



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:GF 14-001

Agenda Date2/3/2014

Agenda Number:C-5

Eric Olson, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Grenadier Management

ESTIMATED TIME:
4 hours

ACTION REQUIRED:
Final action

BACKGROUND

In June 2012, the Council adopted a problem statement and alternatives to consider adding the grenadier assemblage into either or both of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fishery management plans (FMPs). The purpose of this proposed action is to: (1) Improve the reporting and catch accounting of grenadiers in order to provide additional protection for them from the potential adverse effects of groundfish fisheries off Alaska; and (2) Adopt management measures to improve the protection, conservation, and catch accounting of grenadiers.

Council action to initiate an analysis was based on a NMFS discussion paper and recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee and BSAI and GOA groundfish plan teams. Under the proposed alternatives, grenadiers would be added under either of two categories under the BSAI and GOA groundfish fishery management plans. If added "in the fishery," grenadiers would be part of the annual harvest specification process for setting annual catch limits and total allowable catches (TACs). If added to the "ecosystem component" category, grenadiers would be managed without quotas, but with other management controls.

In December 2013, the Council reviewed an initial review draft analysis and selected Alternative 2 (Ecosystem Component) in the BSAI and GOA for all grenadier species as its Preliminary Preferred Alternative. The Preliminary Preferred Alternative includes actions to: (1) Prohibit directed fishing for grenadiers; (2) Establish a maximum retainable amount in a range from 2 to 20 percent; (3) Require record keeping and reporting; (4) Define grenadier species codes; (5) Establish a separate management category for grenadiers in the FMP; and (6) Include product recovery rates. These management measures are summarized in Table 2-1 of the analysis.

The Council approved release of a revised public review draft analysis and scheduled final action for this meeting. The analysis was distributed to the Council prior to the meeting and was posted on the Council website on January 21, 2014. The proposed alternatives follow.

Alternative 1: No action (Status Quo).

Alternative 2: (Preliminary Preferred Alternative) Include grenadiers in the FMP as an Ecosystem Component species.

Alternative 3: Include grenadiers in the FMP as "in the fishery."