

STATEMENT OF THE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM ON
GROUND FISH STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) continues to support implementation of the Council's Strategic Plan. In particular, the GMT stresses the importance of making swift progress towards achieving capacity reduction objectives, which were identified as the highest overall priority by the SPOC. The Council will face increasing difficulty in resolving conflicts and attaining the other goals and objectives of either the Strategic Plan or the Management Plan until meaningful capacity reduction is realized. Furthermore, although control dates pertaining to capacity reduction have been published, the Council's history of revising such cutoff dates is likely to yield increased speculative participation in the groundfish fishery until the fleet observes tangible progress in the development of reduction alternatives that integrate existing control dates. Such speculative attempts to enhance vessel/permit catch histories will only increase our existing difficulties in managing the fishery and achieving rebuilding targets.

PFMC
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