

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
RED LIGHT/GREEN LIGHT THRESHOLD FOR OPTIMUM YIELD

The Groundfish Management Team's (GMT's) understanding of the Council direction to develop recommendations for midcourse corrections was (1) that the corrections (i.e., optimum yield changes) could be considered for both decreases (red light) and increases (green light), and (2) all species could be considered for midcourse corrections. However, in the GMT's previous discussions on this topic, the GMT believes there is sufficient rationale to treat overfished stocks differently than non-overfished stocks in developing thresholds.

The GMT recommends that species-specific (or species category) thresholds be set at fairly high levels so that midcourse corrections would rarely occur, so as to not disrupt fisheries and affect the integrity of the biennial management process, while providing protection for overfished stocks, avoiding overfishing, and allowing harvest on healthier stocks. The GMT notes that, in essence, midcourse corrections would only affect the OY set for the second year of the biennial management cycle.

If the GMT's understanding of the direction provided by the Council is in error, we would appreciate clarification. We also request additional Council guidance on the next steps for addressing this issue.

PFMC
09/14/04