

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
PLANNING OF "OFF-YEAR" NON-REGULATORY SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received an update from Dr. Jim Hastie on the status of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's (NWFSC) plans for science activities during the "off year" under the new biennial management process adopted by the Council under fishery management plan Amendment 17. The NWFSC tentatively plans to prepare about 21 groundfish assessments in preparation for the 2007-2008 management period. Under the terms of Amendment 17, these assessments would need to be prepared, reviewed by a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel, reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and adopted by the Council by the November 2005 Council meeting. The GMT recommends all STAR Panels for these assessments be convened in 2005. Furthermore, while the Council process may benefit by parsing SSC review and Council adoption of new assessments and rebuilding analyses between the scheduled 2005 Council meetings, the GMT recommends that all assessments and rebuilding analyses be formally reviewed and adopted by the September 2005 Council meeting. This will allow the GMT and other Council advisors the time to digest the abundance of new scientific information and recommend a range of 2007-2008 harvest levels at the November 2005 Council meeting.

PFMC
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