

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 23,  
ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 23 concerns a new framework for deciding groundfish harvest specifications consistent with new National Standard 1 (NS1) guidelines. These new NS1 guidelines were compelled by the passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006 that mandated more stringent measures be implemented by 2011 to prevent overfishing.

The Council decided to proceed with Amendment 23 at their April 2009 meeting and adopted a preliminary preferred alternative for the amendment at their March 2010 meeting. A draft environmental assessment describing and analyzing a No Action alternative that maintains the existing harvest specification framework and a preliminary preferred alternative that incorporates the recommendations in the new NS1 guidelines as well as other details decided by the Council for Amendment 23 is provided as Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 1. Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 2 provides the draft FMP language for Amendment 23 consistent with the Council's guidance on their preferred alternative.

The Council is tasked at this meeting with adopting a final preferred alternative FMP framework for Amendment 23. The Council should consider the advice of its advisory bodies and public comment solicited when the preliminary preferred alternative was adopted for public review before adopting a final preferred alternative.

**Council Action: Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative for Amendment 23.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 1: Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment for Amendment 23: Considerations for a New Harvest Specification Framework That Incorporate Revised National Standard 1 Guidelines to Prevent Overfishing.
2. Agenda Item B.2.a, Attachment 2: Draft Groundfish Fishery Management Plan Amendatory Language Proposed Under Amendment 23.
3. Agenda Item B.2.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

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

**John DeVore**

PFMC  
05/27/10