

POLICY ON GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT INFORMATION USAGE

Situation: During recent groundfish seasons, with the advent of the observer program data and new stock assessments, the Council has struggled with the issue of when and how to incorporate new management information into its inseason management process. With the advent of the multi-year groundfish management cycle beginning in 2005-2006, resolving this new data incorporation issue has become even more important as new observer data and modeling updates occur within the multi-year framework (Attachment 1). In recognition of this growing problem, the Council has formed an ad hoc committee to prepare recommendations for Council consideration in setting a policy to resolve the new data incorporation issue.

The Groundfish Information Policy Committee (GIPC) was formed in February 2004 and met for the first time on March 23, 2004 in Portland. The members of the committee are: Phil Anderson, Elizabeth Clarke, Neal Coenen, Eileen Cooney, Don Hansen, Bill Robinson, and Marija Vojkovich. The agenda for this meeting is attached (Exhibit C.5.a, Attachment 1: Draft Agenda for the March 23, 2004 GIPC meeting). The GIPC will report to the Council on the results of this first meeting and present recommendations to the Council on resolving the data incorporation issue.

Council Action:

1. Consider Recommendations of the GIPC.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit C.5.a, Attachment 1: Draft Agenda for the March 23, 2004 GIPC meeting.
2. Exhibit C.5.b, Supplemental Report of the GIPC.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Report of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Information Policy Committee (GIPC)
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Recommendations of the GIPC

Ed Waters

PFMC
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