

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mr. Larry Six reported to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the status of strategic planning. The SSC is pleased this process is going forward.

It will be desirable to maintain an interaction between Council members and the participating advisory committees (Groundfish Management Team, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, and SSC) throughout the strategic planning process. The SSC suggests that a member of each advisory committee be present at each meeting of the Council and contractor. Advisory committee members could help the Council frame the strategic plan in terms that allow the advisory bodies be most effective

Research and data needs have been excluded from the discussion in order to maintain a manageable scope for the planning exercise. The SSC recognizes the need to limit the scope, but reminds the Council that, due to a lack of clarity in the Council's long-term direction, the SSC had difficulty in prioritizing the *1999 Research and Data Needs*. Some management scenarios are likely to depend on detailed and precise stock assessments, while others could be based on more general monitoring of catch trends. The Council may wish to consider the general research needs of various alternative long-term visions for the fisheries as part of the strategic plan.

The SSC is also concerned that there is no process to oversee plan implementation. The SSC recommends that a committee be established to present an annual report on progress in achieving the plan. After five years a detailed assessment should be conducted quantitatively evaluating success of the plan in achieving biological, social, and economic goals and objectives.

PFMC
06/23/99