

CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Management measures for the 2008 groundfish season were set by the Council with the understanding these measures would likely need to be adjusted throughout the biennial period to attain, but not exceed, the optimum yields (OYs). Additionally, the Council set 2009 management measures last June with the intent of considering inseason adjustments to 2009 fisheries if they are needed to stay within specified OYs. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has indicated that there will be a delay in implementing 2009 harvest specifications and management measures. Therefore, this agenda item will consider inseason adjustments to ongoing 2008 fisheries and initial 2009 fisheries.

There is a very limited ability to adjust 2008 management measures at this late date and any action to modify 2008 management measures that could be considered would likely fall into the category of emergency closures to keep from exceeding an OY or an acceptable biological catch.

The 2009 harvest specifications and management measures decided in June are anticipated to be implemented by March 1 (the start of period 2). The 2008 OYs and management measures in place at the end of 2008 are the default for 2009 until new regulations are implemented. While the Council cannot implement the new 2009 OYs through an inseason adjustment, initial 2009 management measures can be adjusted if there is adequate rationale to do so.

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) will meet prior to this agenda item to discuss and recommend inseason adjustments to ongoing 2008 and initial 2009 groundfish fisheries. After hearing this advisory body advice and public comment, the Council should consider preliminary or final inseason adjustments under this agenda item. Agenda Item F.4 is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, should further analysis or clarification be needed.

Council Action:

Consider information on the status of ongoing 2008 or initial 2009 groundfish fisheries and adopt inseason adjustments as necessary.

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Agencies and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Action: Adopt Preliminary or Final Recommendations for Adjustments to 2008 and Initial 2009 Groundfish Fisheries

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PFMC
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