

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM
PROPOSED PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND PROCESS
FOR DEVELOPING 2005-2006 GROUND FISH FISHERY SPECIFICATIONS AND
MANAGEMENT MEASURES^{1/}

Option B: A November, April, and June Council Meeting Process

- October 14-17, 2003 The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Council staff meet in Seattle, Washington to review new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses and draft a recommended range of 2005-2006 groundfish harvest specifications and preliminary management measures.
- November 3-7, 2003 The Council and advisory bodies meet in Del Mar, California to adopt:
1. New stock assessments for cabezon and lingcod and a new lingcod rebuilding analysis.
 2. The schedule and process for development of 2005-2006 groundfish fishery specifications and management measures.
 3. A range of 2005-2006 harvest specifications and a preliminary range of management measures.
- November 10, 2003-
March 5, 2004 The Bycatch Model Work Group develops proposed methodologies to model bycatch in trawl and fixed gear fisheries based on data from the Observer Program.
- January 14-16, 2004 **The GMT and Council staff meet in La Jolla, California (GMT Retreat) to discuss long-range management measures and ways to improve Team efficiency; also as part of agenda, GMT will develop** a work plan to accomplish all the elements involved in the 2005-2006 groundfish fishery specifications and management measure process.
- February 3-6, 2004 The GMT, Council staff, and Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN) staff meet in X to review state recreational catch estimate models, review the updated observer data and modeling, and discuss RecFIN issues.**
- January 30, 2004 The Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) releases the 2004 whiting stock assessment.
- January 30, 2004 The NWFSC releases a report summarizing the second year of observer data and proposed methodologies to model bycatch in trawl and fixed gear fisheries.
- February 17-21,
2004 Whiting Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel meets in Seattle, Washington.

1/ Including 2004 whiting fishery management specifications and management measures.

- March 8-12, 2004 Council and advisory bodies meet at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel in Tacoma, Washington.
- The Bycatch Model Work Group briefs the GMT and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on proposed methodologies to model bycatch in trawl and fixed gear fisheries; SSC provides feedback as to any suggested improvements.
 - The Council adopts whiting fishery specifications and management measures for 2004.
- March 15-
April 3, 2004 The Bycatch Model Work Group incorporates SSC-suggested improvements and finalizes models and methodologies for use in analyzing 2005 -2006 groundfish specifications and management measures.
- April 5-9, 2004 Council and advisory bodies meet at the Red Lion Hotel in Sacramento, California.
- The GMT analyzes the preliminary acceptable biological catches (ABCs), optimum yields (OYs), and management measures adopted at the November 2003 Council meeting and prepares a report presenting the results.
 - The GMT briefs the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP).
 - The states hold constituent meetings.
 - The Council adopts:
 - Final ABC and OY levels.
 - Refined management measures for further analysis.
- May 3-7, 2004 The GMT meets in Portland, Oregon to analyze the refined management measures adopted at the April Council meeting and prepares a report for public review and presentation at the June Council meeting.
- May 21, 2004 Council staff release a report for public review with an analysis of the refined management measures:
- Document authoring completed by May 12, 2004.
 - Document proofing and printing completed by May 19, 2004.
 - Document distribution completed by May 21, 2004.
- May 24-
June 11, 2004 State and tribal agencies hold constituent meetings to obtain input on final recommendations for final management measures.
- June 14-18, 2004 Council and advisory bodies meet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City, California.
- The Council provides the GMT with a draft preferred alternative, which the GMT analyzes and briefs the GAP on the results.
 - The Council takes final action on a preferred alternative for a complete set of 2005-2006 groundfish fishery specifications and management measures.
- June 28-
July 2, 2004 The GMT meets in X to complete all remaining analytical tasks necessary for the preparation of a draft *Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed 2005-2006 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures*.

July 5- July 30, 2004	Council staff work with GMT members in drafting a complete DEIS document.
August 2-13, 2004	Council secretariate completes formatting, proofing, and printing of DEIS document.
August 16-20, 2004	GMT and NMFS regional staff review of final DEIS draft and transmittal to NMFS headquarters.
August 23- December 31, 2004	NMFS conducts internal Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA) process, further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes, and notice and comment under Administrative Procedures Act.
January 1, 2005	Groundfish fishery begins under adopted specifications and management measures.