

OFF-YEAR SCIENCE IMPROVEMENTS

This Council meeting marks the end of the “on-year” for intensive science activities as the last of the new groundfish stock assessments and rebuilding analyses are formally approved under Agenda Item H.2. While it is not entirely accurate to characterize the biennial management cycle in terms of an “on-year” and “off-year” for science, it is correct to distinguish the year in which assessments are conducted (the “on year”) and the year other science activities are planned to prepare for the following assessment cycle and to resolve scientific issues that play a significant role in groundfish decision-making.

There are many activities that have been planned and/or should be considered for “off-year” science improvements. Some of these activities may be planned and sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) (e.g., a post-assessment workshop to review how well the assessment process worked this year, a pre-assessment data and modeling workshop to prepare for the next round of assessments, etc.); some activities may be planned and sponsored by the Council or the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (e.g., a B_0 (initial biomass)/ B_{MSY} (target biomass) workshop); and some activities may be recommended by other entities (e.g., a Recreational Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN) workshop-- see Agenda Item H.5.d, Attachment 1).

The Council should consider the proposals and advice of the NWFSC, Council advisory bodies, other agencies, and the general public regarding off-year science improvements and plan and prioritize science activities for 2006.

Council Action:

Plan and Prioritize Science Activities for 2006.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.5.d, Attachment 1: October 5, 2005 letter from Russell Porter, chair of the RecFIN Technical Committee, to Dr. Donald McIsaac requesting a RecFIN workshop.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Northwest Fisheries Science Center Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Plan and Prioritize Science Activities for 2006

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