

## REBUILDING PLANS

**Situation:** This agenda item concerns rebuilding plans for seven groundfish stocks that have been declared overfished and one groundfish stock (yelloweye rockfish) expected to be declared overfished by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) based on provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. In September, the Council decided to postpone development and completion of rebuilding plans to allow staff to focus on development of the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review of 2002 Management Measures (agenda item C.4). There was also an expectation that NMFS would provide further guidance to rebuilding plan authors relative to compliance to the National Environmental Policy Act and interpretations of other legal considerations. The Council should provide such guidance as well as additional elements, analyses, or other necessities deemed lacking in previously-reviewed rebuilding plan drafts. Planning for the schedule for completion and final Council approval of rebuilding plans should also be considered at this time, with the anticipation of a final decision on schedule during agenda item I.4, Council Staff Work Load Priorities.

**Council Task:**

- 1. Provide guidance on development and schedule for completion of rebuilding plans.**

**Reference Materials:** None.

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

Rebuilding overfished species, as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, was a primary motive for developing and implementing the GFSP. Many sections of the GFSP describe how rebuilding plans factor into short- and long-term Council priorities for conducting groundfish conservation and management. GFSP objectives such as developing sustainable and effective harvest policies (Sec. II.A.2), achieving fleet capacity reduction (Sec. II.A.3.(b)), allocating groundfish resources (Sec. II.A.4), developing an effective Observer Program (Sec. II.A.5), and development of marine reserves as a groundfish management tool (Sec. II.A.6) are grounded by the need to accomplish the goal of rebuilding overfished groundfish stocks.

PFMC  
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