

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the items contained in the briefing book under this agenda item, previous reports outlining anticipated work or meetings for this winter, the stock assessment review (STAR) panel schedule, calendars of other meetings, and provides the following thoughts on workload planning and the future council meeting agendas.

### *Winter GMT Meeting*

The GMT is scheduled to meet the week of February 2, likely in Seattle, depending on the availability of presenters. The primary purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the 2017-2018 harvest specifications and management measures process. Additional topics would include other matters on the Council's Year-at-a-Glance schedule.

### *Recommendations for 2015 Methodology Reviews*

The majority of the GMT projection models were reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) from 2012 to the present. The GMT continues to make progress on the SSC recommendations that haven't already been addressed. For models and methodologies that have not been reviewed, the GMT recommends the following priorities for 2015: 1) trawl shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) groundfish projection model; and 2) rebuilding management strategy evaluation. The GMT also recommends including a placeholder for approximately 2-3 hours on a June or September 2015 SSC agenda for those matters that cannot be resolved by the GMT and require further SSC input. This would include emerging issues as well as difficulties implementing past SSC recommendations for improving GMT projection models.

### *March Council Meeting Considerations*

At this time, there are no groundfish agenda items scheduled for the March Council meeting; however, the GMT would like to receive as much notice as possible if that is anticipated to change. This will allow GMT members to adjust their other previously scheduled work duties, prepare any necessary materials, and adjust other plans as necessary. Additionally, during the March Council meeting planning for the April Council meeting, the GMT would appreciate communication with the GMT Chair or Vice-Chair if any items not currently on the April agenda are being considered for addition to April prior to finalization.

### *April Council Meeting Considerations*

Given the current April schedule, the GMT believes that the 8:00 am on Friday, April 10, 2015 start time is appropriate. To the extent possible, the GMT prefers arriving the evening before the GMT start date as well as beginning the first day of GMT meetings at 8:00 am (rather than mid-day). This preferred schedule generally results in higher productivity and better attendance during our first meeting day.