

SCOPING FOR DELEGATION OF NEARSHORE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Situation: The Groundfish Strategic Plan contemplates delegation or deferral of management authority for certain nearshore species to the states, particularly species that reside in and are harvested primarily within state waters. The Strategic Plan notes "the Council and NMFS are not well suited to assess the biological requirements of many of these local populations, to assess the social and economic issues associated with them, or to monitor localized fisheries." Therefore, the Strategic Plan recommends the Council "[c]onsider delegating or deferring nearshore rockfish and other groundfish species, such as scorpionfish, greenling, and cabezon, to the States." (Groundfish Strategic Plan, Management Policies Recommendation, page 13).

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is developing a fishery management plan (FMP) for California's nearshore finfish fishery. The California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) could take final action on the nearshore FMP as early as August 2002. For Council information and discussion, CDFG will present a brief overview of their draft nearshore FMP. The Exclusive Summary from this document is included as Attachment 1.

CDFG is also scoping transfer of management authority for several groundfish species that would be managed under their nearshore FMP. Approximately 16 of the species included in the draft state FMP are currently managed under the federal Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP. CDFG notes that effective implementation of their nearshore FMP depends on transfer of management authority from the federal FMP to the state FMP. To provide information to the Council and scope public comment on the issue of transferring management authority, CDFG will present a brief review of their *Transfer of Management Authority Scoping Document* (Attachment 2).

Information about California's nearshore FMP and transfer of management authority scoping will also be provided to the Council Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), and Groundfish Management Team (GMT). It is anticipated each of these advisory committees will provide reports to the Council.

Per Council request at the April 2002 meeting, the discussion of nearshore management authority will include opportunity for the states of Oregon and Washington to comment on their interest in seeking transfer of management authority in their respective states.

During the discussion of the transfer of authority issue, the Council may want to consider how it intends to formally review and comment on both CDFG's nearshore FMP and transfer of management authority request. That is, what sort of process might be necessary to review the voluminous information and formally comment on this topic to the CDFG and CFGC?

Council Task: Discussion

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit C.11, Attachment 1, CDFG draft Nearshore FMP – Executive Summary.
2. Exhibit C.11, Attachment 2, CDFG Transfer of Management Authority Scoping Document.
3. Exhibit C.11.b, Supplemental SSC Report.
4. Exhibit C.11.b, Supplemental GMT Report.
- ✓ 5. Exhibit C.11.b, Supplemental GAP Report. *Received 6/21/02*

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion

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*more supplemental reference material
6. Exhibit C.11.b, Supplemental NMFS Response Letter.*

PFMC
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