

REBUILDING PLAN REVISION RULES

The Council is obligated under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to periodically review the adequacy of progress in rebuilding plans for overfished species as new assessments are conducted and approved for management use. Under the FMP, this review of adequacy of rebuilding plan progress can occur at any time, but must occur at least every two years, even if new approved assessments are not available. Sections 4.5.3.3 through 4.5.3.6 of the FMP specify the process for development and approval of rebuilding plans, provisions for updating key rebuilding parameters, implementation of actions required under the rebuilding plan, and provisions for periodically reviewing rebuilding plans (Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 1). In section 4.5.3.6, the FMP states, “The Council, in consultation with the SSC and GMT, will determine on a case-by-case basis whether there has been a significant change in a parameter such that the chosen management target must be revised.”

It is expected that rebuilding plans will be evaluated for adequacy of progress when new rebuilding analyses are considered and approved through the Council process every other year. Rebuilding analyses provide the information and implications of a new stock assessment and estimated fishery impacts relative to the previous rebuilding trajectory. All new rebuilding analyses are anticipated to be approved at the November 2005 Council meeting. This would be when the SSC, Groundfish Management Team (GMT), and Council will formally review affected rebuilding plans and determine on a case-by-case basis whether rebuilding/management targets need to be revised.

The Council is now challenged with developing a framework and policy for revising each rebuilding plan, termed rebuilding revision rules, in advance of the November 2005 meeting. Members of the SSC and the West Coast scientific community have collaborated to address management strategy evaluation techniques for species under rebuilding (Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 2) and management implications of alternative rebuilding revision rules (Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 3). Furthermore, Dr. Steve Ralston will be giving a joint presentation at the June Council meeting (scheduled for 10:30 A.M., Monday, June 13) to explain these techniques and analyses and to clarify implications of alternative rebuilding revision rules. The Council task under this agenda item is to adopt, for public review, draft rebuilding revision rules for overfished species managed under an adopted rebuilding plan. The proposed final adoption of rebuilding revision rules is September 2005, prior to final approval of rebuilding analyses and specification of a range of optimum yields for these stocks in November 2005.

Council Action:

Adopt draft rebuilding plan revision rules for public review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 1: Sections 4.5.3.3 – 4.5.3.6 of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.
2. Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 2: Establishing Quantitative Criteria for Assessing Adequacy of Progress Towards Rebuilding Overfished West Coast Groundfish Stocks.
3. Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 3: Evaluating Alternative Rebuilding Revision Rules for Assessing Progress Towards Rebuilding of Overfished West Coast Groundfish.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. SSC Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Policy Alternatives for Public Review

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