

SCOPING FOR DELEGATION OF NEARSHORE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Situation: California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is developing a fishery management plan (FMP) for California's nearshore finfish fishery. CDFG also intends to seek transfer of management authority for several groundfish species that would be managed under their nearshore FMP. Approximately 16 of the species included in the State's draft FMP are currently managed under the federal Pacific Coast groundfish FMP.

Information on the nearshore FMP and transfer of management authority were presented to the Council in June 2002. The public comment period on CDFG's nearshore FMP has ended. The California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) considered action on the nearshore FMP at their August 29-30, 2002 meeting.

CDFG will report to the Council on the outcome of the CFGC meeting.

Based on the information presented by CDFG and the Council's advisory bodies, the Council could consider initiating an amendment to the groundfish FMP that would transfer management authority over certain species from the federal FMP to the California nearshore FMP.

During the discussion of the transfer of authority issue, the Council may want to consider how it intends to formally review and act on CDFG's nearshore FMP and transfer of management authority request. That is, what sort of process might be necessary to review the voluminous information, coordinate with CDFG and CFGC, and develop a plan amendment to the federal groundfish FMP.

Council Action:

1. Consider initiating FMP amendment process.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit C.10.b, CDFG Report.
2. Exhibit C.10.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. California Department of Fish and Game Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Initiating FMP Amendment Process

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Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The GFSP contemplates delegation or deferral of management authority for certain nearshore species to the states, particularly species that reside in and are harvested primarily within state waters. The GFSP notes "the Council and NMFS are not well suited to assess the biological requirements of many of these local populations, to assess the social and economic issues associated with them, or to monitor localized fisheries." Therefore, the GFSP recommends the Council "[c]onsider delegating or deferring nearshore rockfish and other groundfish species, such as scorpionfish, greenling, and cabezon, to the States." (Groundfish Strategic Plan, Management Policies Recommendation, p. 13).

PFMC
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