

## FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Situation: The Council has been briefed on the NMFS decision to develop a programmatic supplemental environmental impact statement (PSEIS) that will review the current status of the federal groundfish management program and offer a range of alternative management strategies at a broad programmatic or policy level. (A second SEIS is under preparation concurrently, addressing management alternatives for and environmental impacts to essential fish habitat, but it is not part of this agendum.)

The Ad Hoc Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) EIS Oversight Committee met May 8-9 to review progress on and further develop a range of programmatic alternatives that will be analyzed in the PSEIS. Five alternatives were identified, each focusing on different policy goals. (Refer to meeting minutes, Exhibit C.6.b.)

However, recent stock assessments have provided evidence that several overfished groundfish stocks are more depleted than originally thought, which may require curtailing and/or closing a large segment of the groundfish fishery. The PSEIS Project Leader believes the current suite of alternatives will need substantial revision to address this dynamic and consequential situation. In addition, scoping may be reinitiated in order to identify emerging issues and craft more relevant alternatives. For these reasons the Council should defer its review and approval of the alternatives that will be analyzed in the PSEIS. The Council could direct the EIS Oversight Committee to assist in scoping and the revision of the PSEIS alternatives.

### **Council Action:**

#### **1. Consider adoption of draft alternatives for the FMP PSEIS.**

#### Reference Materials:

1. Summary Minutes, Ad Hoc Groundfish FMP EIS Oversight Committee, May 8-9, 2002 (Exhibit C.6.b).

#### Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Presentation of Draft Alternatives Developed by the Ad Hoc Groundfish  
FMP EIS Oversight Committee Jim Lone
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider adoption of draft alternatives for the FMP PSEIS.

#### Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (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 SEIS will provide a public forum vehicle for assessing and incorporating GFSP visions and goals into the Groundfish FMP.

PFMC  
06/03/02