

STATUS OF FISHERIES AND CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Situation: In the current groundfish management program, the Council sets annual harvest targets (optimum yield [OY] levels) and individual vessel landing limits for specified periods, with the understanding these vessel landing limits will likely need to be adjusted periodically through the year in order to attain, but not exceed, the OYs. The initial vessel landing limits are based on predicted participation rates, estimates of how successful participants will be at attaining their limits for each period, and comparisons with previous years. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) tracks landings data throughout the year and periodically makes projections based on all the information available. The GMT presents these landings data and projections to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), and they discuss adjustments that may be necessary and beneficial.

The Council is to consider advice from the GMT, the GAP, and the public on recommended inseason adjustments to the groundfish fishery and adopt changes as necessary.

Council Action:

1. Adopt inseason adjustments as necessary.

Reference Materials: None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comments
- d. **Council Action:** Consider and Adopt Inseason Adjustments if Necessary

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 inseason adjustments to landing limits is consistent with these GFSP principles.

PFMC
03/26/02

Supplemental Reference Materials

1. Exhibit E.5, b, Supplemental GMT Report.
2. Exhibit E.5, b, Supplemental GAP Report.