

INSEASON MANAGEMENT RESPONSE POLICY

In recent years, inseason groundfish management has become a dominant feature of many Council meetings. The complexities of the management regime, including new mandates and strictures imposed with rebuilding plans and new monitoring systems, has translated into somewhat unpredictable outcomes when management adjustments are made. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT), Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), and the Council have consequently devoted such a large amount of time to consideration of inseason management adjustments, that there has been concern about the impact to some of the other important tasks on their agendas. Additionally, some of these adjustments, especially early in the fishing season, have resulted in early attainment of a species' optimum yield (OY) or fishery harvest guideline, which has caused hardship as fisheries closed prior to the normal end of the season. Therefore, the Council has scheduled consideration of an inseason management response policy to more efficiently and effectively manage Council meetings and the groundfish fishery.

Last November, the GMT recommended that management measures not be liberalized as part of any inseason action prior to the June Council meeting (unless data or model errors warrant such consideration). It was thought that early attainment problems may be lessened if inseason actions were more conservative during the first six months of the fishing season. The Groundfish Information Policy Committee (GIPC) met on January 25-26 to discuss and recommend, among other things, an inseason management response policy to help govern future Council actions (Agenda Item F.1.b, Attachment 1). The GIPC agreed with the GMT that this would be a sound policy for the Council to consider. Another inseason management response policy alternative the GIPC considered was limiting the magnitude of inseason adjustments. For instance, inseason adjustments, such as trip limits, could be limited to $\pm 10\%$ of status quo under this alternative. The GIPC rejected this alternative because it seemed to be unnecessarily complicated and was obviated by their recommendation to not liberalize management measures during the first six months of the fishing season.

The Council task under this agenda item is to consider the recommendations of the GIPC and other Council advisors and adopt inseason management response alternatives or a draft policy for public review. Final action on an inseason management response policy will be scheduled for the April Council meeting.

Council Action:

1. Adopt Inseason Management Response Alternatives/Draft Policy for Public Review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1.b, Attachment 1: Draft Summary Minutes of the January 25-26, 2005 Groundfish Information Policy Committee Meeting.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Ad Hoc Groundfish Information Policy Committee (GIPC) Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Inseason Management Response Alternatives/Draft Policy for Public Review

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