

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
STATUS OF 2005 GROUND FISH FISHERIES AND CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON
ADJUSTMENT

Dr. Jim Hastie presented the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) West Coast Observer Program Data Report and Summary Analyses of Open Access Fixed-Gear Fisheries in Waters Less Than 50 Fathoms, and discussed the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) Report on Modeling Discard Mortality in the Open-Access Nearshore Fishery. Instead of continuing to assume a uniform discard rate for all species in the open-access nearshore fishery, the GMT prefers using discard rates based on observer data. The SSC endorses the GMT's preferred approach and encourages the development of discard mortality information for all fisheries that affect groundfish. Improved coordination between observer records and fishtickets would be extremely useful in accounting for retained catch in open access nearshore fisheries. In addition, establishment of logbook programs for open access nearshore fisheries, such as the voluntary program being implemented in California, is another mechanism to improve accounting of catch.

PFMC
06/15/05