

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
UNMANAGED FORAGE FISH PROTECTION INITIATIVE

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) appreciated receiving a presentation from Mr. Mike Burner on the unmanaged forage fish initiative and the analysis to date. We have heard that in addition to the existing options, there has been some discussion of additional shoreside sorting to track the landings of forage fish as ecosystem component species.

Currently, each state records landings of unsorted species differently. Additional sorting requirements would have an impact on existing requirements and priorities (e.g. sorting to better understand the potential for overfishing in stock complex component species). Some of the costs and associated process changes have been presented in state reports ([Agenda Item F.8.b, ODFW Report, June 2013](#) and [Agenda Item J.1.c, WDFW Report, September 2014](#)). There has not been a comprehensive analysis across the states of how forage species are currently tracked on fish tickets, how additional new sampling requirements impact existing requirements and priorities, or how the coastwide sampling could be better-coordinated.

If the Council wanted to see such analyses, the Ecosystem Workgroup could be tasked with documenting how unsorted species are currently recorded on fish tickets by the various states, as well as the costs for additional sorting among states. Coordinating port sampling across the states to more efficiently address all of the competing priorities could be addressed as a new Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative when the Council discusses those in March 2015.

PFMC
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