

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

Situation: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will report on its regulatory activities since the September 2001 Council meeting. NMFS will report on this year's whiting fishery (Exhibit C.1, Supplemental Attachment 1) as well as the limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery which experienced permit stacking with the implementation of Amendment 14 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fish Management Plan (Exhibit C.1, Supplemental Attachment 2). NMFS will also report on progress implementing the on-board Observer Program (Exhibit C.1, Supplemental Attachment 3). Observers have been placed on selected vessels in the fixed gear fishery beginning August 15 and selected vessels in the trawl fishery since September 1. In addition, NMFS will report on miscellaneous research and other ongoing regulatory and non-regulatory activities.

Council Task: Discussion and guidance.

Reference Materials:

1. NMFS Report on the 2001 Pacific Whiting Fishery (Exhibit C.1, Supplemental Attachment 1).
2. NMFS Update on Amendment 14 Implementation (Exhibit C.1, Supplemental Attachment 2).
3. MFS Update on the On-Board Observer Program (Exhibit C.1, Supplemental Attachment 3).

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

This agenda item is not expected to require Council decision making that raises issues of consistency with the GFSP.