

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 June 2003 Council meeting. However those changes have yet to be documented and so cannot be reviewed. Documentation will be completed prior to the November 2003 Council meeting.

The SSC had a long discussion with Dr. Hastie about issues involving incorporation of the model fueled by observer data into both multi-year and inseason management decisions. The SSC has the following recommendations:

- _ The Council should manage to total catch rather than landed catch targets. Trip limits for achieving the two objectives could be quite different.
- _ The trawl bycatch model in its current form is the preferred basis for inseason management.
- _ When all the data for a given year have become available, the cumulative affects of inseason adjustment should be evaluated to determine how close actual harvests were to the targets.

The SSC would like to point out that, due to the current short observer time series, the calculation of 2003 total catch using the bycatch model uses observer discard rates from September 2001 to August 2002 applied to fishtickets from calendar year 2003.

PFMC
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