

MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SPINY DOGFISH
AND PACIFIC COD FOR 2006

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) has recently raised concerns regarding the management of two West Coast groundfish species managed under the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan-spiny dogfish and Pacific cod. The GMT believes current harvest controls are inadequate to effectively manage these species and recommended Council consideration of management measures for 2006 fisheries at the last Council meeting (Agenda Item H.9.a, Attachment 1).

The Council adopted the GMT-recommended alternative management measures for analysis and public review at their September meeting. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff began preparation of a preliminary draft Environmental Assessment (EA) (Agenda Item H.9.a, Attachment 2), which will analyze the effects of alternative management measures to control the future harvest of spiny dogfish and Pacific cod. This draft EA will be tiered off the Final Environmental Impact Statement developed to decide the 2005-2006 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures. The Council should use this preliminary draft EA and any other supplemental information to decide a preferred alternative for managing these species in 2006. New regulations for managing spiny dogfish and Pacific cod are expected to be implemented by March 1, 2006.

Council Action:

Adopt Final Recommendations for 2006 Management Measures for Spiny Dogfish and Pacific Cod.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.9.a, Attachment 1: September 2005 Groundfish Management Team Report on Management Specifications for Spiny Dogfish and Pacific Cod For 2006.
2. Agenda Item H.9.a, Attachment 2: Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Impact Review of Management Measures for Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) and Pacific Cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Recommendations for 2006 Management Measures

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PFMC
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