

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON  
OBSERVER DATA IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received a report from Dr. Jim Hastie of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) on the status of the data from the federal observer program and its incorporation into the bycatch model for overfished species. The replacement of 1999 logbook data with logbook data from 2000-2002, as well as the use of more recent catch data, to model vessel behavior will make the bycatch model more representative of the current fishery. The (GMT) is also pleased to note that NWFSC has been able to begin conducting analysis of discard rates for target species that are not included in the current bycatch projection model.

Processing and analyzing raw observer data into a form that is useful in a management context is a significant task. The GMT is sympathetic to the fact that other data processing and analytical priorities, such as stock assessments, compete for the resources that might otherwise be directed toward observer data. The GMT feels the observer program is an extremely important element in the informed management of West Coast groundfish and encourages identifying sufficient analytical resources to make the routine annual feed of observer information into the management process as timely as possible. The GMT also encourages the states to enter trawl logbook data and reconcile it with fishtickets as rapidly as possible to support the analysis of observer data.

PFMC  
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