

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM (GMT) REPORT ON TRAWL
RATIONALIZATION (TRAWL INDIVIDUAL QUOTA (TIQ) PROGRAM)

The GMT reviewed the proposed work plan and timeline for developing and considering the TIQ alternatives, and discussed the two overfished species allocation options described in Agenda Item E.4.d, GMT Report.

With regard to the draft work plan and timeline, the GMT created a subcommittee to develop recommendations on the proposed schedule and identify items that will take a significant amount of time to research and/or analyze. Another GMT subcommittee was appointed to identify which issues need to be addressed through initial implementation of a TIQ program vs. those that could potentially be added later to an established program. The GMT plans to submit the results of these subcommittees to the Groundfish Allocation Committee at their meeting in May.

After further discussion on the two options for Overfished Species Allocation Based on Proxy Species, in Agenda Item E.4.d, GMT Report (Section 3, page 2), the GMT no longer recommends Option 2. Option 2 applies the weighted average bycatch rate from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program for the 2003-2006 period to target species catch from 1994-2003 (i.e., proposed period for target species allocation). The primary problem with this approach is that the list of target species has changed over time, as rockfish conservation areas (RCA) were implemented and overfished species optimum yields have decreased. Therefore, the bycatch rates from target species caught in 2003-2006 (i.e., “apples”) would be applied to target species caught historically (i.e., “oranges”). The GMT recommends retaining Option 1 (i.e., applying the bycatch rates from 2003-2006 to the target species catch from 2003-2006) for analysis. The GMT notes that these approaches are both independent of the time period used for calculating target species allocations.

Also, the GMT notes that 13 permits have been identified that do not have any target species landings in the 2003-2006 period; under Option 1, it is unclear whether or how these permits would initially be allocated any overfished species. Therefore, the GMT identified two approaches to address this issue: (a) not providing an initial allocation of overfished species to these permits; or (b) providing an equal allocation of some minimum amount to each of these permits. The GMT would like to discuss these options further with the Trawl Individual Quota Committee.

Additionally, the GMT relies on logbook data to determine the aggregate bycatch rates to apply, depending on whether the vessel fished north or south, seaward or shoreward of the RCA, and the period of fishing (i.e., summer or winter). However, the GMT has identified trips with fish tickets that are missing corresponding logbooks. For those trips, the GMT recommends we continue to review the composition of the landings to help inform us as to the location of catch and, therefore, which bycatch rates to apply to the allocation formula. For example, fish tickets with petrale sole in the winter would be assumed to be from trips taken seaward of the RCA.

GMT Recommendations:

1. Forward for analysis only Option 1 for Overfished Species Allocation Based on Proxy Species, as presented in Agenda Item E.4.d, GMT Report
2. Approve the use of landing composition from fish tickets to help determine catch location, if logbooks for those trips are not available

PFMC
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