

# Role of the North Pacific Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee

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Anchorage, Alaska  
for

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Seattle, Washington  
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# SSC Structure

## Composition

**N= 15: Representation mandated from NMFS/AFSC, States of AK, WA, and OR; rest consists of additional State and Federal staff and academicians; includes fishery biologists, economists, social scientists, seabird and marine mammal ecologists, population dynamics experts.**

## Appointment

**Members nominated by the SSC and approved by the Council. All serve 1 year terms, but no term limit.**

## Meeting Frequency

**Meets 5 times per year, concurrent with Council meetings, for 3 days. Occasional special meetings at request of Council.**

## Scope of Recommendation

**Reviews all scientific and technical aspects of amendment analyses, stock assessments; provides recommendations for research and data needs; recommends OFLs and ABCs; determines new methodology for setting OFL and ABC for Tier 6 stocks (least understood species)**

## Public Testimony

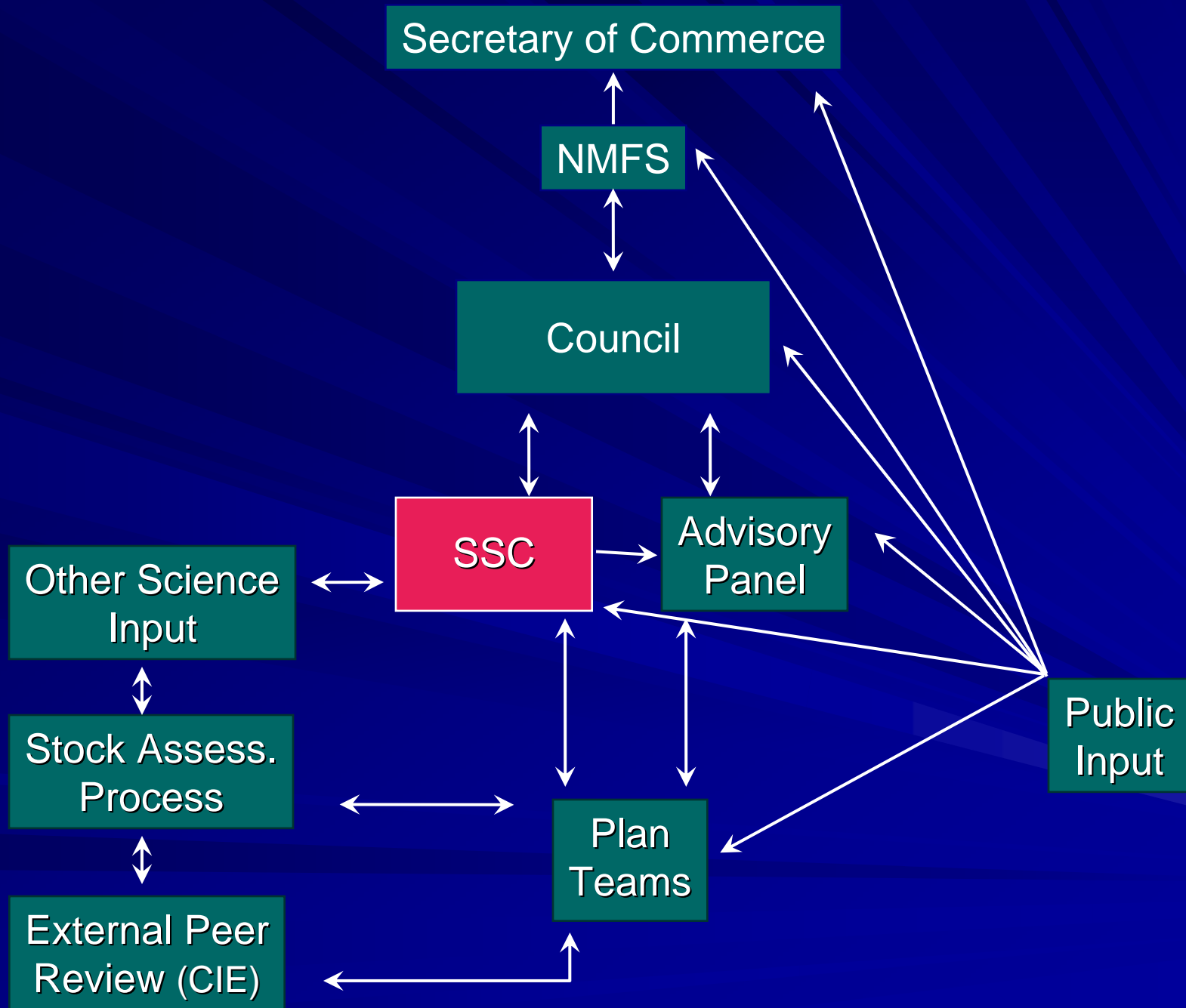
**Open meetings with high public attendance; oral testimony common**

## Reports and Minutes

**Both verbal and written reports are presented to Council. Also available on Web .**

## Council Use of SSC Recommendations

**Council follows SSC advice whenever possible. Council sets  $TACs \leq ABC < OFL$  (always a single number for each stock or complex)**



# Specification (Quota-setting) Process



# Groundfish Stock Assessments reviewed by Groundfish Plan Teams and SSC each Fall

## ■ Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands 22 total stock assessments\*

17 target categories

OFL, ABC, TAC based on annual species/group level assessments

1 “other species” category comprised of 5 species groups

OFL, ABC, TAC based on group level assessments (tiers 5 or 6) and then combined

## ■ Gulf of Alaska 20 total stock assessments\*

20 target categories

OFL, ABC, TAC based on annual species/group level assessments

1 “other species” category

No OFL or ABC

TAC  $\leq$  5% total TACs

(not science-based; draft assessments have been prepared/reviewed for future implementation)

\*Beginning in 2005, assessments linked to biennial GOA and AI surveys are reviewed on biennial basis. These include 4 BSAI rockfish assessments in odd numbered years and 14 GOA rockfish and flatfish assessments in even numbered years

# December 2006 SSC Meeting Agenda

- 42\* groundfish stock assessments
- North Pacific Research Board report
- Charter Halibut Limited Entry Program  
EA/RIR/IRFA
- Trawl Recency document
- Seabird Interactions EA/RIR
- Bering Sea Habitat Conservation document
- 2 Experimental Fishing Permit analyses

## **Policy Regarding Preparation of SSC Report (4/03)**

**The preparation of the SSC report is one of the most important duties of the SSC. The SSC report should reflect the discussions of the SSC as a body during the SSC meeting. The report serves multiple purposes: (1) a record of what transpired at the meeting, (2) scientific advice to the Council and to the public, (3) the institutional memory of the development of SSC policy regarding various issues. As such, it is important that SSC report be clearly written, accurate, and transparent. The following guidelines are meant to assist achieving these goals.**

## **SSC Report (cont.)**

- 1. Before the meeting, the SSC Chair will assign individuals to various agenda items.**
- 2. Each member should read the documents pertaining to the agenda item particularly carefully, identify the scientific issues, and research previous SSC comments on the item.**
- 3. Lead the discussion and formulate SSC advice on the agenda item. Generally, there is a presentation by staff followed by SSC questions, public testimony, and finally SSC discussion and formulation of advice.**
- 4. Record the main points summarized by the Chair that constitute SSC advice.**
- 5. Coordinate with other members responsible for writing the report on the particular agenda item. Decide how to divide up the task. One person should assume the lead to assemble written and electronic submissions.**
- 6. Each SSC report should reference the agenda number and title and a list of staff members and public who spoke before the SSC. After that, provide a summary of previous consideration of this item and address what are key issues being discussed by the SSC.**
- 7. The report should provide an accurate description of the scientific discussion. Therefore, sufficient detail should be provided to reflect the range of opinions that were expressed.**
- 8. Other SSC members are encouraged to read the draft report of all agenda items and provide comments to the leader of that agenda item. Please make your comments constructive and clear.**
- 9. Avoid recommending changes of a substantive nature that were not discussed at the meeting.**
- 10. The SSC Chair has responsibility for final editing of the SSC report. The Chair may change or delete the minutes for clarity, scientific logic, and accuracy.**
- 11. The SSC secretary will send the draft minutes out to all members after the meeting, and members are encouraged to recommend final changes.**