

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

**Ad-hoc Mid-Water Gear Bottom Contact Meeting**

Monday evening November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, Laguna Beach 1-2 Room

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is hosting an informational session on bottom contact in the mid-water trawl fishery. At the September 2014 Council Meeting, NMFS provided a Supplemental Report in response to March 2014 Council questions concerning the effectiveness, accuracy, and completeness of Pacific Coast Groundfish EFH. The report is available at the Council's September 2014 briefing book site:

[http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/IR7\\_Sup\\_NMFS\\_EFH\\_EvalRpt\\_Sept2014BB.pdf](http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/IR7_Sup_NMFS_EFH_EvalRpt_Sept2014BB.pdf)

In that report, the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers, and West Coast Region staff presented information that was requested by the Council to inform discussions surrounding competing proposals to modify groundfish EFH. In September, the report was presented to the Habitat Committee and Groundfish Advisory Sub Panel. The report included an analysis of data on whiting midwater trawl effort within and outside of groundfish EFH conservation areas for bottom contact. At the September Council meeting, interest was expressed by stakeholders in having further discussions on midwater trawl bottom contact. NMFS has scheduled an informational session on bottom contact in midwater trawls for Monday evening November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM (Laguna Beach 1-2 Room).

NMFS has scheduled a second venue in Seattle for a similar informational session on December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Montlake Laboratory of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Washington. For information, contact Waldo Wakefield, [waldo.wakefield@noaa.gov](mailto:waldo.wakefield@noaa.gov).