

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON
THE DRAFT APRIL 2004 COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

The GMT reviewed and discussed the revised draft April 2004 Council meeting agenda and has some suggestions to make the Council's agenda and the GMT's meeting more efficient. As stated earlier this week in the GMT's report on inseason adjustments, the GMT is anticipating additional inseason considerations regarding the limited entry fixed gear and trawl fisheries and California recreational fisheries at the April meeting. With regard to the California recreational fisheries, the GMT is expecting to receive structured options that reduce impacts to rockfish, particularly canary and black rockfish, and analyses of those options. To the extent that the resulting impacts to overfished species in those analyses could affect the Council's decision on the 2005-06 ABCs and OYs (and potential regional OYs), the GMT recommends that inseason management (agendum D.6.) be scheduled before final action on ABCs and OYs (agendum D.3.).

Additionally, the GMT is anticipating that there may be a need to receive Council guidance on analyses of inseason and/or ABC/OY options prior to final action and requests that a "check-in" to receive that guidance be scheduled for the afternoon of Monday, April 5. This check-in is anticipated to add about a half hour to the Council's agenda for Monday.

GMT Recommendations (in priority order)

1. Move 2004 Inseason Management (D.6.) from Wednesday morning (April 7) to Tuesday afternoon (April 6)
2. Move Final Harvest Levels for 05-06 (D.3.) from Tuesday afternoon (April 6) to Wednesday morning (April 7)
3. Schedule a check-in for Monday afternoon (April 5) to receive Council guidance on analyses of inseason and/or ABC/OY options