

HMS PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM
 DRAFT HMS MANAGEMENT CYCLE ALTERNATIVES FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

The HMS Plan Development Team has developed management cycle alternatives and requests Council guidance on indicating a preferred alternative. At the March 2002 Council meeting, the Council requested that the HMS Plan Team review alternatives for a biennial management cycle and suggested Alternative # 2, in response to a request made by some albacore trollers. At its meeting last week, the HMS Plan Team reviewed the available information on when the HMS fisheries occur, and when data for the previous year's fisheries are available. With the exception of the harpoon fishery, which begins in April, all of the West Coast HMS fisheries begin in May or June; therefore, the Team thought that beginning the fishing year on April 1 would encompass all of the West Coast HMS fisheries. Alternative # 2, on the other hand, proposes a start date of October 1, which is in the middle or at the end of the HMS fisheries. With regard to fishers being available to participate in the Council process, the Team felt that most fishers would be able to attend scheduled Council meetings in September and November, as their fisheries are nearing the end of the season. Also, with a biennial schedule, fishers would likely have to attend regulatory meetings only every other year. The management cycle described in Alternative # 3 also addresses the other factors listed below.

	Cycle Period	Fishing Period	Statistical Period	SAFE Report Due	Council Proposed Action	Council Final Action
1 <i>(No Action)</i>	No cycle	Status Quo	Status Quo	March	No fixed schedule for addressing issues	
2 <i>(Council Preferred)</i>	Biennial	Oct 1 - Sept 30	Oct 1 - Sept 30	September	November	March
3 <i>(Team Preferred)</i>	Biennial	Apr 1 - Mar 31	Apr 1 - Mar 31	Update in June; SAFE September	September	November
4	Annual	Similar to alternatives 2 and 3,		except actions would be considered every year; measures would stay in effect for one year		
5	Multi-year	Similar to alternatives 2 and 3,		would stay in effect for at least 3 years unless changed due to unexpected problems		

Factors Include:

- a. Fishing periods of various HMS fisheries
- b. Time needed to collect and enter data
- c. Adequate public notice time for proposed and final rules
- d. Age of data (new vs. old)
- e. Availability of fishers to participate in the process
- f. HMS Team preparation time