

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM STATEMENT ON  
ALTERNATIVE LONG-TERM GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) has struggled over the past few years with how to develop management strategies other than status quo. Alternative management strategies are often entertained in meetings ancillary to the Council's annual specification process such as the Strategic Planning, Allocation, and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Oversight committees. However, these measures typically receive no serious consideration as we engage in the intense process of developing annual management specifications. These measures include, but are not limited to, bycatch caps, differential trip limits with increased monitoring, full rockfish retention, new gear specifications/requirements, and area management based upon species distributions other than coastwide depth contours.

The GMT feels that such management measures are worth exploring and should be given consideration by the Council. However, we do not have any time available during our regularly scheduled meetings to have meaningful discussions on these issues.

We would have liked to have considered alternatives to the current management regime and developed options for the Council's consideration for the 2004 management cycle, but that was not possible given our current schedule and workload. The GMT feels strongly that these measures should be given consideration for 2005 and 2006. To that end, the GMT requests the Council allow us to have an additional meeting following the November Council meeting dedicated to the discussion of alternative management strategies.

PFMC  
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