

UPDATE ON AMENDMENT 16 - REBUILDING PLANS

Situation: There are nine overfished groundfish species on the West Coast, eight of which are being managed under Council interim rebuilding measures. Rebuilding plans for all nine species are required to be formally adopted by the Council and NOAA Fisheries. As a result of refined content requirements, changed rebuilding analyses, and litigation requiring a different implementation form, no final rebuilding plans are currently in place.

The Council was briefed in April 2002 on the intent to incorporate rebuilding plans for overfished groundfish species into the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) as Amendment 16. The amendment includes the process and standards for developing and implementing rebuilding plans and several individual species' rebuilding plans. The Council considered adopting a draft of Amendment 16 for public review. However, the Council deferred adoption at the June 2002 meeting in order to provide further guidance on process and standards options and alternatives. At this meeting the Council will review and discuss a schedule for completion of Amendment 16 components.

Before a public review draft can be finalized additional work is needed on both the process and standards and individual rebuilding plans. Council staff have revised the options and alternatives for the process and standards part of Amendment 16, reflecting Council guidance from the June meeting. However, further Council guidance is needed before options and alternatives can be finalized. In addition, the (draft) rebuilding plans need modifying to include information not provided in the original rebuilding analyses, many individual rebuilding plan alternatives require further analysis, and the final contents of individual rebuilding plans also depend on the preferred alternative chosen by the Council for the process and standards.

At the November 2002 Council meeting, the Council will have to consider revisions and additions in the draft presented at the June meeting, finalize sets of options and alternatives, provide direction to Council staff as to any further analytical components, and consider a public review period.

Council Task:

1. **Provide direction to Council staff as to any further analytical components, and consider a public review period.**

Agenda Order:

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

Kit Dahl

References Materials:

1. ~~None.~~

Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

Rebuilding overfished species, as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, was a primary motive for developing and implementing the GFSP. Many sections of the GFSP describe how rebuilding plans factor into short- and long-term Council priorities for conducting groundfish conservation and management. GFSP objectives such as developing sustainable and effective harvest policies (Sec. II.A.2), achieving fleet capacity reduction (Sec. II.A.3.(b)), allocating groundfish resources (Sec. II.A.4), developing an effective Observer Program (Sec. II.A.5), and development of marine reserves as a groundfish management tool (Sec. II.A.6) are grounded by the need to accomplish the goal of rebuilding overfished groundfish stocks.

PFMC
08/21/02

1. Exhibit C.7.b, Supplemental SSC Report,
2. Exhibit C.7.b, Supplemental GAP Report,