

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE PROPOSED PROCESS AND
SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPING BIENNIAL (2009-2010) HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS
AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the new proposal for delivery of West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) data (Supplemental Information Report 4, June 2007) with regard to the 2009/2010 harvest specifications and management measures. The new proposed schedule provides up-to-date information delivered more frequently and has the potential to better inform management decisions in a dynamic fishery. The GMT considered the effects of the updated process on the schedule for biennial specifications and management measures as well as inseason management. Problems arise with data delivery in June, as it coincides with adoption of biennial specifications and management measures in even years. In addition, if bycatch models are not updated until after the November Council meeting, mitigating inseason action cannot be taken until March of the following year. The GMT acknowledges the fact that the new proposed schedule will require additional staff resources at the NWFSC. The GMT will further consider this issue and provide feedback to the Council in September, prior to Council final action.

Recommendations:

The GMT will continue to discuss timing and release of WCGOP data and will provide a more detailed discussion and recommendations to the Council in September 2007.

PFMC
06/11/07