

## FULL RETENTION MEASURES

Situation: In April, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) presented a discussion paper to the Council and suggested development of a program to retain all shelf and slope rockfish. The GMT is concerned discard of canary rockfish and other overfished stocks may make it impossible to tell if rebuilding harvest levels are being achieved. After hearing the GMT statement, the Council directed the GMT to pursue development of management measure options for mandatory retention for at least some element of the commercial fishery. The GMT was instructed to review and consider the voluntary overage program endorsed by the Council in 1998. The GMT will present its next report at this time.

### **Council Action:**

1. **Consider GMT recommendations.**

### Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit C.13.b, Supplemental GMT Report.

#### Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan Consistency Analysis

The Strategic Plan calls for bycatch reduction and enumeration, individual and sector accountability for bycatch and other impacts, and, whenever possible, establishment of incentives for fishers to operate in ways that are consistent with management goals and objectives. The Plan envisions adoption of regulations that are more easily enforced and data collection for accurate assessment of the effects of management on groundfish stocks and fishery participants. The Plan anticipates a full retention strategy may be considered when an effective observer program has been established.