

## MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS FOR 2007-2008 FISHERIES

The Council decided last November to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine 2007-2008 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures, and to consider revisions to adopted rebuilding plans for seven depleted (overfished) groundfish species. The latter purpose has led to Amendment 16-4 to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), where the Council's groundfish rebuilding framework and species' rebuilding plans are specified. The purpose and need and contextual basis for this EIS are detailed in a preliminary draft of Chapter 1 of the EIS (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1).

In November 2005, the Council also adopted a process and schedule for developing the EIS, adopted a range of alternative harvest specifications to analyze for 2007-2008 fisheries and Amendment 16-4 considerations, provided guidance for developing EIS alternatives for analysis, and delegated the task of further development of EIS alternatives for analysis to the Groundfish Management Team and Groundfish Allocation Committee (minutes for this February 2006 meeting are included in Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 2). EIS alternatives developed to date are described in Chapter 2 of the preliminary draft EIS (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 3).

The Council is tasked with deciding three actions related to EIS considerations this week: 1) preliminary adoption of draft revised rebuilding plans, including optimum yields (OYs) and draft FMP amendatory language under Amendment 16-4 (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 4 contains draft amendment language) for public review, 2) adoption of final preferred 2007-2008 groundfish harvest specifications (acceptable biological catches [ABCs] and OYs) for the rest of the groundfish species, and 3) adoption of a refined range of 2007-2008 groundfish management measure alternatives for analysis that are designed to stay within final preferred OYs. The first two actions are contemplated under this agenda item and the third action has been separated into two steps as agenda items F.5 and F.6 on Thursday and Friday, respectively.

The first two of the above actions are considered under this agenda item: preliminary adoption of revised rebuilding plans for seven depleted groundfish species and adoption of preferred 2007-2008 groundfish harvest specifications (Table 2-1 in Agenda Item F.1a, Attachment 3 shows ABC and OY values for all groundfish species, including the seven depleted species). These two actions are interconnected in that the selection of OYs for the seven depleted species with rebuilding plans needs to be identical between the rebuilding plans and the 2007-2008 biennial specifications. Therefore, it is suggested that the Council separate their deliberations as follows:

- First, consider the revised rebuilding plans, which entails deciding OYs for 2007-2008 in addition to a harvest strategy, and estimated median time to rebuild the stock ( $T_{TARGET}$ ).
- Second, consider the draft amendment language for Amendment 16-4.
- Lastly, decide ABCs and OYs for all other groundfish species.

Rebuilding plans must meet the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) mandate to rebuild depleted stocks in as short a time as possible, while taking into account the status and biology of the depleted species, the socioeconomic needs of West Coast fishing communities, and the interaction of the depleted stocks within the marine ecosystem. Analyses of EIS alternatives are designed to demonstrate the short and long-term costs, benefits, and tradeoffs associated with alternative rebuilding plans. These analyses are included in Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 5 (Economic analyses); F.1.a, Attachment 6 (Socioeconomic analyses); and attachments under Agenda Item F.5 (management measure descriptions and impact analyses).

Council and NMFS staff will host a special session at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 2 in the Capital Ballroom to present EIS alternatives and results, discuss the biological and socioeconomic consequences of rebuilding alternatives, and answer questions relative to any of these issues (Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 7, available Sunday evening).

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt Preliminary Revised Rebuilding Plans for Overfished Species, including OYs for 2007-2008, a Harvest Strategy, and Target Rebuilding Time ( $T_{TARGET}$ ).**
- 2. Adopt Preliminary Fishery Management Plan Language for Amendment 16-4.**
- 3. Adopt Final Preferred 2007-2008 ABCs and OYs for All Other Appropriate Groundfish Species.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1: Preliminary Draft of Chapter 1 of the Environmental Impact Statement Analyzing Proposed Acceptable Biological Catch and Optimum Yield Specifications and Management Measures for the 2007-2008 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and Amendment 16-4: Rebuilding Plans for Seven Depleted Pacific Coast Groundfish Species.
2. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 2: Draft Summary Minutes of the February 6-9, 2006 Groundfish Management Team and Groundfish Allocation Committee Meeting.
3. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 3: Preliminary Draft of Chapter 2 of the Environmental Impact Statement Analyzing Proposed Acceptable Biological Catch and Optimum Yield Specifications and Management Measures for the 2007-2008 Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and Amendment 16-4: Rebuilding Plans for Seven Depleted Pacific Coast Groundfish Species.
4. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 4: Draft Amendment 16-4 (Overfished Species Rebuilding Reprise) Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan for the California, Oregon, and Washington Groundfish Fishery.
5. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 5: Economic Revenue and Distributional Impacts Associated with Overfished Species Management in West Coast Commercial Groundfish Fisheries.
6. Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 6: Analyses of Socioeconomic Impacts of 2007-2008 and Amendment 16-4 Alternatives on West Coast Fishing Communities.
7. Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 7: Hard Copy of Slides Comprising the PowerPoint Presentations Provided at the April 2 Special Session on Rebuilding Alternatives.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. State, Tribal, and Federal Agency Recommendations
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comments
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) and Optimum Yields (OYs), and Preliminary Revised Rebuilding Plans for Overfished Species

John DeVore

PFMC  
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