

AMENDMENT 20: TRAWL RATIONALIZATION ALTERNATIVES (TRAWL  
INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS AND COOPERATIVES)

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has met the Council request for funds to support consideration of trawl rationalization and Congress has required that the Council submit a fully analyzed proposal for a rationalization program for the trawl groundfish and whiting fisheries, including the shorebased sector of the whiting fishery, by January 2009. The Council is scheduled to approve a preliminary environmental impact statement (EIS) with preferred alternatives for public review in June 2008 and to take final action to adopt an alternative for submission to Congress and recommendation to NMFS in November 2008 (Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 2). At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to further refine alternatives and at the November 2007 meeting is scheduled to formally adopt the EIS alternatives for intensified analysis. After the June 2007 meeting, any major changes to the alternatives will likely result in not achieving this schedule. Over the summer, in addition to further analysis of existing alternatives, NMFS will be developing a set of alternatives for tracking and monitoring individual fishing quotas (IFQs) and address issues related to program implementation costs and fee structures. At its November 2007 meeting the Council will have an opportunity to make limited adjustments in response to preliminary analysis and NMFS work on tracking and monitoring.

At its March 2007 meeting, the Council substantially simplified, revised, and reduced the total number of alternatives. However, there were a number of issues that remained outstanding, for example, area management, measures benefiting processors, and some of the co-op alternatives. Since the March meeting, analysis has been presented to the Trawl Individual Quota Committee (TIQC) and the Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) on some of the components of the trawl rationalization alternatives and they recommended revisions on that basis. Additionally, some provisions that were considered earlier in the process but not incorporated are being recommended for reconsideration, for example, halibut individual bycatch quotas, IFQs only for whiting in the whiting fisheries (in the whiting fishery manage groundfish bycatch species as pools), and reserving some of the trawl allocation for annual use as an adaptive management tool. These issues are listed and discussed briefly in Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 1.

The GAC Report (Agenda Item E.8.b, GAC Report) takes into account recommendations from the May 2-3, 2007 TIQC meeting (Agenda Item E.9.c, TIQC Report) on many of the matters listed in Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 1. The alternatives, as they would appear if all of the GAC recommendations are accepted by the Council, are provided in Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 2. The quantitative analysis of qualification and allocation rules that was reviewed by these groups is provided as Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 3. Additional quantitative analysis of some of the GAC's recommendations on initial allocation will be provided at the Council meeting (Agenda Item, E.9.a, Supplemental Attachment 4). In addition to the materials reviewed by both the GAC and TIQC, the GAC also received:

- a report on some of the challenges that managing overfished species with IFQs may present (Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 5),
- a description of how co-ops address Council goals and objectives for rationalization of the trawl fishery (Agenda Item, E.9.a, Attachment 6), and

- a report from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) on the need for area management (Agenda Item E.9.c, GMT Report).

The TIQC will meet, Wednesday, June 13, 2007, to review the GAC Report (Agenda Item E.9.c, Supplemental TIQC Report).

**Council Action:**

**Finalize the alternatives for preliminary analysis, with the exception of provisions pertaining to tracking, monitoring enforcement, fees, cost recovery, and other minor adjustments in response to analysis and Council direction.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 1: Outstanding Trawl Rationalization Issues
2. Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 2: Trawl Rationalization Alternatives (Rev 05/23/2007)
3. Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 3: Quantitative Analysis of Qualification and Allocation Rules
4. Agenda Item E.9.a, Supplemental Attachment 4: Supplemental Quantitative Analysis of Qualification and Allocation Rules
5. Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 5: Preliminary Analysis and Discussion of Overfished Species Management in a Trawl Rationalization Program
6. Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 6: A Preliminary Review of Harvest Co-op Systems and Their Relationship to the Council's Goals and Objectives
7. Agenda Item E.9.c, TIQC Report to the GAC: Trawl Individual Quota Committee Report to the Groundfish Allocation Committee, May 2007
8. Agenda Item E.9.c, Supplemental TIQC Report: Supplemental Trawl Individual Quota Committee Report on Trawl Rationalization
9. Agenda Item E.9.c, GMT Report: Groundfish Management Team Report on Area Management
10. Agenda Item E.9.d, Public Comment

**Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Recommendations of the GAC
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Refine Alternatives for Analysis

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05/25/07