What is the expected course of action if science advice is not provided? Could this negatively affect species, habitat(s) or ecosystem(s) of concern?

In the absence of updated science information, the GMU is not in a position to make changes to the TAC.

Will this request help DFO move towards an ecosystem approach to management? For example, does this request relate to overarching national objectives of conserving biodiversity, productivity or habitat, or more specific bioregional ecosystem objectives (if they exist)? Are there specific ecosystem considerations that should be taken into account?

○ Yes
◉ No

If yes, please elaborate.
While this not an ecosystem (based) assessment it is critical to know the relative abundance of various ecosystem components before one can move towards ecosystem based fisheries management. This assessment will provide a time series of biomass estimates for the target species that can be used in the future to inform an ecosystem based approach.

Is the provision of this information/advice required to meet a legal or regulatory requirement?

○ Yes
◉ No

If yes, please elaborate.

Does this issue have public, media and/or government (outside DFO) interest or involvement at the local, regional, national or international level?

○ Yes
◉ No

If yes, please elaborate.

Is the provision of this information/advice required to support a departmental priority?

◉ Yes
○ No

If yes, describe which priority and provide a short rationale.
This work contributes to the implementation of the policies within the Sustainable Fisheries Framework. It also facilitates the department's work in supporting MSC for commercial fisheries.

Is the provision of this information/advice required to respond to or meet an international commitment?

○ Yes
◉ No

If yes, which commitment?

Administrative Details

Deadline

Latest Possible Date to Receive Science Advice

November 2014

Rationale
Updated advice from this assessment is requested for inclusion in the 2015 groundfish harvest plans.