Table 3. A preliminary list of NMFS's data quality tiers.

Data Quality Score	Description	Example
1	(Best data) Information is based on collected data for the stock and area of interest that is established and substantial.	Data rich stock assessment, published literature that uses multiple methods, etc.
2	(Adequate Data) Information with limited coverage and corroboration, or for some other reason deemed not as reliable as Tier 1 data	Limited temporal or spatial data, relatively old information, etc
3	(Limited Data) Estimates with high variation and limited confidence and may be based on similar taxa or life history strategy.	Similar genus or family, etc.
4	(Very Limited Data) Expert opinion or based on general literature review from wide range of species, or outside of region	General data – not referenced
5	(No Data) No information to base score on – not included in the PSA, but included in the DQI score.	