

## TRAWL INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS

### Overall Process

In September 2003, the Council began focusing attention on the topic of a potential dedicated access privilege program of individual quotas for the groundfish trawl fishery. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachments 1 and 2, detail major events in the overall process to date, including such matters as the control date adoption, the issuance of a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), and various advisory body meetings. At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to provide guidance on the development, refinement, and analysis of alternatives to be considered in the next step of the process. Between the November 2004 and March or April 2005 Council meetings, a preliminary analysis of alternatives will be prepared. At the March or April 2005 Council meeting, the Council task will be to specify the alternatives for comprehensive analysis in a draft EIS (DEIS). If this is done by the November 2005 Council meeting, it should be possible to provide a draft DEIS that could be approved for public review. Final Council action on a preferred alternative would then occur at the April 2006 Council meeting.

### Council Tasks at this Council Meeting

The highest priority task for the Council at this meeting is to provide guidance that will assist in analysis of alternatives over the coming winter. Closely related are potential actions to refine the goals, objective and scope for action, and the definition of status quo. A specialized document has been prepared to guide Council members through the large number of complicated decisions that could potentially be made at this meeting. The document, Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 3, is designed to allow for sequential, step by step decision making and includes key information relative to each decision.

An individual quota (IQ) program is a complicated and complex endeavor, as were the Groundfish Limited Entry and Fixed Gear Permit Stacking programs adopted by the Council and currently in effect. The potential decisions at this Council meeting are not only complex, but also voluminous in nature; additionally, some individual decisions could involve lengthy Council discussion leading to a decision. For example, there are 27 potential decision topics alone in the category of individual fishing quota (IFQ) design elements, for such details as transferability rules, eligibility qualifying criteria, and area restrictions (see Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 4). Since there is the potential for an even lengthier Council floor discussion than envisioned at the September Council meeting, the Council may wish to consider a different mechanism to work through the entirety of the potential decisions at hand.

One possible mechanism would be to establish a subcommittee of Council members and delegate to them the task of dealing with some of the more complicated decisions after the November Council meeting. If the Council wishes to move in this direction, it should consider having this subcommittee meet in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl IQ Committee (TIQC) so as to benefit from their advisory opinions. Such a mechanism of a Council member subcommittee with specialized advisors is currently in effect to deal with Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

marine reserve issues, and has worked well in terms of saving time on the Council floor debating potential motions.

Therefore, the Council may proceed with the tasks at hand in one of several ways. Possibilities include:

1. Work through all potential decisions for guidance, as described in the six sections outlined on page 1 of the Decision Step Summary, including all IFQ design issues contained in Appendix A of the Decision Step Summary.
2. Work through none of the potential decisions for guidance, but establish a subcommittee of Council members to meet and provide the necessary guidance to the analysts, such that a formal range of alternatives for DEIS analysis can be considered by the Council at the March or April 2005 Council meeting.
3. An intermediate approach, whereby the Council deals with part of the overall task at this Council meeting and delegates the remaining part to a subcommittee arrangement that occurs after the November Council meeting. For example, the Council could work through the first three sections of the Decision Step Summary, or could work through these first three sections and some of the key alternatives in the IFQ design elements and delegate the remaining decisions to a Council member subcommittee.

#### Advisory Body Reports

There are several reports from specialized advisory bodies dedicated to consideration of TIQs. The Ad Hoc TIQ Independent Experts Panel report recommends the Council consider some respecification of its goals and objectives. An Ad Hoc TIQ Analytical Team Report is provided to assist the Council in evaluating a few central issues such as the definition of the status quo alternative, the need to explore area management, and the specification of some elements of the qualifying requirements. The Ad Hoc TIQ Enforcement Group has met on two occasions and developed a report on enforcement efforts related to an IFQ program. The Ad Hoc TIQC will have met October 25 and 26 and is expected to have a supplemental report for the Council.

Reports from the Scientific and Statistical Committee, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel are also possibilities for Council consideration under this agenda item.

#### Council Action:

This agenda item has been spread across two days because of the amount of detail that may be encompassed within the final action. The break will provide Council staff an opportunity to write-up the proposed action and ensure its completeness and clarity prior to final Council consideration the following day.

#### Council Task:

**Part I**, scheduled for Wednesday afternoon - tentatively refine the range of initial alternatives for further development and preliminary analysis.

**Council Action:**

**Part II**, scheduled for the second agenda item Thursday - refine further if necessary and adopt a range of alternatives for further development and preliminary analysis.

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 1: Record of Major Activity on Trawl IQ Considerations.
2. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 2: Trawl IQ Process: Phase I through 1st Steps of Phase II.
3. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 3: Decision Step Summary.
4. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 4: Decision Steps Appendix A: IFQ Design Elements.
5. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 5: Scoping Results on Dedicated Access Privileges for the Pacific Coast Limited Entry Trawl Groundfish Fishery.
6. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 6: Formal Scoping Period Comments on Dedicated Access Privileges (Individual Quotas) For the Pacific Coast Limited Entry Trawl Groundfish Fishery.
7. Agenda Item E.6.b, Ad Hoc TIQ Independent Experts Panel Report.
8. Agenda Item E.6.b, Ad Hoc TIQ Analytical Team Report.
9. Agenda Item E.6.b, Ad Hoc TIQ Enforcement Group Report.
10. Agenda Item E.6.d, Public Comment.
11. Agenda Item E.6.b, Supplemental Ad Hoc TIQC Report.

**Agenda Order:**

Wednesday

6. Trawl Individual Quotas (TIQ) - Part I
  - a. Agenda Item Overview Jim Seger
  - b. Ad Hoc TIQ Advisory Body Reports
    - i. Independent Experts Panel Report Panel Member
    - ii. Analytical Team Report Kate Quigley
    - iii. Enforcement Group Report Dayna Matthews
    - iv. Ad Hoc TIQ Committee Report Dave Hanson
  - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
  - d. Public Comment
  - e. Tentative Refinement of a Range of Alternatives for Preliminary Analysis

Thursday

6. Trawl Individual Quotas (TIQ) - Part II
  - e. Agenda Item Update Jim Seger
  - f. **Council Action:** Refine Alternatives for Preliminary Analysis

PFMC

10/22/04