Agenda Item H.1.c
Supplemental GMT Report
September 2013

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON MANAGING OUR NATION'S FISHERIES 3 CONFERENCE FOLLOW UPS AND UNRELATED LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received a presentation from Ms. Jennifer Gilden on the information coming from the Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 Conference and the subsequent Legislative Committee (LC) deliberations. We appreciate the efforts of Council staff to refine the list of findings as well as the summary presented by Ms. Gilden.

We did not have time for a thorough review of all the findings or possible Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) priorities. However, it seems to the GMT that a lot of the findings deemed pertinent for the Pacific Coast and the recommendations coming out of the LC are about increasing flexibility in fisheries management across all Fishery Management Plans (FMP). It may be difficult for many to determine why flexibility is desirable and how much flexibility would be reasonable. It is through the lens of conservation goals that the GMT recommends looking at potential changes to the MSA, regulations, or National Standard (NS) Guidelines and any subsequent analysis of possible MSA reauthorization priorities that the LC or Council may want. Using rebuilding flexibility as an example, the analysis would be best grounded in the long-term conservation objectives that rebuilding is meant to achieve. The analyses we are contemplating under Agenda Item G.7 Initial Actions for Setting 2015-2016 Groundfish Fisheries are envisioned to do this very thing.

For example, changing "overfished" to "depleted" will have little effect with just that change in the law. It is more important how that change is translated in NS1 guidelines (i.e., what you do in response to the designation) that matters. The Council likely would want to ensure that species that are below the minimum stock size threshold only require a rebuilding plan if they are "in the fishery" and reductions to harvest are likely to rebuild the stock to target levels in a reasonable time.

PFMC
09/13/13