

GROUND FISH STRATEGIC PLAN

Situation: At the June 2000 Council meeting, the Ad-Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Development Committee (GSPDC) presented its initial draft strategic plan for Council review. The Council adopted the draft plan and executive summary for public review, and the states of Washington, Oregon, and California conducted nine public hearings. The draft plan offers a vision of a diverse, profitable, and stable groundfish industry; an improved, collaborative, and highly credible science program; and an open, responsive Council process. The draft plan proposes specific goals and objectives to achieve the long term vision. A major feature of the plan is a substantial restructuring of the industry, reducing the number of commercial fishing vessels by at least 50%. The draft plan addresses an observer program, marine protected areas, bycatch reduction, allocation, habitat protection, and other important issues that will be resolved in the process of achieving the goals of the strategic plan.

The GSPDC met August 24-25 to compile the public comments received at the hearings and to develop final recommendations for Council consideration. The Council is scheduled to take final action to adopt the draft plan at this meeting. If the Council adopts the plan, it will also need to adopt an implementation approach. The plan would be implemented through a series of fishery management plan amendments, regulations, and other mechanisms.

Council Action:

1. Adopt Strategic Plan Document.

Reference Materials:

1. Draft Groundfish Strategic Plan, September 2000 (Exhibit G.2, Attachment 1).
2. Groundfish Strategic Plan Public Hearing Summaries (Exhibit G.2.c, Hearing Summaries).
3. Scientific and Statistical Committee Comments on the Draft Groundfish Strategic Plan (Exhibit G.2.d, SSC Report).
4. Groundfish Strategic Plan Public Comments (Exhibit G.2.e, Public Comments).
5. Groundfish Strategic Plan Development Committee Meeting Summary (Exhibit G.2, Supplemental GSPDC Summary).

PFMC
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