

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. Attached for the Council's review is the Pacific Council portion of a recent nationwide standardized reporting methodology review (Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 1). The Council should also be aware of the proposed rule modifying National Standard 1 guidelines for ending overfishing and rebuilding overfished species. The comment period for the proposed rule for these guidelines has been extended to October 21, 2005. Copies of the proposed rule can be found at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mediacenter/docs/NSG1_Proposed_Rule.pdf or are available upon request at the Council meeting. The Scientific and Statistical Committee provided comments on the draft proposed rule in October 2004, most of which appear to have been incorporated in the proposed rule.

NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center will also briefly report on groundfish-related science and research activities, including a new observer data report of limited entry vessels targeting California halibut (Agenda Item F.2.b, Attachment 1).

Council Task:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 1: NMFS September 2004 Summary of Region-by-Region Standardized Reporting Methodology Review.
2. Agenda Item F.2.b, Attachment 1: Summary of Observed Groundfish Bycatch by Groundfish Limited-Entry Vessels Targeting California Halibut.

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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