

OBSERVER DATA AND MODEL IMPLEMENTATION

Situation: In February, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) released the second annual trawl observer data report followed by the first fixed gear observer data report, which summarized the first two years of at-sea observation data for the fixed gear primary sablefish fishery. Dr. Hastie from the NWFSC recently revised the limited entry trawl bycatch model that was adopted for management use in 2003 by updating the model with new observer data, new logbook data, new fish ticket data, and new observer data stratifications (Exhibit C.4.a, Attachment 1). Dr. Hastie also recently developed a new fixed gear primary sablefish bycatch model (Exhibit C.4.a, Attachment 2). Both of these bycatch models were presented to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for their review in March. The SSC recommended some slight model revisions (Exhibit C.4.a, Attachment 3). Dr. Hastie will present the trawl and fixed gear bycatch models at this meeting with the SSC-recommended revisions. The Council task is to approve these models for use in 2004 inseason management and 2005-06 management decision-making.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt bycatch models for use in deciding 2004 inseason management actions and 2005-06 management measures.**

References:

1. Exhibit C.4.a, Attachment 1: Modeling bycatch and discard in the limited entry trawl fishery: A review of data and model updates for fishery analysis during 2004.
2. Exhibit C.4.a, Attachment 2: Modeling sablefish discard and bycatch of overfished species in the 2004 limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery.
3. Exhibit C.4.a, Attachment 3: Scientific and Statistical Committee Report to the Groundfish Management Team on the groundfish observer data and bycatch model for 2004.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Recommendations
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Approve Implementation for 2004 Inseason Management Actions and 2005-06 Management Measures

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