

SABLEFISH PERMIT STACKING

Situation: The Council is scheduled to make a final decision on fishery management plan and regulatory amendments that would implement fixed gear sablefish permit stacking for the 2001 fishery. An outline of provisions under consideration and key decision points for the permit stacking alternative is provided as Attachment 1. Detailed description of the permit stacking alternative is provided in Section 1.4 of the analysis (Attachment 2). Plan amendment language is specified in Appendix B of Attachment 2. The key portion of the analysis is Section 3.1, where the main implications of the options for each of 12 provisions of the stacking alternative are presented. The Magnuson-Stevens Act moratorium on new individual quota programs expired October 1, and as of this date, has not yet been renewed. Whether or not the moratorium is renewed (Section 1.5) will affect the season length of the stacking alternative (Provision 5). The alternative to permit stacking is continuation of the current regulatory structure.

This Council meeting will serve as the public hearing on the necessary plan amendments. In order to have a chance of implementing the stacking alternative for 2001, final action will need to be taken at the November 2000 meeting.

Council Action:

1. **Decide whether or not to adopt the permit stacking alternative and, if appropriate, identify a recommended option under each provision of the permit stacking alternative.**

Reference Materials:

1. Summary of Provisions for Permit Stacking Alternative and Other Actions to Consider (Exhibit C.8.a, Attachment 1).
2. Draft Analysis of Permit Stacking for the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery (Exhibit C.8.a, Attachment 2).
3. Exhibit C.8.c, Public Comment.

PFMC
06/17/00