

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
SERVICE SCHEDULE AND PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING 2007-2008 GROUND FISH
HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES¹

- September 9, 2005 Council staff files Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* to prepare either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- August 29 -
September 2, 2005 The Groundfish Management Team (GMT), Council staff, and Northwest Region (NWR) staff meet in Portland, Oregon to draft a recommended schedule, process, and work plan for developing 2007-2008 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures.
- September 19-23,
2005 The Council and advisory bodies meet in Portland, Oregon to adopt:
1. New stock assessments.
 2. A schedule, process, and work plan for developing 2007-2008 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures.
 3. Rebuilding revision rules.
- October 11-14, 2005 The GMT, Council staff, and NWR staff meet in Seattle, Washington to review new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses and draft a recommended range of 2007-2008 groundfish harvest specifications acceptable biological catch (ABC) and optimum yields (OYs) and preliminary management measures.
- October 31 -
November 4, 2005 The Council and advisory bodies meet in San Diego, California to adopt:
1. New stock assessments and rebuilding analyses.
 2. Updated observer data and proposed methodologies to model bycatch in trawl and fixed gear fisheries.
 3. A range of preliminary 2007-2008 harvest specifications (ABCs and OYs), and if possible, preferred OYs for some stocks and complexes.
 4. Adopt, or give guidance on, a preliminary range of management measures, including initial allocations.
- November 7, 2005-
January 10, 2006 The GMT, Council staff, NWR staff, and agency staff develop:
1. Impact analyses of proposed management measure alternatives.
 2. A preliminary draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) document.
- November 14-15, 2005 The Allocation Committee meets to decide commercial-recreational allocation alternatives not decided at the November Council meeting.

¹ Reflecting Council guidance at the September 2005 meeting.

November 16, 2005- March 31, 2006	Opportunity for state and tribal agencies to hold constituent meetings to obtain input on final ABC and OYs refinement of the range of management measures.
January 9-10, 2006	The GMT, Council staff, and NWR staff meet to further develop impact analyses of management measure alternatives.
Three days TBD during mid-January through early February, 2006	The Allocation Committee, GMT, Council staff, and NWR staff meet to refine management measure alternatives and further develop impact analyses.
February, 2006	Whiting Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel meets to review a new whiting assessment.
March 6-10, 2006	Council and advisory bodies meet in Seattle, Washington to adopt whiting harvest specifications and management measures for 2006.
March 15, 2006	Council staff or NWR staff release alternatives analysis (and other key components of a preliminary DEIS document) for April briefing book.
April 3-7, 2006	Council and advisory bodies meet to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt final 2007-2008 harvest specifications (ABC and OYs). 2. Adopt a range of refined management measures and, if possible, a tentative preferred alternative of management measures.
April 17-21, 2006	The GMT, Council staff, and NWR staff meet in Portland, Oregon to analyze the management measures adopted at the April Council meeting and to refine a preliminary DEIS document for public review and presentation at the June Council meeting.
April 21, 2006- June 11, 2005	Opportunity for state and tribal agencies to hold constituent meetings to obtain input on a final preferred alternative of management measures.
May 24, 2006	Council staff or NWR staff delivers the preliminary DEIS document for the June briefing book and distributes a pre-submission review copy to NMFS Headquarters (HQ).
June 11-16, 2006	Council and advisory bodies meet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City, California to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take final action on the 2007-2008 groundfish management measures. 2. Determine National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document status as EA or EIS. 3. Discuss January-February, 2007 fishery regulations in the context of EA or EIS decision.

The regulatory process after the final Council decision depends on the category of NEPA regulatory document (EA or EIS) and the degree of completeness of the draft NEPA document in the June briefing book. The following schedule presumes an EIS document, a highly refined analysis at the June briefing book stage that also contains a preferred alternative, and no substantial deviation from that preferred alternative at the June Council meeting. Absent these conditions, an EIS schedule would be delayed one to two months and result in the regulations not being in place until about March 1.

June 26, 2006	DEIS proof and edit begins.
July 14, 2006	DEIS sent by Council staff or NWR staff to NMFS HQ.
July 17, 2006	DEIS received by NMFS HQ.
July 20, 2006	NWR sends draft proposed rule package to regional General Counsel (GC).
July 21, 2006	DEIS submitted to EPA.
July 24, 2006	Regional GC returns draft proposed rule package to NWR.
July 28, 2006	EPA publishes NOA, 45-day public comment period on DEIS begins.
July 31, 2006	NWR transmits proposed rule to HQ.
August 30, 2006	Proposed rule is published; 30-day public comment period on proposed rule begins.
September 11, 2006	45-day public comment period on DEIS ends.
September 29, 2006	30-day public comment period on proposed rule ends. FEIS sent to HQ.
October 2, 2006	FEIS received by NMFS HQ. NWR meets with regional GC to plan response to comments on proposed rule.
October 6, 2006	FEIS submitted to EPA.
October 12, 2006	NWR sends final rule package to regional GC.
October 13, 2006	EPA publishes NOA; 30-day cooling off period begins.
October 18, 2006	Regional GC returns final rule package to NWR.
October 30, 2006	NWR transmits final rule package to HQ.
November 12, 2006	30-day cooling off period on FEIS ends.
November 13, 2006	ROD signed no earlier than this date.
November 29, 2006	Final rule published; 30-day APA cooling off period begins.
December 29, 2006	APA cooling off period ends.
January 1, 2007	Groundfish fishery begins under adopted specifications and management measures.