

ALTERNATIVE LONG-TERM GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Situation: At the April 2003 Council meeting, the Council considered the need to examine alternative management strategies for management of the groundfish fisheries, particularly the trawl sector. The discussion included concepts covered in the Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan but yet to be implemented, such as individual fishing quotas, as well as new, innovative ideas not discussed in the Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan. An example of the latter was the idea to allow small trawl vessels that have safety issues and other difficulties fishing well offshore and at great depth when this is the only open season alternative, to utilize some of the trawl quota by fishing fixed gear in shallower waters in a manner that addresses the bycatch concerns that necessitate nearshore trawl closures. The discussion also included discussion about the proper way to integrate alternative management strategies with further implementation of the Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan. The Council is scheduled to complete a formal review of the Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan at the November Council meeting.

The Council indicated further discussion of alternative management strategies at the June Council meeting be limited to a discussion of planning and logistics associated with a process on how to proceed with further considerations. The intent was to not discuss individual ideas nor their merits.

Council Task:

- 1. Consider how to proceed with further considerations about significantly different alternative management strategies for groundfish fisheries.**

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- Agendum Overview
- Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- Public Comment
- Council Discussion and Guidance

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