

AMENDMENT 21: INTERSECTOR ALLOCATION

The Council has decided to pursue a Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment (Amendment 21) in consideration of formal allocations of groundfish species and species' complexes for sectors of the groundfish fishery. Intersector allocations are needed to support implementation of FMP Amendment 18 bycatch mitigation policies, development of biennial groundfish specifications and management measures, and rationalization of the limited entry trawl fishery (Amendment 20). An environmental impact statement (EIS) will be developed, which will analyze intersector allocation alternatives to support decision-making in this process.

The Council's Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) has met five times since January 2005 to discuss intersector allocations and develop a range of preliminary alternatives for the Council's consideration. The Council adopted the recommended range of preliminary intersector alternatives for further analysis and public review at their November 2006 meeting.

The GAC convened their fifth meeting on May 15-17, 2007 to discuss refinements to the preliminary range of intersector allocation alternatives and the data informing those alternatives. One new element in the sector catch histories requested by the Council last November was inclusion of the 2005 landings data by species and sector. These data are provided in Agenda Item E.8.a, Attachment 1 and form the basis for the sector catch percentages under each alternative (Agenda Item E.8.a, Attachment 2). As indicated in the draft summary minutes of the May 2007 GAC meeting (Agenda Item E.8.b, GAC Report), the GAC recommended data refinements including: applying only recreational landings when calculating sector catch percentages under alternatives 2, 3, 6, and 7 (the recreational catch data provided is a combination of historical landings + discard mortalities); and providing total catch data stratified to the sector level and for all the species and species' complexes under consideration under alternatives 1 and 5 (the available commercial discard mortality data did not include estimates for all the species and sectors). The GAC recommended eliminating alternatives 4 and 8; however, the best available 2007 total catch projections of overfished species should be included in the preliminary DEIS (to be presented in November 2007 when the Council is scheduled to select a preferred alternative). The GAC also recommended that, in the intersector allocation process, trawl allocations should be decided first and that allocations to the various sectors of the limited entry trawl fishery should be analyzed and decided within this process rather than in the Trawl Rationalization decision-making process.

The Council task at this meeting is to adopt a final range of intersector allocation alternatives for analysis in the EIS. The Council should consider the GAC materials and recommendations; advisory body advice; and public comments before taking action.

Council Action:

Adopt intersector allocation alternatives for analysis.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.8.a, Attachment 1: Tables Summarizing Historical Catch Data by Fishing Sector Relevant to the Intersector Allocation Process.
2. Agenda Item E.8.a, Attachment 2: Preliminary Intersector Allocation Alternatives Recommended by the Council in November 2006.
3. Agenda Item E.8.b, GAC Report: Draft Summary Minutes of the May 15-17, 2007 Groundfish Allocation Committee Meeting.

Agenda Order:

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| a. Agenda Item Overview | John DeVore |
| b. Recommendations of the Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) | Don Hansen |
| c. Agency and Tribal Comments | |
| d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies | |
| e. Public Comment | |
| f. Council Action: Adopt Alternatives for Analysis | |

PFMC
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