

STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANNING FOR 2007-2008 FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Situation: The Council approved Amendment 17 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan as a means of providing for a biennial management cycle, more opportunity for public input, regulatory efficiencies, and various improvements in the management process. This agenda deals with planning activities for the 2007-2008 fishery management cycles. The “on year” for Council decision making for this cycle begins with the November 2005 Council meeting and includes a second Council meeting in March or April 2006 and a final Council meeting in June 2006 (Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 1.)

Dr. Elizabeth Clarke, Division Director at the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center, will report on proposed stock assessment activities from the perspective of the Fishery Resource Analysis and Monitoring Division (Exhibit E.3.b, Attachment 1). The Council is to consider the input from NMFS, the Advisory Bodies, and the public before providing guidance relevant to stock assessment priorities by species, type of assessment (full or update), and schedule of occurrence.

At the November 2003 Council meeting, there was initial discussion on “off-year” workshops and stock assessment production planning. The statements of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) from that meeting are included for reference (Exhibit E.3.a, Attachments 2, 3, and 4, respectively).

Council Task:

- 1. Discuss stock assessment planning for the 2007-2008 management period and make recommendations to the NMFS Fishery Science Centers regarding :**
 - a. Species priorities for stock assessments.**
 - b. Type of assessment.**
 - c. Schedule of stock assessment occurrence.**
 - d. “Off-year” workshops.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 1: Biennial Management Process, 2005-2006 and 2007-2008.
2. Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 2: SSC Report on Planning of “Off-year” Non-regulatory Science Activities, from the November 2003 Council meeting.
3. Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 3: GMT Report on Planning of “Off-year” Non-regulatory Science Activities, from the November 2003 Council meeting.
4. Exhibit E.3.a, Attachment 4: GAP Report on Planning of “Off-year” Non-regulatory Science Activities, from the November 2003 Council meeting.
5. Exhibit E.3.b, Attachment 1: Proposed Groundfish Stock Assessment Activities for 2004-2005.

Agenda Order:

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

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