

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

Situation: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will report on its regulatory activities since the March 2001 Council meeting. One item of particular importance is implementation of the permit stacking program for the fixed gear sablefish fishery. At the March 2001 meeting, NMFS informed the Council the full program cannot be implemented in time for this year's primary sablefish season, but the basic permit stacking provision should be in place in time for a fishery beginning no earlier than August 1. The catch allowances for the three tiers have been calculated. NMFS is expected to provide an update on implementation activities. A summary of the 2000 whiting fishery is also provided (Exhibit F.1, NMFS Report). NMFS will also report on its research and other nonregulatory activities.

Council Action:

1. Council discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit F.1, NMFS Report.

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan Consistency Analysis

This agenda item is not expected to require Council decision making that raise issues of consistency with the Plan.