

GROUND FISH STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Situation: There are several matters for Council consideration under this agenda. The first are the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Multi-year Management Committee (GMMC); the second is a progress report from the Trawl Permit Stacking Work Group; the third is a progress report from the Open Access Permitting Subcommittee; lastly, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) will provide a report on delegation of nearshore groundfish management authority.

GMMC: The Council appointed the GMMC to scope multi-year management approaches for the West Coast groundfish fishery and asked that the approaches developed by the GMMC be synchronized with a multi-year groundfish stock assessment schedule, as well as full accommodation of federal notice and comment requirements.

Two public meetings of the GMMC were held – December 13-14, 2001 and January 31-February 1, 2002. At these meetings the committee discussed issues related to revising the groundfish management process. The minutes of the first meeting are attached (Attachment 1). A report based on the second meeting will be reviewed for the Council (Exhibit F.4.b). This report outlines the suite of issues discussed by the GMMC, and provides specific recommendations for Council consideration.

The primary recommendation is to schedule formal consideration of a groundfish FMP amendment for multi-year management at the April 2002 Council meeting.

To accommodate the August 2001 Ninth Circuit Court decision on required federal notice and comment rulemaking procedures after a final Council decision, the GMMC also recommended shortening the adopted three-Council-meeting process for 2002 (June-September-November Council meetings) and accelerating the timing to a June-September Council meeting process.

Trawl Permit Stacking: The Council appointed the Trawl Permit Stacking Work Group in June 2001, however, this group did not meet in 2001 due to other groundfish workload. The Work Group is scheduled to have had its first meeting prior to this Council meeting (February 26). A full report on the Work Group meeting will be provided at the April 2002 Council meeting, when the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel will be present. Depending on the outcome of the February 26 meeting, an interim report or request for guidance may be provided to the Council at this meeting.

Open Access Permitting: The Open Access Permitting Subcommittee met January 30-31, 2002 to continue laying conceptual groundwork for limiting entry to the open access fishery. The committee developed preliminary goals and objectives and requested certain data on the open access fishery. The committee will meet next on March 26, 2002 via a conference call. The subcommittee will provide a progress report to the Council (Exhibit F.4.d).

Delegation of Nearshore Groundfish Management Authority: CDFG will provide information to the Council about California's Marine Life Management Act and Nearshore Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The FMP's goals and objectives, management regime, and species covered will be discussed in the context of implications and expectations to the Council groundfish FMP.

Council Task:

- 1. Discuss the recommendations of the GMMC; provide guidance to the committee and staff for further consideration of GMMC recommendations.**
- 2. As necessary, provide guidance to the Trawl Permit Stacking Work Group and Open Access Permitting Subcommittee.**
- 3. Discuss the information presented by CDFG regarding delegation of nearshore groundfish management authority and provide guidance in the consideration of this issue at the April or future Council meetings.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit F.4, Attachment 1, GMMC Meeting Summary, December 13-14, 2001.
2. Exhibit F.4.b, GMMC Report.
3. Exhibit F.4.d, Open Access Permitting Committee Report.
4. Exhibit F.4.e, Supplemental CDFG Proposal for Delegation of Nearshore Management Authority.

Groundfish Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

This agenda item is consistent with the implementation process detailed in the GFSP. Issues covered under this item conform to the implementation priorities adopted by the Council in April 2001.

Agenda Order:

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| a. Agendum Overview | Dan Waldeck |
| b. Multi-Year Management Cycle Update | Dan Waldeck |
| c. Trawl Permit Stacking Update | Jim Seger |
| d. Open Access Update | Jim Seger |
| e. Delegation of Nearshore Groundfish Management Authority | LB Boydston |
| f. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies | |
| g. Public Comment | |
| h. Council Discussion | |

PFMC
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