BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT PROCESS FOR 2013-2014 GROUNDFISH FISHERIES – PART 2

This is the second agenda item at this meeting addressing harvest specifications and management measures for 2013-2014 groundfish fisheries. Under Agenda Item G.5, the Council is tasked with adopting 2013-2014 overfishing limits recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and overfishing probabilities (P*s)/acceptable biological catches for groundfish stocks and stock complexes. The Council is also scheduled to provide guidance for managing the groundfish stock complexes in accordance with the National Standard 1 guidelines. The SSC intends to provide recommendations for the commercial harvest allocation model used in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis under Agenda Item G.5. In the event the Council does not complete all the tasks under Agenda Item G.5 or if additional analyses are requested, the remainder of the harvest specifications decisions should be made under Agenda Item G.9.

Additionally, under this agenda item, the Council should adopt a prioritized range of management measures. Preliminary analysis of these management measures will be presented at the November Council meeting when the Council is scheduled to narrow the range of management measures for the NEPA analyses. The NEPA analyses will help the Council develop a preliminary preferred suite of 2013-2014 management measures at the April 2012 Council meeting. After a public review period, the Council will take final action at the June 2012 Council meeting.

At its June 2011 meeting, the Council stated its intent to reduce the scope and number of changes to status quo harvest specifications and management considerations for the 2013-2014 cycle to increase the likelihood of a January 1, 2013 start date (see Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1 for draft June 2011 summary minutes). The Council anticipates that the 2013-2014 harvest specifications and management measures will be similar to those in 2012. Under this agenda item, the Council should carefully consider the list of potential management measures proposed by management entities, advisory bodies, and the public as well as the intended narrow scope of action when deciding which issues are the highest priorities for analyses.

Council Action:

1. Adopt any remaining groundfish harvest specifications for 2013-2014;
2. Adopt a prioritized range of management measures for preliminary analysis.

Reference Materials:

None.
Agenda Order:

a. Agenda Item Overview  Kelly Ames, John DeVore
b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
c. Public Comment

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