The Council has decided to pursue a Groundfish FMP amendment (Amendment 21) in consideration of formal allocations of groundfish species and species’ complexes for sectors of the groundfish fishery. Intersector allocations are needed to support implementation of FMP Amendment 18 bycatch mitigation policies (see Agenda Item D.2 for more details), development of biennial groundfish specifications and management measures, and development of a dedicated access program for the limited entry trawl fishery that contemplates managing this sector using trawl individual quotas (Amendment 20). An environmental impact statement (EIS) will be developed, which will analyze intersector allocation alternatives to support decision-making in this process.

The Council’s Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) has met four times since January 2005 to discuss intersector allocations. The first three GAC meetings, which occurred in January, May, and November of 2005, discussed issues and data that need to be considered when making intersector allocations. The fourth meeting on October 18-19, 2006, reviewed more detailed catch data and developed recommended intersector allocation alternatives for adoption by the Council as preliminary alternatives for further analysis. The refined set of historical catch data by fishing sector relevant to the intersector allocation process, as presented to or requested by the GAC, are provided in Agenda Item D.7.a, Attachment 1. Agenda Item D.7.b, Attachment 1 provides the draft summary minutes of the most recent GAC meeting including a listing of various features of intersector allocation that were considered (page 18) and using those features, nine intersector alternatives recommended for adoption consideration by the Council (page 19). These draft summary minutes also summarize points made at past GAC meetings concerning the intersector allocation process.

The Council task at this meeting is to adopt a range of preliminary intersector allocation alternatives for further analysis and development. The Council should consider the GAC materials and recommendations; advisory body advice; and public comments before taking action. The Council is expected to revisit the adopted preliminary range of alternatives next year before adopting a refined range of intersector allocation alternatives for intensified analysis in the EIS.

Council staff intends to release a Scoping Information Document after this Council meeting which will contain background information relevant to this process; the data tables in Agenda Item D.7.a, Attachment 1; and the range of preliminary intersector allocation alternatives decided at this meeting. The intent of this scoping document is to provide information for public input on the allocation alternatives and issues to be considered as the intersector allocation EIS moves forward.

**Council Action:**

1. Adopt Preliminary Intersector Allocation Alternatives for Analysis and Further Development
Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.7.a, Attachment 1: Tables Summarizing Historical Catch Data by Fishing Sector Relevant to the Intersector Allocation Process.
3. Agenda Item D.7.e, Public Comments.

Agenda Order:

a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
b. Recommendations of the Groundfish Allocation Committee Don Hansen
c. Agency and Tribal Comments
d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
e. Public Comment
f. Council Action: Adopt Preliminary Alternatives for Analysis and Further Development

PFMC
10/27/06