

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
GROUNDFISH STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed progress made by the Ad Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation Oversight Committee (SPOC) to move forward with strategic plan implementation. Initiatives to achieve capacity reduction are first on the recommended list of priorities, which include buyback and trawl permit stacking. The SSC supports timely action to reduce capacity in the groundfish fishery and the SPOC recommendation that work on trawl permit stacking should go forward promptly if full funding for the buyback program cannot be identified by June. The Council will need to consider the substantial workload issues that moving forward with trawl permit stacking will entail.

Marine reserves were also identified as a relatively high priority item. The SPOC recommended (1) continuing with phase 2 to establish an implementation team to develop a full proposal and (2) developing a summary of "who is doing what, so the Council can figure out where to plug in." The SSC supports these two recommendations, which will help to coordinate the Council's interaction with outside entities involved in the marine reserve development process (e.g., the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary) and also will facilitate consideration of how marine reserves will interact with existing Council management processes.

PFMC
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