



Stock Assessment Updates of the Bottomfish Management Unit Species of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam in 2015 Using Data through 2013:

Tier 3 WPSAR Schedule

The draft 2015 territorial bottomfish stock assessment updates were released on June 1, 2015. According to the WPSAR policy, assessment updates are assigned to a Tier 3 peer review. These assessments will be the basis for the Annual Catch Limit (ABC) specification for the bottomfish management unit species (BMUS) complex in each of the Territories for fishing year 2016. Below are the steps and timeline needed to accomplish the peer review before the October Council Meeting cycle, when ACLs will be specified.

July, 2015

- Panel chair will direct the panel to review the materials
- The panel members will individually review the draft Territorial bottomfish stock assessment updates and prepare their comments and draft individual review reports based on the terms of reference

August 11-12, 2015

- WPSAR Tier 3 review of the draft Stock Assessment Updates of the Bottomfish Management Unit Species of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam in 2015 Using Data through 2013

August 31, 2015

- Due date for finalizing the WPSAR Tier 3 review reports

September 14, 2015

- Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center delivers final draft stock assessment to the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)

September 16, 2015

- Special session of the SSC to discuss the final stock assessment, WPSAR Tier 3 report and make Best Scientific Information Available recommendation (via WebEx and Teleconference)

October, 2015

- SSC meeting to specify Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)
- Council meeting to specify ACL