

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) notes that in the draft agenda (Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 2) for the November meeting there are two groundfish inseason agenda items scheduled on consecutive days. One day is insufficient for all but the most cursory informational updates on inseason management (e.g. a scorecard reflecting impacts from inseason action). Any more extensive inseason action requires multiple model runs, GMT discussion of the most appropriate model scenarios and potential associated management actions, statement writing and compilation that reflects the consensus of the GMT from those discussions, and final review and editing of the report. It also requires doing so without meaningful input from the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel. While we have accomplished similar feats in short time periods before, it requires most of the GMT working through the night which is not sustainable as an ongoing course of operations.

In the longer term, the GMT also supports the Council Staff effort to prepare a white paper exploring process efficiencies prior to the next harvest specifications and management measures cycle. We emphasize the importance of this project, including preparing for an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan in planning for future meetings (i.e. in addition to routine groundfish management issues such as inseason) if necessary.

PFMC
09/16/10