

## GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Situation: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) on federal management of the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. This EIS analysis will evaluate Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) groundfish management activities. NMFS is seeking input on the range of future groundfish management actions, alternatives, and impacts the EIS should consider. When complete, the EIS will present an overall picture of the effects of groundfish fishing on the human environment. The EIS will discuss a range of reasonable management alternatives for the future and an analysis of their effects on the environment. NMFS expects this EIS to provide the Council and NMFS with background and analysis for choosing future groundfish management options. NMFS intends the EIS to evaluate how future groundfish management alternatives affect essential fish habitat, target and non-target fish species, discarded fish, marine mammals, and other protected species in the Pacific Coast ecosystem. The EIS will also address socioeconomic effects of the fishery and of fishery management on harvesters, processors, support industries, fishing communities, consumers, and non-consumptive users.

NMFS will conduct a scoping session Tuesday evening, June 12, at 7 p.m. in conjunction with this Council meeting. NMFS is requesting the Council and its advisory entities for comments and suggestions regarding the scope of the EIS: issues that should be addressed, alternatives that should be considered, and concerns about any aspects of the federal groundfish management program. Additionally, the Council should consider any other guidance relative to the overall EIS process.

### **Council Action:**

#### **1. Council guidance.**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. NMFS Briefing Document for Public Scoping Hearings for Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Environmental Impact Statement, (Exhibit C.15, Attachment 1).

PFMC  
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