfish	Wilderbuer	no	2	4
BSAI sculpins	Spies	no	2	4
GOA N/S rock sole	Bryan	yes	2	4
GOA other shallow-water flatfish	Turnock	no	2	4
GOA Dover sole	McGilliard	yes	2	4
GOA other deep-water flatfish	McGilliard	no	2	4
GOA rex sole	McGilliard	no	2	4
GOA flathead sole	Turnock	no	2	4
GOA sculpins	Spies	no	2	4
BSAI/GOA grenadier	Rodgveller	no	2	4

SSC tasks for the authors

- Partial assessments for Tiers 1-3 should be an expanded version of the current off-year executive summaries, including catch/biomass ratios for all species in addition to re-running the projection model with updated catch information, and also including updated survey biomass trends when available (note that partial assessments for Tiers 1-3 do not involve re-running the assessment model; only the projection model).
- Partial assessments for Tiers 4-5 should be an expanded version of the current off-year executive summaries, including catch/biomass ratios for all species in addition to re-running the random effects model.
- Authors would be expected to respond to Team/SSC comments during full assessments only, unless the comments pertain to features that are normally included in partial assessments.

SSC tasks for the Teams

- The SSC requests that the GPTs clarify whether the catch/biomass ratios should be based on survey biomass or projected biomass.

SSC tasks for the authors *and* Teams

- The SSC requests that the authors and the Plan Teams develop guidelines for when an off-year assessment should be developed.

SSC tasks to unspecified parties (1 of 2)

- The SSC also noted that there is a general need to address the treatment of uncertainty in the current tier system. Specific to assessment frequency, the SSC recommends an evaluation of how projected OFL-to-ABC buffers should increase in the intervening years between full assessments. *This analysis should be brought forward before the changes are implemented.*

SSC tasks to unspecified parties (2 of 2)

- The SSC recommends that a framework for evaluating the costs and benefits of changing the target frequency for the stocks identified above is needed before the changes are implemented.
- The SSC also requests a more quantitative evaluation of the potential risks of changing the target frequency of the GOA flatfish stocks to a four-year cycle.
- *The SSC would like to receive both the performance analysis framework and the risk assessment for GOA flatfish and crab stocks before implementing the change in target frequency.*

Council tasks to the agency

- The Council requests that the agency describe how it prioritizes stock assessment funding relative to other fishery research efforts, *prior to the AFSC proceeding with the second year of the prioritization process.*
- Additionally, the Council also requests updates on efforts being undertaken nationally to improve the efficiency of stock assessments.

Council tasks for the Teams (1 of 2)

- The Council endorses the SSC's recommendations on stock assessment prioritization regarding the frequency and format of stock assessments, as well as their recommendations for further review and timely Plan Team development of an evaluation tool for measuring the costs and benefits of alternative assessment frequencies and a framework for risk assessment, *prior to the AFSC proceeding with the second year of the prioritization process.*

Council tasks for the Teams (2 of 2)

- Itemized Analytical Priorities (Initial list, *to be refined by the Plan Teams during their 2017 meetings*, and then be re-reviewed by the SSC and Council)
 - Development and testing of Next Generation Stock Assessment methods including: climate-enhanced stock assessment models, multi-species models, and advanced analytical modeling approaches.
 - Improved short- and long-term projection models to be used to evaluate the performance of alternative management strategies (e.g., MSEs). This might include evaluations of techniques to formally incorporate uncertainty based buffers for tier 3 stocks and strategies for addressing “choke” species’ stock status including PSC caps.
 - More rapid progress on innovative decision tables or decision theoretic approaches to management, including techniques for testing the utility of ensemble modeling approaches to groundfish management.
 - Research to resolve specific modeling issues such as survey catchability, ideal sample sizes for core data sets.