

GROUND FISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

Situation: At the November Council meeting, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) briefed the Council that the ongoing groundfish EIS would be segregated into two components: a programmatic EIS to analyze groundfish management policy alternatives; and a groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) EIS to satisfy the AOC v. Daley litigation settlement terms. This agenda deals only with the programmatic EIS.

The programmatic EIS will review the current status of the federal groundfish management program, condition of the groundfish resource, and the socioeconomic conditions of the fishery. The Programmatic EIS will discuss a range of future policy alternatives and implementation options, including provisions in the Council's Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP). At the September 2001 meeting, the Council established an ad hoc oversight committee with technical support from the Scientific and Statistical Committee, Groundfish Management Team, and Habitat Steering Group to provide focused participation in development of the Programmatic EIS. Mr. Jim Glock, the NMFS Groundfish Programmatic EIS project manager, will summarize progress to date in Programmatic EIS development and will request activation of the Council's Ad Hoc EIS Oversight Committee.

Council Task:

1. Provide guidance to NMFS on developing the Groundfish Programmatic EIS.

Reference Materials:

1. Draft Proposed Alternatives for the Programmatic Groundfish EIS (Exhibit F.5, Supplemental Attachment 1).

Agenda Order:

- a. NMFS Report
- b. Council Discussion and Guidance

Jim Glock

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 Programmatic EIS will provide a public forum vehicle for assessing and incorporating GFSP visions and goals into the Groundfish FMP.

PFMC
02/25/02