

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT AMENDMENT 21:
ON INTERSECTOR ALLOCATION

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the deliberations of the Groundfish Allocation Committee's (GAC) May 15-17 meeting as well as their report in Agenda Item E.8.b, GAC Report and has the following comments:

Process for Deciding Intersector Allocations

The GMT agrees with the GAC recommendation to delay the allocation of those species (e.g., canary, cowcod, bocaccio, and yelloweye) that might potentially be contentious or complicated; however, the GMT notes that some allocation or set aside of these species to the trawl sector will still be necessary for prosecution of a rationalized trawl fishery. Likewise, the GMT is sympathetic to the need to balance workloads and deadlines in considering intersector allocation along with other Council priorities and supports addressing allocations to the trawl sector first. It is our understanding that allocations to other sectors could be accomplished through trailing amendments.

Decision Process for Allocating Among Trawl Sectors

The GMT concurs with the GAC and staff recommendation to allocate between trawl sectors under Amendment 21 (intersector allocation) rather than the Amendment 20 (trawl rationalization) process. The GMT notes that addressing allocations between trawl sectors as part of the rationalization process could unnecessarily burden that analysis with a considerable increase in complexity.

Intersector Allocation Action Alternatives

The GMT discussed the changes to the range of action alternatives recommended by the GAC and agrees that, with the suggested changes, this represents a reasonable range. In removing discard mortality from alternatives 2, 3, 6, and 7, the GMT notes that there are differential regulations between sectors. The analysis should examine the effect of regulations limiting or prohibiting retention for some species on the landed catch of a particular sector. Given the removal of alternatives 4 and 8, the GMT will provide the most up-to-date scorecard projections for 2008 fisheries in November 2007 to give the Council a benchmark for comparison of current overfished species impacts with the range of alternatives.

Catch Overage Risk Management

The GMT agrees that novel approaches to prevent the catch of overfished species from one sector impacting another will likely be needed for a trawl rationalization program. In fact, such mechanisms may be key to the program's success in the face of highly constraining catch limits for some species. The GMT also recommends exploring both the biological and legal (e.g., in relation to Annual Catch Limits as defined in the newly reauthorized Magnuson Act) ramifications of multi-year OYs and carryover provisions in the analysis.