



D6 Groundfish Plan Team Working Group Recommendations (SSC only)

April 2023 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver
Action Required: Provide recommendations on composition, scope and timing of working group(s) as requested by the Groundfish Plan Teams, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

In December 2022, the SSC received a request from the Groundfish Plan Teams to recommend working groups to address various topics that came up during the Groundfish Plan Team meetings, particularly those related to harvest control rules. Specifically, the Groundfish Plan Teams recommended the SSC consider a working group that addresses current policies affecting harvest control rules and develops new approaches for accounting for changes in ecosystems related to climate change, including the exploration of environmental data to help inform recruitment. During the course of the December 2022 SSC meeting, a number of additional topics were identified that were related to the application of harvest control rules for groundfish:

- Use of Tier 1 vs Tier 3 calculations and appropriate ABC buffers.
- Interaction between recruitment variability and harvest control rules.
- The effects of truncated age structure on the performance of harvest control rules.
- The treatment of recruitment in projections and its effects on reference points, including considerations of the appropriate time periods over which reference points should be calculated and how to account for ecosystem effects on recruitment.
- Concepts that may be relevant for harvest control rules and also TAC considerations, including maximum economic yield, catch stability, future value, and other considerations.

At that time, the SSC noted that they would circle back to provide input on these recommendations after the February 2023 SSC workshop.

At this meeting, the SSC will discuss whether to endorse the Plan Teams' recommendations for working groups, as well as their composition, scope, and timing. The SSC already endorsed the Groundfish Plan Team's request for a separate working group focused on data-limited/Tier 6 methods at its December 2022 meeting.