The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) was briefed by Mr. Jim Glock and Mr. Steve Copps, who provided an update on progress towards completing the groundfish Programmatic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSEIS) and the Essential Fish Habitat Environmental Impact Statement (EFH EIS). While there will be significant overlap between the two documents, they have been placed on separate completion schedules because of legal considerations. A range of PSEIS alternatives for analysis is expected to be available at the June Council meeting. At this time, however, there were no specific issues for the SSC to consider.

The PSEIS will establish the basic policies, goals, and objectives of groundfish management into the future and, as a consequence, the recently completed Groundfish Strategic Plan should prove useful in developing the range of options, as well as selecting a preferred option from the range of alternatives analyzed. While the PSEIS will not alter the fishery management plan, a subsequent amendment may redefine the goals of groundfish management, consistent with the groundfish strategic plan.

PFMC
04/10/02