

STATUS OF GROUND FISH FISHERIES AND INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Situation: The Council set optimum yield (OY) levels and various management measures for the 2004 groundfish management season, with the understanding these management measures will likely need to be adjusted periodically through the year in order to attain, but not exceed, the OYs. Under this agenda, the Council will receive updates on appropriate groundfish fisheries and consider adopting inseason adjustments.

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will present information on the status of ongoing fisheries, and any need for management measure adjustments.

On Tuesday, April 6, under agenda C.4, the Council is scheduled to receive recommendations on new observer data and bycatch modeling methods from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFS), the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the GMT, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel and the public. Preliminary results from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) and proposed bycatch modeling methodologies for the limited entry trawl fishery and the limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery were reviewed by the SSC at the March meeting in Tacoma, Washington. Since the March meeting, NWFS staff considered the SSC recommendations and incorporated changes to the bycatch models as appropriate. The Council will decide how to best implement the new models for inseason adjustments in 2004 under this agenda (C.7) and fishery management in 2005 - 2006 (agendas C.8, C.10, and C.15).

Tier limit adjustments, and potentially other measures, in the limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery and review of limited entry trawl regulations based on data from the WCGOP are expected inseason adjustment topics. The Council received considerable public testimony from the limited entry fixed gear sector at the March meeting. Other potential topics under this agenda include trip limit adjustments in response to the Pacific Groundfish Limited Entry Trawl Buyback Program and consideration of California recreational fishery proposals.

The Council is to consider advice from advisory bodies and the public on the status of ongoing fisheries and recommended inseason adjustments and adopt changes as necessary.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider information on the status of ongoing fisheries.**
- 2. Consider and adopt inseason adjustments as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit C.7.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Report of the Groundfish Management Team
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Inseason Adjustments in the 2004 Groundfish Fishery

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