

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES  
SERVICE SCHEDULE AND PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING 2009-2010 GROUND FISH  
HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- June 9-15, 2007            The Council and advisory bodies meet to adopt:
1. New stock assessments.
  2. A schedule, process, and work plan for developing 2009-2010 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures.
- September 10-14, 2007    The Council and advisory bodies meet to adopt new stock assessments.
- September 21, 2007        Council staff files Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to prepare either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- October 1-5, 2007          The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Groundfish Subcommittee and members of the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) meet to review any stock assessments recommended for further review by a 2007 Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel and/or the SSC as well as rebuilding analyses prepared for overfished species.
- October 9-12, 2007        The GMT, Council staff, and Northwest Region (NWR) staff meet in Seattle, Washington to review new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses and draft a recommended range of 2009-2010 groundfish harvest specifications (acceptable biological catches [ABCs] and optimum yields [OYs]) and preliminary management measures.
- November 5-9, 2007        The Council and advisory bodies meet in San Diego, California to adopt:
1. Remaining 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 2009-2010 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 13, 2007-  
March 19, 2008
- The GMT, Council staff, NWR staff, and agency staff develop:
1. Impact analyses of proposed management measure alternatives.
  2. An outline of the preliminary draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document.
  3. Assignments and a schedule for preparing the NEPA document.
- November 13, 2007-April  
5, 2008
- Opportunity for state and tribal agencies to hold constituent meetings to obtain input on final ABCs and OYs and refinement of the range of management measures.
- March 19, 2008
- Council staff or NWR staff provides alternatives analysis (and other key components of a preliminary NEPA document) for the April briefing book.
- April 6-11, 2008
- Council and advisory bodies meet to:
1. Adopt final 2009-2010 harvest specifications (ABCs and OYs).
  2. Adopt a range of refined management measures and, if possible, a tentative preferred alternative of management measures.
- April 12, 2008-  
June 7, 2008
- Opportunity for state and tribal agencies to hold constituent meetings to obtain input on a final preferred alternative of management measures.
- May 21, 2008
- Council staff or NWR staff delivers the preliminary NEPA document with a final range of alternatives (not necessarily including the preferred alternative) for the June briefing book and distributes a pre-submission review copy to NMFS Headquarters (HQ).
- June 8-13, 2008
- Council and advisory bodies meet to take final action on the 2009-2010 groundfish management measures.

The regulatory process after the final Council decision depends on the category of NEPA regulatory document (EA, EIS, or EIA [Environmental Impact Assessment]) and the degree of completeness of the draft NEPA document in the June briefing book. The regulatory process also depends on whether the Council adopts a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment as part of its 2009-2010 recommendations. 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. The following schedule also presumes an FMP amendment would be needed to update at overfished species rebuilding parameters for at least one overfished species.

- June 27, 2008
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) proof and edit begins.
- July 18, 2008
- DEIS sent by Council staff or NWR staff to NMFS HQ.

July 21, 2008	DEIS received by NMFS HQ.
July 25, 2008	DEIS submitted to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
July 28, 2008	EPA publishes Notice of Availability (NOA), 45-day public comment period on DEIS begins.
August 10, 2008	PFMC transmits Amendment 16-5. NWR transmits proposed rule to HQ.
August 17, 2008	Notice of Availability (NOA) for Amendment 16-5 publishes – 60 day comment period.
September 14, 2008	Proposed rule is published; public comment period to end on same day as NOA comment period end date – 10/16/08.
September 12, 2008	45-day public comment period on DEIS ends.
September 30, 2008	Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) sent to HQ.
October 2, 2008	FEIS received by NMFS HQ. NWR meets with regional General Counsel to plan response to comments on proposed rule.
October 6, 2008	FEIS submitted to EPA.
October 13, 2008	EPA publishes NOA; 30-day cooling off period begins.
October 16, 2008	Proposed rule and NOA comment period ends.
November 12, 2008	NWR transmits final rule package to HQ.
November 12, 2008	30-day cooling off period on FEIS ends.
November 13, 2008	Record of Decision signed and Amendment 16-5 approved no earlier than this date.
November 29, 2008	Final rule published; 30-day Administrative Procedures Act (APA) cooling off period begins.
December 29, 2008	APA cooling off period ends.
January 1, 2009	Groundfish fishery begins under adopted specifications and management measures.

PFMC  
03/21/08