

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Supplemental Report on Management Measures for  
the 2019-20 Biennial Harvest Specifications

NMFS's priorities for management measures for the 2019-20 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures are those that reduce bycatch of protected species, prevent overfishing, keep catch under acceptable catch limits, support rebuilding plans, and those that are changes to routine management measures in order to maximize harvest.

NMFS will review the specific measures proposed by the Council at this meeting and will provide feedback at both the October 2017 Groundfish Management Team (GMT) meeting and the Council's November 2017 meeting. NMFS will focus our feedback on: (1) whether the measures are appropriate for inclusion in the 2019-20 harvest specifications and management measures, and (2) the analytic workload associated with each measure and its impact on our ability to meet the January 1 deadline for implementation.

NMFS's goal is to implement the 2019-20 harvest specifications and management measures on January 1, 2019. We believe the best way to achieve this is to limit management measures to those that are directly related to the harvest specifications. However, we note that in prior biennial cycles, it has not been a single new management measure that caused a delay in implementation. Rather, it has been the sum of new and routine management measures, and the analytic work required to support those measures, that has caused delays. The Council may wish to consider the cumulative timeline impact of implementing multiple management measures as it determines its recommendations.