

PLANNING OF "OFF-YEAR" NON-REGULATORY SCIENCE ACTIVITIES
(e.g., STOCK ASSESSMENT MODELS, B_0 , AND B_{MSY} WORKSHOPS)

Situation: The Council approved Amendment 17 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan as a means of providing more opportunity for public input, regulatory efficiencies, and to create various improvements in the management process. One of the benefits of a biennial fishery is an "off year" for both (1) the direct fishery management activity of developing regulatory specifications and (2) the scientific activity of the stock assessment production and review process. During the "off year" break from what had been a repetitive, annual process, both direct fishery management and scientific foundation processes are enabled the opportunity to address key, long-term issues.

The table in Attachment 1, adapted from the environmental assessment analysis, illustrates the biennial management time line including identification of the off years for non-regulatory science activities ("stock assessments" and direct fishery management activities ("Council management specifications process").

Some key, long-term, science issues have been discussed by the Council in the past, but have been given a lower workload priority relative to the immediate needs of the former annual management process. These are now candidates for off year priority, and include such examples as reviewing and updating models used in stock assessments and conducting workshops to discuss methods for estimating critical aspects stock status such as virgin stock biomass (B_0) and the stock biomass that provides the maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}).

Dr. Elizabeth Clarke, Division Director at NMFS, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, will report on non-regulatory science activities from the perspective fo the Fishery Resource Analysis and Monitoring Division. The Council is to consider the input from NMFS, the Advisory Bodies, and the public and provide guidance relevant to the scheduling of off-year workload priorities.

Council Task:

- 1. Discuss issues relevant to planning of "off-year" non-regulatory science activities and make recommendations to the NMFS Fishery Science Centers.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit D.9, Attachment 1, Transition to Biennial Management Process Under Adopted Alternative 3.
2. Exhibit D.9.b, Supplemental NMFS Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion and Guidance

Mike Burner
Elizabeth Clarke

PFMC
10/20/03