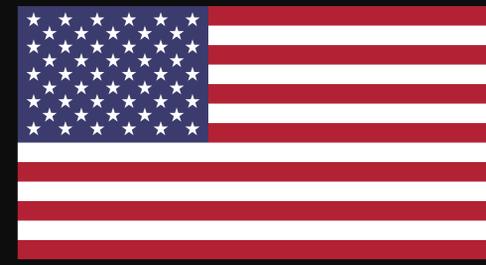




# Technical Subcommittee of the Canada–U.S. Groundfish Committee



## What is the TSC?

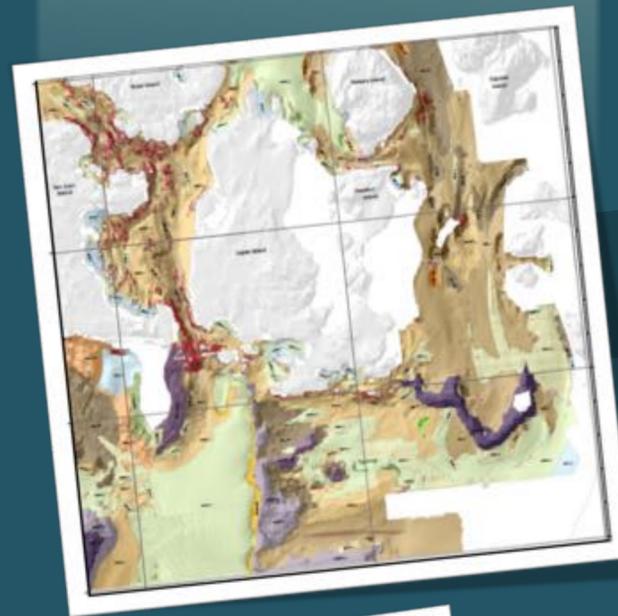
The Technical Subcommittee (TSC) for groundfish was born in 1960 out of a need for coordinating fishery and scientific information resulting from commercial fisheries operating in US and Canadian waters of the West Coast. Today, representatives from state and Canadian and US federal agencies meet annually to exchange information and to identify data gaps and information needs focused on shared groundfish stocks from California to Alaska. Each agency prepares a comprehensive annual report highlighting survey and research activities and findings from research and stock assessments. These reports are combined into an annual TSC report that is published online ([www.psmfc.org/tsc2](http://www.psmfc.org/tsc2)). As agency representatives review each other's activities and findings, the committee identifies needs and recommends actions for agencies or new workshops to be held. The TSC has prepared catch databases that have led to the development of the PACFIN catch reporting system, hosted 21 workshops, organized 27 working groups, and created the Committee for Age Reading Experts (CARE). Each year the committee recommends actions to improve and coordinate groundfish science and these recommendations are sent to agency heads and managers.

## History

Before the US and Canada implemented exclusive domestic fisheries off their respective coasts, commercial fishers from the US fished off Canada, and Canadian fishers fished in U.S. waters. In 1959, an International Trawl Fishery Committee was established from agencies managing and researching groundfish at that time to track these transboundary fisheries and examine biological questions arising from the stocks and fisheries. This committee established the Technical Subcommittee (TSC) which held its first meeting in 1960 and has held annual meetings ever since. Initial activities and concerns focused on reporting and resolving catches, stock identification and assessment, tagging, ageing techniques, and hydroacoustic techniques. These earlier studies focused on petrale, rock, and English soles; lingcod; Pacific ocean perch; and sablefish. TSC has fostered new science and improved methodologies by forming workgroups to work on specific problems and by holding workshops that bring scientists and managers together to discuss, synthesize, and improve the latest results and techniques focused on groundfish science. Some recent workshops include Trawl and Setline Survey Methods, Catch Reconstruction, and Visual Survey Methods.

## Changing With The Times

Over time, TSCs role has changed with implementation of new management and governance authorities but the annual reports provide a common and extensive forum to learn about ongoing groundfish science. The TSC continues to recommend research topics, hold workshops, and establish workgroups and sends these recommendations to agency directors, fishery managers, and program managers. The 2016 Western Groundfish Conference features a TSC sponsored workshop on Developing Electronic Data-Gathering Systems for Marine Fisheries.



**Trawl and  
setline survey  
workshop**

**Catch  
reconstruction  
workshop**



**Electronic  
data gathering  
workshop**



**Visual  
surveys  
workshop**

**Habitat  
mapping  
workshop**



**Yelloweye rockfish  
workshop**