

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 rationalization of the limited entry trawl fishery (Amendment 20), implementation of FMP Amendment 18 bycatch mitigation policies, and development of biennial groundfish specifications and management measures. An environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA) will be developed, which will analyze intersector allocation alternatives to support decision-making in this process. The Council is scheduled to finalize alternatives for analysis at this meeting and take final action at the April 2008 Council meeting (see Agenda Item C.1.a, Attachment 1 for the long term schedule).

The Council adopted a range of preliminary intersector alternatives for further analysis and public review at their June 2007 meeting (Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 1). These alternatives are informed by a mix of historical landings (1995-2005) and total catch (2003-2005) data (Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 2). The Council also requested some changes to these data in June, including removal of recreational discard mortalities from the landed catch data and stratification of the catch data appropriate to the sectors defined in the alternatives. All of these data sets have been modified according to the Council's requests.

In June, the Council also decided to first pursue trawl allocations in the first phase of deciding intersector allocations with non-trawl sector allocations decided in one or more trailing amendments. Finally, the Council recommended development of an allocation framework for the trawl-dominant overfished species. Tables 1-3 in Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 3 display sector catch percentages of darkblotched rockfish, Pacific Ocean perch, and widow rockfish- the three trawl-dominant overfished species.

The Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) convened on September 27, 2007, to discuss refinements to the preliminary range of intersector allocation alternatives and the data informing those alternatives (Agenda Item D.5.c, GAC Report on Intersector Allocation). The GAC first discussed how to manage a rationalized trawl fishery using individual fishing quotas and/or harvesting cooperatives when there is a high risk of non-trawl sectors exceeding an allocation, especially an allocation of an overfished species. The GAC therefore recommended analyzing the concept of multi-year optimum yields (OYs) and a mechanism allowing some sector carryover of yield surpluses and deficits. Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 4 is a draft issue paper further describing this concept, related issues, and other topics for analysis. Further, they discussed the implications of making long term allocation decisions for non-trawl-dominant overfished species (i.e., bocaccio, canary rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish) versus long term allocations of trawl-dominant overfished species (i.e., darkblotched rockfish, Pacific Ocean perch, and yelloweye rockfish). They agreed the analysis of allocating the non-trawl-dominant overfished species would be much more complex and therefore recommended modifying Intersector Allocation Alternatives 1-3 to remove those species from the analysis. Under this recommendation, allocations for non-trawl-dominant overfished species would be considered for

a shorter (i.e., two-year) term under the biennial specifications decision-making process. Other GAC recommendations affecting the Intersector Allocation analysis (i.e., open access allocations and intersector allocation of Pacific halibut) can be found in Agenda Item G.5.c, GAC Report on Intersector Allocation.

The Council task at this meeting is to adopt a final range of intersector allocation alternatives for analysis. The Council may also decide a preliminary preferred alternative for Intersector Allocations at this meeting. 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 and public review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 1: Preliminary Intersector Allocation Alternatives Recommended by the Council in June 2007.
2. Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 2: Tables Summarizing Historical Catch Data by Fishing Sector Relevant to the Intersector Allocation Process.
3. Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 3: Tables Displaying Sector Catch Percentages of Trawl-Dominant Overfished Species.
4. Agenda Item D.5.a, Attachment 4: Managing Yields in a Groundfish Management Regime of Individual Fishing Quotas, Intersector Allocations, and Stringent Rebuilding Requirements: Potential Mechanisms Designed to Avoid Overharvest and Optimize Sector Fishing Opportunities.
5. Agenda Item D.5.c, GAC Report on Intersector Allocation: Draft Summary Minutes of the September 25-27, 2007 Groundfish Allocation Committee Meeting.

Agenda Order:

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

PFMC
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