

**NMFS Council Member Training
October 2013**

Stock Assessments: The Science of Fisheries

1. **Stock assessments are designed to provide management advice and answer management questions.**
2. **Key inputs to stock assessments include catch data, abundance trends, and stock biology.**
3. **Stock assessments can be conducted using a variety of advanced technical methods, where the preferred approach depends on the data available.**
4. **Stock assessments produce estimates of stock abundance, mortality, and productivity, and stock status can be derived from these estimates.**
5. **Stock assessment models can be used to forecast stock dynamics and therefore provide the technical basis for guiding the determination of Annual Catch Limits.**