

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM COMMENTS ON
REVIEW OF THE PROCESS FOR SETTING 2004 GROUND FISH SPECIFICATIONS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the letter to the Council from NMFS Northwest Region regarding the basis for the decision on whether setting the 2004 annual specifications could be a two-, or three-meeting process. As described in the letter, implementing a three-meeting process would depend upon whether the "January through April 2003 management measures were adequate for re-use during January through April 2004 with few, if any changes."

Given the preview presented at this meeting on incorporating the information derived from the federal observer program, the GMT feels it is unlikely the management measures currently in place will work for the January through April 2004 fishery. Therefore, the GMT recommends a two-meeting process.

PFMC
04/08/03