

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
OBSERVER DATA IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a presentation on this agenda item by Drs. Elizabeth Clarke and James Hastie. A number of changes have been made to the bycatch modeling effort since the April 2003 Council meeting:

- 2002 fishticket data have been added.
- 2000-2002 logbook data have replaced the 1999 data to estimate fishing depth.
- A new approach has been applied to model the effects of differential harvest limits on trawl vessels using small footropes.

There have been no changes in area stratification or bycatch rate values since the April meeting.

The SSC notes two issues that need to be resolved:

- As the SSC Groundfish and Economics Subcommittees reported (see Bycatch Model Review Workshop Report, April 2003), the three states use different procedures for adjusting haul weights from the trawl logbooks. These discrepancies should be evaluated for compatibility and potentially differential effects on bycatch estimation. Also, consider unifying the algorithm across states.
- The current draft of the bycatch model is the documentation supplied to the Bycatch Workshop. This document should be appended to the Bycatch Workshop Panel report and included in the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document. As the bycatch model is updated, documentation should highlight and summarize the latest model and input data changes from the previous documentation. This information should be included in future SAFE documents.