

## REPORT ON THE BYCATCH WORKSHOP AND OBSERVER DATA UPDATE

Situation: On Monday April 7, a joint session of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) is scheduled to discuss the January Bycatch Workshop and to provide an update on the use of observer data collected since September 2001. The session is designed to facilitate attendance by Council members and the public, so as to save presentation time during the Council session.

### Bycatch Workshop

The Bycatch Workshop was held in Seattle January 27-29, 2003. The primary purpose of the workshop was to review the methodology that has been used in the past to estimate bycatch and to consider how new observer data will be incorporated to improve future estimates of fishing mortality and bycatch.

The workshop panel consisted of ten members, two from each of the following Council advisory bodies: SSC Economics Subcommittee (Dr. Mike Dalton, Chair and Ms. Cindy Thomson), SSC Groundfish Subcommittee (Mr. Tom Jagielo and Dr. Martin Dorn), GAP (Mr. Rod Moore and Mr. Marion Larkin), GMT (Mr. Brian Culver and Dr. Alec MacCall); and two independent reviewers (Ms. Cynthia Jones and Mr. David Agnew).

A final report was issued by the Bycatch Workshop Panel on February 19, 2003. A copy of this report is provided as Exhibit E.2, Attachment 1.

### Observer Data Update

A preliminary report and summary analysis of the observer program data was released in January 2003, and will be made available for the April 7 joint session. The report is also available on the Northwest Fisheries Science Center website at: <<http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/fram/Observer/datareport.htm>>.

During the April 7 joint session, the Northwest Fisheries Science Center will provide a report on the issues and schedule for incorporating data from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program into fishery management decision making. A status report as of the Briefing Book deadline is provided as Exhibit E.2, Attachment 2. During the Council session, Dr. Elizabeth Clarke will give a brief summary of the expected schedule subsequent to the April Council meeting.

### **Council Task:**

- 1. Discussion about implications of the Bycatch Workshop results and the schedule for incorporating data from the observer program.**

### Reference Materials:

1. Final Report Council Bycatch Model Review Workshop (Exhibit E.2, Attachment 1).
2. Observer Data Analysis Status Report March 2003, NWFSC (Exhibit E.2, Attachment 2).

### Agenda Order:

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

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