

PROCESS FOR TECHNICAL REVIEW AND MONITORING OF REBUILDING PLANS

Situation: The Council has prepared and submitted rebuilding plans for three stocks and two more must be completed before January 1, 2001. Various advisory entities and public have advised the Council these plans have substantial consequences, and the technical components should be reviewed as vigorously as stock assessments are. The Council should consider whether to incorporate review of rebuilding analyses into the current Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process or develop an alternative review process. As an interim process, stock assessment authors have been advised to calculate the basic rebuilding elements (mean generation time, minimum time to rebuild, etc.) for any stock that appears to be near or approaching its overfished threshold.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires the Secretary of Commerce to “review any fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulations required... at routine intervals that may not exceed two years. If the Secretary finds as a result of the review that such plan, amendment, or regulation have not resulted in adequate progress toward ending overfishing and rebuilding affected fish stocks, the Secretary shall... immediately notify the appropriate Council. Such notification shall recommend further conservation and management measures which the Council should consider... to achieve adequate progress.” Ms. Cyreis Schmitt will present the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report on this issue. Review, monitoring and updating rebuilding plans and management measures will undoubtedly be a collaborative effort between the Council and NMFS, and Council guidance about this is appropriate.

Council Action: Discuss proposed monitoring process and provide guidance to NMFS.

Reference Materials:

None.

PFMC
06/14/00