

## FUTURE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

Situation: The Council will hear from the groundfish advisory bodies and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Management Process Review Committee (GMPC) for improving the annual groundfish management process.

Last fall, the Council appointed a committee to "... evaluate the adequacy of the existing groundfish management process and schedule and develop recommendations to improve the process." The GMPC met January 11-12, 2001 and February 14, 2001. At the March 2001 meeting, the GMPC provided a report to the Council detailing the committee's recommendations. The Council discussed the importance of improving the process both in terms of (1) what is necessary for this year to avoid the strain experienced the last several years, and (2) how the annual management process could be altered in the future (e.g., 2002 and beyond). The Council directed that the GMPC materials be distributed to the groundfish advisors and the SSC for review and comment at the April 2001 Council meeting. The Council also requested that National Marine Fisheries Service and legal counsel provide advice to the committees on the mandated and regulatory deadlines that must be met annually as well as the process for developing the scientific information that is the basis for groundfish management.

After hearing from the advisory bodies, the Council will provide guidance to the GMPC for refining the committee's recommendations and possibly take action to implement changes to facilitate this year's management.

### **Council Action:**

1. **Consider changes to the existing groundfish management process.**

### Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit F.6.a, Supplemental GMPC Report.

#### Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan Consistency Analysis

The plan includes, as part of a problem statement in Section II.C. ***Council Process and Effective Public Involvement***, the sentence "the fundamental trust and credibility relationship between industry, the public, and management is strained, and the process is not serving its intended purpose." Directing advisory bodies to review GMPC options for an altered process would be consistent with the goals in Section II.B. in the plan.