

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 2011-2012 MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND MEASURES

The Council's November 2009 meeting marked the initiation of the harvest specifications and management measures decision-making process for 2011-2012 fisheries. The Council adopted a preliminary range of annual catch limits (ACLs) for each stock and stock complex as well as a preliminary range of management measures designed to stay within the harvest specifications. The range of ACLs adopted at the November 2009 Council meeting may need to be modified based on decisions made at this meeting under Agenda Item E.4 Amendment 23: Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures. Updated harvest specification tables will be available at the April 2010 Council meeting.

Over winter the Groundfish Management Team, Council staff, and the Northwest Region began preparations necessary for conducting the impact analysis and draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A key element has been structuring the alternatives in a way whereby the essential information is integrated in a logical fashion. Under this agenda item, the Council will receive an informational briefing on the process for determining the 2011-2012 harvest specifications and management measures as well as the rationale behind the preliminary range of integrated alternatives. Each integrated alternative includes a suite of ACLs for overfished species and selected target stocks, allocations and other mechanisms to apportion fishing opportunity among sectors, and the management measures necessary to constrain total catch within the ACLs contained in that alternative.

At the April 2010 Council meeting, the NEPA analyses will be brought forward and the Council is scheduled to adopt a reasonable range of alternatives for public review. Staff would then be able to prepare a preliminary impact analysis in support of Council final action at the June 2010 Council meeting. Final action involves choosing a preferred alternative falling within the range of alternatives adopted in April.

Council Action:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion and Questions

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PFMC
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