

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON OBSERVER DATA FLOW
FOR FISHERY YEARS 2004-2006

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received an update from Dr. Jim Hastie on the Northwest Fishery Science Center's proposed observer data flow for fishery years 2004-2006 and beyond. The GMT supports the schedule for observer data flow, as presented by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Beginning in 2005, the GMT recommends that the updated observer data be available for management consideration in November of each year for the following calendar year and two-year management cycle (i.e., observer data would be available in November 2005 for consideration for the 2006 fishing year and the 2007-2008 management cycle). Subsequently, updated observer data would then be provided in November 2006 for implementation in 2007, and so on. The GMT also recommends that observer data be applied to past landed catch data to provide enhanced estimates of total mortality, beginning with observer data collected during the 2002 fishing year. Finally, the actual species' encounter ratios in the observer data could be informative in crafting trip limits that minimize discard to the extent practicable.

PFMC
11/05/03