

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.

In March, the Council adopted a draft inseason management response policy for public review. The draft policy is to not liberalize management measures 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 Council task under this agenda item is to consider public and advisory body comment and adopt an inseason management response policy.

Council Action:

1. Adopt An Inseason Management Response Policy.

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Inseason Management Response Policy for Implementation

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