Amendment 24 Workgroup
Recommendations

Improvements to the Groundfish Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Process
**Major Recommendations**

- **Programmatic or “Tier 1” NEPA document**
  - Covers biennial actions over about 10 years
  - Incorporates information from other groundfish NEPA documents to **summarize** conditions and likely effects of groundfish harvest specifications
  - Uses “default” policies and methods for determining ACLs and adopting and revising OFS rebuilding plans to assess impacts
  - Subsequent biennial adjustments evaluated with focused NEPA analyses

- **Separate Processes for Different Regulatory Objectives**
  - Measures necessary for achieving ACLs (catch control)
  - Measures for long-term program improvement
Classifying Management Measures and Regulations

Practical Classification of Management Measures

- **“Catch Control”** — Measures necessary to achieve but not exceed ACLs in the next two years: E.g., Trip limits, RCA boundaries, recreational bag limits, recreational seasons, size limits
- **“Program Improvement”** — Measures with longer-term objectives for fishery performance, information flow, etc.: E.g., long-term allocations (e.g. widow rockfish), logbooks for CPFVs, ownership & control rules for LE sablefish tier limit fishery

Groundfish FMP Classification of Regulatory Actions

- **“New” measures**: Not previously analyzed, permanent effect, directly allocate the resource or otherwise controversial
- **“Routine” measures**: Previously analyzed, adjusted frequently (“routine” measures are “new” when first proposed)
Proposed Biennial Council Process

Harvest Specifications

Odd Years (2013, 2015, etc.)

**Sept./Nov. meetings:** Adopt new stock assessments for management

**September meeting:** Provide guidance on the use of "default policies" for calculating ABCs/ACLs

**November meeting:** Adopt preliminary preferred ACLs, set asides, and allocations; if needed, preliminary action on new OFS rebuilding plans and/or existing plan revisions

Even Years (2014, 2016, etc.)

**April meeting:** Adopt final preferred ACLs, set asides, allocations, and rebuilding plan changes

Note that the biennial management period (new specifications and management measures) starts on **January 1 of each odd year.**

Management Measures

Odd Years (2013, 2015, etc.)

**November meeting:** Scope new management measures necessary to achieve but not exceed ACLs (new catch control measures)

Even Years (2014, 2016, etc.)

**April meeting:** new catch control measures (to be classified as routine)

**June meeting:** 1) Adjust (routine) catch control measures including recreational measures for state conforming regulations 2) Identify new "program improvement" measures for Council action in the next year;

**November meeting:** Adjust routine catch control measures for first part of next year as needed based on new data (e.g., WCGOP total mortality report)

Odd Years (2015, 2017, etc.)

**March/June meetings:** Analysis and Council action for new "program improvement" management measures
Council Decisions under this Agenda Item

• FMP amendment?
• Preliminary preferred alternative:
  – Default procedures for deciding harvest specifications and OFS rebuilding plans
  – Biennial Council process
• Final action in March 2013?
Proposed Biennial Council Process

Odd year (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, etc.)

- **January 1**: Biennial management period starts (new harvest specifications and management measures in place)
- **March/June meetings**: Analysis and Council action for new "program improvement" management measures
- **Sept./Nov. meetings**: Adopt new stock assessments for management
- **September meeting**: Provide guidance on the use of "default policies" for calculating ABCs/ACLs
- **November meeting**: Adopt preliminary preferred ACLs, set asides, and allocations; scope new management measures necessary to achieve but not exceed ACLs (new catch control measures); if needed, preliminary action on new OFS rebuilding plans and/or existing plan revisions

Even year (2014, 2016, 2018, etc.)

- Stock assessments conducted
- **April meeting**: Adopt final preferred ACLs, set asides and allocations, and new catch control measures (to be classified as routine); adopt rebuilding plan changes
- **June meeting**: Identify new "program improvement" management measures for Council action in the even year (see above); adjust (routine) catch control measures including recreational measures for state conforming regulations
- **November meeting**: Adjust routine catch control measures as needed based on new data (e.g., WCGOP total mortality report)