

Draft SSC Report February 2021



C3 IFQ Sablefish Release Analysis

C3 IFQ Sablefish Release Analysis– Initial Review

- Analysis evaluates effects of allowing the release of small sablefish, introducing discard mortality rate in assessment.
- The SSC *finds* the document is *not ready* to advance to final action.
- Analysis addresses three primary issues:
 - Difficulties in estimating the size or age distribution of discards and thus enumerating discard mortality,
 - Risk to future productivity, and
 - Risk to future yield.



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- Analysis thoroughly considers the difficulties associated with the estimation of size or age distribution of releases
- Two unresolved questions central to understanding effects of proposed amendment:
 1. What is the impact on the age structure and overall productivity of the stock under different rates of discard mortality and for different retention selectivity profiles?
 2. What is the impact on the uncertainties in the stock assessment, and the required buffers in setting ABC, arising from knowledge gaps introduced by not knowing retention selectivity and discard mortality in a mostly unobserved fishery?



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1. The SSC ***recommends*** projections be developed to assess where the trade-off in lost yield of younger fish balances with preserving spawning biomass and future value of the catch.
2. The SSC ***encourages*** the authors to consider whether additional exploration of the impact of poorly-informed IFQ fishery selectivity on stock assessment model reference points is warranted to fully evaluate the impacts of this proposed management measure.



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- The SSC **recommends** Spawner per Recruit (SPR) analysis that includes a 50 – 100 year projection.
 - The SSC provided the authors suggestions for framing this model
 - Use a wide range of DMRs including 5, 12, 16, 20, and 100%
 - Consider whether to include a range of retention selectivity curves
 - The SSC suggests examining near term performance (with abundant small sablefish), performance with sequences of low recruitment years, and long-run performance
 - The SSC requests reporting differential impacts across communities in simulation results
- The SSC **highlights** that, due to uncertainties with potential new fishing strategies, monitoring the released catch under Alternative 2 would be critical

