

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CONTROL DATE FOR POTENTIAL LIMITED ACCESS IN THE OPEN ACCESS FISHERY

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the proposal to establish a control date for limiting access in the open access segment of the commercial groundfish fishery. The SSC supports establishment of a control date, because increasing capacity in the groundfish fishery will continue to undermine Council efforts to achieve management objectives. For the control date to be effective, it should be set as early as possible. Once a control date is set, developing a limited entry program for the open access fleet should become a high priority for the Council. A long time-lag between establishing a control date and finalizing a plan will decrease the benefits associated with establishing a date and increase the pressure to revoke the date to accommodate new entrants.

PFMC
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