

## **4.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Action**

### **4.1 Alternatives Not Selected**

#### **4.1.1 Clarification of Stock Status, Status Determination Criteria, and MSY Control Rules**

As described in section 3.1, this amendment will clarify the criteria used to evaluate stock status and the biological targets used to manage the fishery. The Council considered a number of options for these issues. The non-selected alternatives are described below.

##### **4.1.1.1 When is a stock overfished?**

The "No Action" alternative defined a stock as "overfished" when it is less than the biomass target., consistent with some interpretations of Amendment 9. This option was not selected because it conflicts with NSG1. In addition, it would be administratively burdensome because it would trigger a requirement for a formal rebuilding program whenever stock size fluctuated below the target.

##### **4.1.1.2 When is overfishing occurring?**

The No Action alternative defined "overfishing" consistent with Amendment 9: it occurs when the fishing mortality rate exceeds the threshold fishing mortality that is specified for a given stock biomass. The Council did not select this alternative because it conflicts with NS1

##### **4.1.1.3 Status Determination Criteria**

Option 1, the No Action alternative, proposed to retain the status determination criteria specified in Amendment 9. This option would have retained mean biomass targets for most stocks, as well as biomass-weighted fishing mortality for most stocks (see Table 16). In addition, it would have retained minimum biomass thresholds of less than ½ the target biomass for several stocks. The Council did not select this alternative because of the inconsistencies between assessment information and the status determination criteria. In addition, several of the minimum biomass thresholds were not consistent with NSG1.