

## STATUS OF FISHERIES AND CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Situation: In the current groundfish management program, the Council sets annual harvest targets (optimum yield [OY] levels) and individual vessel landing limits for specified periods. These vessel landing limits typically need to be adjusted periodically through the year so total landings reach, but do not exceed, the OYs. The initial vessel landing limits are based on predicted participation rates, estimates of how successful participants will be at achieving their limits for each period, and comparisons with previous years. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) tracks landings data throughout the year and periodically makes projections based on all the information available. The GMT presents these landings data and projections to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), and they discuss adjustments that may be necessary to achieve, but not exceed, the annual limits. The Council considers GMT and GAP recommendations, along with public comment, before making recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for inseason adjustments.

Several public comments are attached for Council consideration (Exhibit F.5.c, Public Comment). The Washington Trollers Association is requesting a change in the open access cumulative limit for yellowtail rockfish. The GMT will comment on this request. Two California longline fishers offer comments on nearshore rockfish and other issues. One California recreational angler suggests several emergency measures to protect groundfish.

The Council's task at this meeting is to review the available information and projections and make recommendations to NMFS for any appropriate adjustments. In addition, the Council may comment on proposed tier limits, including discard assumptions, for the primary nontrawl sablefish fishery.

### **Council Action: Adopt inseason adjustments.**

#### Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit F.5.c, Public Comment.

#### Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan Consistency Analysis

This agenda item requires Council decision making. Any proposed adjustments to trip limits or other measures should be evaluated for consistency with the Strategic Plan recommendations, such as bycatch reduction, harvest policies, and allocation.