

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
THE BYCATCH MODEL WORKSHOP AND OBSERVER DATA UPDATE

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received a presentation of the review panel report on the bycatch model and the estimated bycatch rates from the first year of the groundfish observer program. The GMT concurs with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) in its endorsement of the bycatch review panel recommendations, including the replacement of the bycatch rates currently used in the model with the rates from the observer program as soon as feasible.

The GMT also notes that while the current focus on observer data is its incorporation into the bycatch model for eight overfished species, the observer program was implemented to provide a fleetwide standardized reporting methodology for bycatch. As final discard estimates become available from the program, the information should be used to adjust landed catches to account for total mortality for the full suite of species.

PFMC  
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