

PLANNING FOR BYCATCH AND B_0 /MSY WORKSHOPS

Situation: At past meetings, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has discussed the need for a workshop to address bycatch issues in the West Coast groundfish fishery. The Council has also discussed the need for a workshop to explore the concepts of virgin biomass (B_0) and maximum sustainable yield (MSY) relative to West Coast fisheries, in general. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will report on preliminary discussions about these topics and considerations for establishing the two workshops. State and tribal representatives and the Council's groundfish advisors will provide comments on these matters. Based on the information provided and public testimony, the Council is scheduled to consider the need for these workshops and whether to proceed with logistical arrangements.

Council Action:

1. Consider Need and Process for Workshops.

Reference Materials:

- ✓ 1. Exhibit G.11.b, Supplemental SSC Report. *received 10-31-02*

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)
- c. Agency and Tribal Reports and Comments
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Consider Need and Process for Workshops

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Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan (GFSP) Consistency Analysis

The Strategic Plan notes the difficulty of describing fish stock productivity and the resulting uncertainty in setting important management reference points, including F_{MSY} ; the level of stock biomass that produces MSY (B_{MSY}); and virgin biomass (B_0). The plan also emphasizes the need for improved fishery dependent data, particularly for total fishery removals. Workshops to explore and address these issues would be consistent with the objectives of the Strategic Plan.

PFMC
10/15/02

Supplemental Reference Materials

2. Exhibit G.11.d, Supplemental GAP Report.