

Amendment 17
Multi-Year Groundfish Management

November 2002

Table 2.1.1	Process Alternative 1	Process Alternative 2	Process Alternative 3	Process Alternative 4	Process Alternative 5
Annual or Biennial	Annual	Biennial	Biennial	Biennial	Biennial
Council Meetings	September November	April June September	November March/April June	June September November	June September
Fishing Year Start Date	January 1	March 1	January 1	May 1	March 1
Stock Assessments	One-third assessed each year	Two-year science schedule, all assessed every other year	Two-year science schedule, all assessed every other year	Two-year science schedule, all assessed every other year	Two-year science schedule, all assessed every other year

Optimum Yield Duration Alternatives:

OY Duration Alternative 1 (status quo): All OYs for all species or species groups would be set for one-year periods. Each fishing year, the Council would manage each species or species group to achieve but not exceed its one-year OY.

OY Duration Alternative 2 (two-year OYs): All OYs for all species or species groups would be set for two-year periods. The Council would manage to achieve, but not exceed, the biennial OY for each species or species group. At the end of the first year of the fishing cycle, any OY underage or overage from that year would carry over into the second year.

OY Duration Alternative 3 (mix of one-year and two-year OYs): OYs for some species would be set for some species, while others would have two-year OYs. Species with one-year OYs would be managed as under Alternative 1; species with two-year OYs would be managed as under Alternative 2.

Table 4.3.3, abridged	Process Alternative 1	Process Alternative 2	Process Alternative 3	Process Alternative 4	Process Alternative 5
Number of Council meetings needed to develop two years of specifications	4	3	3	3	2
Available time for Council staff & advisors' analysis work	7 months	11-19 months	14 months	9 months	9 months
Time between last Council meeting of the fishing year and start of new fishing period for inseason adjustments.	3 months. Inseason changes for Oct-Dec made in Sept with final check at Nov meeting	3 months. Inseason changes for Dec-Feb made in Nov, no new mtgs until after 3/1 start date	3 months. Inseason changes for Oct-Dec made in Sept with final check at Nov meeting	5 months. Inseason changes for Dec-Apr made in Nov, with final check at Mar meeting	3 months. Inseason changes for Dec-Feb made in Nov, no new mtgs until after 3/1 start date
Process includes a March or April meeting salmon meeting conflict?	No	Yes	Yes	No	No

The Bottom Line – Process Alternatives

	1: Status quo	2: Apr/Jun/Sep with 3/1 start	3: Nov/Apr/Jun with 1/1 start	4: Jun/Sep/Nov with 5/1 start	5: Jun/Sep with 3/1 start
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same 1/1 start date • Fastest science process for at-least 1/3 of assessed stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ample time for each step of the process • Three-Council process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same 1/1 start date • Three-Council process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faster science process • Three Council process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fastest science process of biennial spex alts. • Swift transition from old to new process
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-Council process • Annual process time sink, less time for other management needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slowest science process • New 3/1 start date • More conservative ABC/OY setting • Salmon meeting conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slower science process • More conservative ABC/OY setting • Salmon meeting conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New 5/1 start date with f.gear sable/whiting/tribes mgmt conflict • More conservative ABC/OY setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-Council process • New 3/1 start date • More conservative ABC/OY setting

The Bottom Line – OY Duration Alternatives

	One-year OYs for all species	Two-year OYs for all species	Mix of one-year and two-year OYs
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More accountability inseason, easier to ensure that harvest amounts for all species stay on track through two-year process • Fewer fluctuations in management measures to meet two-year harvest goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More flexibility for transitioning between Year 1 and Year 2 of management period, carrying overages and underages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More flexibility for transitioning between Year 1 and Year 2 of management period, carrying overages and underages • More flexibility for varying management guidance by species
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less flexibility for adjusting harvest levels/rates over two-year period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could lead to broad fluctuations in landings limits levels for species with two-year OYs • Could require precautionary (conservative) adjustment to ABC/OY • Management measures may be set conservatively for first year in order to hedge against fluctuations in second year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be confusing to have species with differing OY periods • Could lead to broad fluctuations in landings limits levels for species with two-year OYs • Could require precautionary (conservative) adjustment to ABC/OY • Management measures may be set conservatively for first year in order to hedge against fluctuations in second year.

Transition to Process Alt. 3 (Council preferred with 2 meeting 2004 specifications)

	Jan '03	Apr '03	June '03	Sept '03	Nov '03	Jan '04	Mar/Apr '04	June '04	Sept '04	Nov '04	Jan '05
Stock Assessments	Assessments and STAR for '04 due May '03		Assessments and STAR for '05-'06 due Oct '03		"Off" year for stock assessments. Advanced model development and stock assessment model refinement year.		"On" year begins				
Council Process		Proposed '04 Specs	Final '04 Specs	Proposed '05-'06 ABC/OY	Proposed '05-'06 Specs & management measures	Final '05-'06 Specs & management measures	First "off" year for Council begins 9/04 and ends 11/05. In 11/05, proposed ABC/OY for '07-'08.				
NMFS Process	Public review and NOAA implementation of Am17		'04 Specs via emergency rule for Jan/Feb or carry-over if '03 conservative	'04 Specs proposed rule, public review; final rule for 3/1/04	NMFS sends '05-'06 out for public review via proposed rule and implements via final rule by 01/05						

Transition to Process Alt. 3 (Council preferred with 3 meeting 2004 specifications)

	Jan '03	Apr '03	June '03	Sept '03	Nov '03	Jan '04	Mar/Apr '04	June '04	Sept '04	Nov '04	Jan '05	
Stock Assessments	Assessments and STAR for '04 due May '03		Assessments and STAR for '05-'06 due Oct '03		"Off" year for stock assessments. Advanced model development and stock assessment model refinement year.							"On" year begins
Council Process			Proposed '04 ABC/OY	Proposed '04 Specs & management measures	Final '04 Specs & management measures Proposed '05-'06 ABC/OY		Proposed '05-'06 Specs & management measures	Final '05-'06 Specs & management measures	First "off" year for Council begins 9/04 and ends 11/05. In 11/05, proposed ABC/OY for '07-'08.			
NMFS Process	Public review and NOAA implementation of Am17				'04 Specs via emergency rule for Jan/Apr? or carry-over if '03 conservative			NMFS sends '05-'06 out for public review via proposed rule and implements via final rule by 01/05				
					'04 Specs proposed rule, public review; final rule for 5/1/04							

Transition to Process Alt. 5 (SSC preferred with 2 meeting 2004-2005 specifications)

	Jan '03	Apr '03	June '03	Sept '03	Nov '03	Jan '04	Mar/ Apr '04	June '04	Sept '04	Nov '04	Jan '05
Stock Assessments	Assessments and STAR for '04-'05 due May '03										"On" year begins
Council Process			Proposed '04-'05 Specs Transitional OYs and management measures needed for Jan-Feb '04	Final '04-'05 Specs							First "off" year for Council begins 3/04 and ends 6/05. In 6/05, proposed ABC/OY for '06-'07.
NMFS Process	Public review and NOAA implementation of Am17				Emergency rule for Jan-Feb '04 specs may be needed even if Jan-Feb '03 used for carry-over because of transition to 3/1 start date						'04-'05 Specs proposed rule, public review; final rule due 3/1/04