

## PACIFIC WHITING HARVEST LEVELS FOR 2002

Situation: At its November 2001 meeting, the Council elected to defer specifying the U.S. portion of the 2002 Pacific whiting harvest until after the U.S./Canada Pacific whiting stock was assessed this winter. A U.S./Canada Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel convened in Seattle on February 20-22, 2002 to review the Pacific whiting assessment and recommended its use for managing 2002 fisheries. The new Pacific whiting stock assessment and associated STAR Panel report are included as Exhibit F.2, Supplemental Attachments 2 and 3, respectively. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the assessment and STAR Panel report and have provided recommendations for 2002 Pacific whiting harvest levels in U.S. waters (Exhibit F.2, Supplemental Attachment 4). Council action is needed to specify the acceptable biological catch (ABC) and optimum yield (OY) for the 2002 Pacific whiting fishery.

### **Council Action:**

1. Adopt Proposed 2002 Whiting Harvest Levels.

### Reference Materials:

1. 2001 Pacific Whiting Fishery For Non-Tribal Motherships and Catcher/Processors (Exhibit F.2, Attachment 1).
2. Stock Assessment of Pacific Whiting in U.S. and Canadian Waters in 2001 (Exhibit F.2, Supplemental Attachment 2).
3. Pacific Whiting STAR Panel Meeting Report, February 20-22, 2002 (Exhibit F.2, Supplemental Attachment 3).
4. GMT Statement and Recommendation for 2002 Pacific Whiting Harvest Levels (Exhibit F.2, Supplemental Attachment 4).

### Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Proposed 2002 Whiting Harvest Levels

John DeVore

### Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The GFSP supports establishing an allowable level of catch that prevents overfishing while achieving optimum yield based on best available science (Sec. II.A.2). The GFSP also supports establishing and maintaining a management process that is transparent, participatory, understandable, accessible, consistent, effective, and adaptable (Sec. II.C). The Council process of adopting harvest levels and other specifications is consistent with these GFSP principles.

PFMC  
02/20/02