

STATUS OF GROUND FISH FISHERIES AND INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Situation: In the current groundfish management program, the Council sets annual harvest targets (optimum yield [OY] levels) and various management measures, with the understanding these management measures will likely need to be adjusted periodically through the year in order to attain, but not exceed, the OYs.

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will present information on the status of ongoing fisheries, and any need for adjustments in typical management measures, such as trip limits and seasons. The Council is scheduled to hear an update on the analysis of data from the Groundfish Observer Program and any resulting changes made to the trawl bycatch model since the June Council meeting under agenda item C.2, Observer Data Implementation Status. Also under agenda item C.2, the Council is tasked with providing guidance on implementation of observer data into fishery management, including inseason adjustments for 2003 fisheries.

The Council is to consider advice from Advisory Bodies and the public on the status of ongoing fisheries and recommended inseason adjustments and adopt changes as necessary. Consideration of inseason adjustments to groundfish fisheries has been arranged under two agenda items in previous meetings, but is scheduled to be completed under this single agenda item at this meeting. The intent is to finalize inseason adjustments early in the week thereby maximizing time for other groundfish business, principally, the adoption of 2004 management measures.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider information on the status of ongoing fisheries.**
- 2. Consider and adopt inseason adjustments, if necessary.**

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. GMT Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider and Adopt Inseason Adjustments as needed.

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