

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON INTERSECTOR ALLOCATION FOR TRAWL INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS AND OTHER MANAGEMENT NEEDS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the preliminary intersector allocation alternatives recommended by the Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) presented on page 19 of Agenda Item D.7.b, Attachment 1. The GMT considers the alternatives to represent a reasonable range to support moving forward with the suite of analyses that will be contained within the Environmental Impact Statement associated with this amendment to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

The initial allocation alternatives include histories that specify total catch (i.e., landed catch and discard mortality) and those that specify landed catch only. The team notes that, as catch history becomes more dated, the ability to resolve total versus landed catch mortality becomes increasingly problematic. This is especially true for catch history prior to implementation of the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program.

The GMT also notes that static allocations, regardless of the catch window upon which they are based, may not fit the requirements of future fisheries or provide sufficient management flexibility as stock abundances fluctuate. Therefore, the GMT recommends incorporating into the overall analysis an exploration of sliding scale allocations based upon stock abundance; this approach could apply to overfished species as well as target species. The GMT looks forward to assisting in this effort as well as other aspects of management associated with intersector allocation as the process continues to move forward.

### **GMT Recommendations:**

1. Approve the preliminary range of alternatives developed by the GAC for analysis and public review; and
2. Incorporate exploration of a sliding scale approach into the analysis.