PART I – MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2011-2012 GROUNDFISH FISHERIES

At this meeting, the initial development of management recommendations for 2011-2012 groundfish fisheries has been divided into two parts. The tasks under this agenda item (Part I of management recommendations) are to adopt for public review and analysis (1) 2011-2012 overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs) recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC); (2) a range of annual catch limits (ACLs), and if possible, (3) preferred ACLs for some stocks and stock complexes. (Note that the terms under the new National Standard 1 guidelines and contemplated under Amendment 23 (Agenda Item G.5) are used here to describe new harvest specifications despite the fact that Amendment 23 will not be finalized at this meeting). Guidance on a preliminary range of 2011-2012 management measures (Part II) will occur under Agenda Item G.9.

To aid the Council in setting harvest specifications, new stock assessments adopted in June and September and rebuilding analyses (Agenda Item G.2) were considered by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) at their October meeting to develop a recommended preliminary range of 2011-2012 ACLs (Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 1). The GMT-recommended alternative ACLs in Attachment 1 should be characterized as draft recommendations which will be further refined by the GMT at this meeting. Further, the range of ACLs should be truncated by the ABCs recommended by the SSC since an ACL cannot exceed an ABC. Agenda Item G.6.b, Supplemental GMT Report will provide the final range of alternative 2011-2012 groundfish harvest specifications recommended by the GMT. The basis for the alternative ACLs recommended by the GMT is provided in Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 2. Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 3 depicts the predicted rebuilding times associated with the ACL alternatives recommended for overfished species. This display of the trade-off between duration of rebuilding and the allowable harvest of overfished species was a featured element in the Fishery Management Plan Amendment 16-4 decision on rebuilding plans and in the 2009-2010 biennial specifications, and should likewise be helpful in deciding 2011-2012 harvest specifications for overfished species. A further aid to deciding a range of ACLs will be the Productivity and Susceptibility Assessment (PSA) of groundfish stocks being done by the GMT and provided in Agenda Item G.6.b, Supplemental GMT Report. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has provided their recommendations for managing greenstriped rockfish in 2011-2012 under Agenda Item G.6.b, CDFG Report.

The Council should consider the advice of the SSC, GMT, other Council advisory bodies, and the general public before adopting OFLS, ABCs, and a range of ACLs for public review and analysis. The Council is also tasked with adopting preferred ACLs for as many fishery management plan stocks and stock complexes as possible to facilitate a better focus on 2011-2012 management measures under Agenda Item G.9.

Council Action:

1. Adopt OFLs and ABCs recommended by the SSC and a range of ACLs.
2. If possible, adopt preferred ACLs for some stocks and stock complexes.
Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 1: Table 2-1(a-b). DRAFT GMT-recommended alternatives for 2011 and 2012 annual catch limits (ACLs) (mt).
2. Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 2: Table 2-2. Basis for the 2011-2012 annual catch limits alternatives recommended by the GMT for analysis.
3. Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 3: Table 2-3. Estimated time to rebuild relative to alternative 2011-2012 ACLs for depleted west coast groundfish species.

Agenda Order:

a. Agenda Item Overview
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
   John DeVore
   c. Public Comment
   d. **Council Action:** Adopt a Range of Preliminary Overfishing Limits, Acceptable Biological Catches, and Annual Catch Limits, and if Possible, Preferred OY’s for some Stocks and Stock Complexes

PFMC
10/16/09