

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 is a comprehensive EIS that will review the current status of the federal groundfish management program, condition of the groundfish resource, and the socioeconomic conditions of the fishery. The EIS will discuss a range of future policy alternatives and implementation options, including provisions in the Council's Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP). The document will include analysis of the potential effects on the human environment, such as essential fish habitat, target and non-target fish species, and socioeconomic conditions.

Mr. Jim Glock, the NMFS Groundfish EIS project manager, will discuss the relationship of the EIS process to the existing Groundfish FMP and summarize progress to date in EIS development. The update will inform the Council of the result of the public scoping process and other planning decisions made relative to structure, content, and schedule of the EIS.

Note that under agenda item I.2, the Council will appoint membership to an EIS oversight committee to coordinate Council input over the course of the EIS development process.

Council Task:

1. **Provide guidance as appropriate on the EIS process.**

Reference Materials:

1. *Scoping Summary Report, Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Region, (Exhibit C.10, Attachment 1).*

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The GFSP broadly supports effective public involvement during and beyond the transition to sustainable groundfish fishery management. The GFSP also specifically seeks to update the goals and objectives in the current groundfish FMP to incorporate GFSP visions and goals (Sec. II.C.(d)3). The EIS will provide a public forum vehicle for assessing and incorporating GFSP visions and goals into the Groundfish FMP.

PFMC
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