

REPORT OF THE AD-HOC GROUND FISH STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE

The Ad-Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Committee (Committee) met June 3 to finalize a request for proposals (RFP) to prepare a strategic plan for the groundfish fishery and to obtain commitments for funding of this activity. Members in attendance were:

Mr. Jerry Mallet, Chairman, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
Mr. Phil Anderson, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Mr. LB Boydston, California Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG)
Mr. Neal Coenen, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
Dr. Dave Hanson, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)
Mr. Bill Robinson, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Mr. Larry Six provided staff support.

Funding

The Committee discussed availability of funds for the strategic planning process. Dr. Bill Hogarth, formerly of NMFS-Southwest Region, committed \$20,000 at the April Council meeting. Mr. Robinson agreed to match the SW contribution, and the states of Washington, Oregon, and California agreed to provide \$10,000 each. Total commitments at this time are \$70,000. The total cost of the effort is unknown. Funds will be transferred to the PSMFC which will contract for the professional services of a strategic planning expert.

RFP

The Committee reviewed a draft RFP prepared by Council and PSMFC staff and reviewed comments on the draft provided by Council family participants. The Committee approved the following elements to be included in the RFP.

Planning Time Frame: The time horizon should be five years with a review of the plan at the end of this period.

Scope: The plan should be limited to groundfish management. Research should not be addressed in this effort, because it would likely be overwhelming and research planning requires a broader group of entities with research responsibility. The strategic plan itself will not be a groundfish plan amendment - it will stand alone - but it may lead to one or more plan amendments (e.g., revisions to goals and objectives).

Process: The following steps are recommended:

1. Facilitator meets with a Council member committee (to be appointed) to work out the details of the planning process and develop list of issues and questions for the next step.
2. Facilitator meets with the full membership of the Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), and Groundfish Management Team in separate full-day sessions to scope out the issues.
3. Council committee and facilitator develop draft strategic plan.
4. Council approves draft plan for public review.
5. Public comment period on draft plan.
6. Council approves final plan.

All of the above meetings would be open to the public. The sessions likely will be held as an extension of regularly scheduled meetings. For the Council, this would probably be one full day in advance of a

regular meeting. For the GAP, it might be one day after a regular meeting.
The composition of the Council committee should be as follows:

- 1 NMFS
- 1 WDFW
- 1 ODFW
- 1 CDFG
- 2 non-agency Council members

Schedule: The facilitator should be selected by July. Planning sessions should begin at the September Council meeting, but may have to wait until the November meeting.

Contractor selection: A selection committee should be appointed to interview bidders and make a selection. Factors to consider in making the selection include 1) strategic planning experience, with preference for experience in marine fisheries or fish and wildlife, 2) cost, 3) references, and 4) availability.

PFMC
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