

## DRAFT AMENDMENT 17 (MULTI-YEAR) MANAGEMENT

Situation: In April 2002, based on the advice of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Multi-Year Management Committee (GMMC) and other Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) advisory bodies, the Council initiated development of an amendment to the groundfish fishery management plan (Amendment 17). The primary purpose of Amendment 17 is to reduce workload associated with developing specifications and management measures so that more Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) time may be devoted to other issues (e.g., strategic plan implementation). Any change to the management schedule would need to be synchronized with stock assessment development and review, currently, also on an annual basis. Rebuilding plan review is another element that will need to be accounted for in the revised schedule. In addition, Amendment 17 addresses changes necessary to comply with a court order requiring opportunity for public comment on the NMFS rulemaking process after a Council decision.

The Council requested that Amendment 17 include and analyze five alternative management schedules. The five alternatives provide for:

- A status quo (annual) or biennial framework for setting specifications and management measures.
- Two or three Council meetings for developing specifications and management measures and the months in which those meetings would be held.
- Different fishing year start dates.
- Schedules for conducting new and updated groundfish stock assessments.

Amendment 17 authors will present the draft FMP amendment to the Council. This information will also be presented to the Council's other groundfish advisory committees, it is anticipated they will provide reports to the Council. Excerpts from Amendment 17 are contained in Attachment 1.

Scoping multi-year management approaches and other elements of Amendment 17 has occurred at two public meetings of the GMMC (December 13-14, 2001 and January 31-February 1, 2002). These topics have also been discussed at the March and April 2002 Council meetings.

The current schedule calls for adoption of a public review draft at the June 2002 Council meeting and final Council action in September 2002.

### Council Action: Adopt Draft Amendment 17 for Public Review

#### Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit C.7, Attachment 1.
- ✓ 2. Exhibit C.7.b, Supplemental SSC Report. *received 6-18-02*
3. Exhibit C.7.b, Supplemental GMT Report.
- ✓ 4. Exhibit C.7.b, Supplemental GAP Report. *received 6-18-02*

#### Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Draft Amendment 17 for Public Review

Dan Waldeck

PFMC  
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*supplemental Reference materials*  
5. Exhibit C.7, Supplemental Attachment 2.