

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON
GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region will briefly report on recent regulatory developments relevant to groundfish fisheries and issues of interest to the Council including an update on the development of monitoring program alternatives for the shore-based Pacific whiting fishery. Because establishing a permanent monitoring program for the shore-based whiting fishery will not be possible prior to the start of the 2005 fishery, NMFS will again require an exempted fishing permit (EFP) for participation in the 2005 shore-based whiting fishery. Terms and conditions of the whiting EFP will be developed over the winter months. As in 2004, the EFP will continue to evaluate monitoring tools appropriate for the shore-based whiting fishery. The Council is scheduled to consider final EFP applications for 2005, including an EFP application submitted for the shore-based Pacific whiting fishery, under Agenda Item E.3.

NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center will briefly report on groundfish-related science and research activities including a summary of the stock assessment workshops held this year and a report on a planned cost-earnings survey of the trawl fishery.

Council Task:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agendum Item E.1.a, Amendment 17 Letter: letter from Dr. McIsaac to Mr. Lohn; Council recommendation for modifying the *Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan* amendatory language adopted under Amendment 17.
2. Agendum Item E.1.b, NMFS Science Report: Commercial Cost-Earnings Survey of the Limited Entry Trawl Fleet.

Agenda Order:

- a. Regulatory Activities
- b. Science Center Activities
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion

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