

AMENDMENT 20: TRAWL RATIONALIZATION ALTERNATIVES

The Council has considered groundfish trawl fishery rationalization at 15 Council meetings over the last four and a half years. At its November 2007 meeting, the Council refined the set of trawl rationalization alternatives for intensified analysis, with the exception of certain sections on program administration related to tracking, monitoring, costs and fees. The Council addressed tracking and monitoring at its March 2008 meeting and will receive some estimates of administrative costs at this meeting. At this meeting, the Council is being asked to adopt final alternatives for analysis in a preliminary draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and a set of preliminary preferred alternatives. Based on the preferred alternatives, the preliminary DEIS will be finalized over the summer and released for public review in late September. The Council is scheduled to take final action at its November 2008 meeting. In January 2009, the Council is required to provide to Congress “a proposal for the appropriate rationalization program for the Pacific trawl groundfish and whiting fisheries,” including “fully analyze[d] alternative program designs.” (Section 302(f), Magnuson-Stevens Act [MSA]). The Council is scheduled to provide a finalized DEIS to NMFS in 2009 for final approval under the MSA.

In preparation for this Council meeting, the Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) and Trawl Individual Quota Committee (TIQC) met to develop recommendations on a preliminary preferred alternative. The GAC met May 13-15 and developed the set of recommendations contained in Agenda Item F.6.c, GAC Report. The TIQC attended the GAC meeting to hear the development of those recommendations and then met May 15-16 to develop their recommendations (Agenda Item F.6.d, TIQC Report).

This agenda item will begin with an overview of the decision points (Agenda Item F.6.a, Attachment 1) and trawl rationalization alternatives (Agenda Item F.6.a, Alternatives). Following that, an orientation on the analysis will be provided (Agenda Item F.6.b, Analysis—Chapters 4 & 10, and Agenda Item F.6.b, Analysis—Appendices); a brief summary of analytical results, including materials developed in response to GAC requests (Agenda Item F.6.b, Supplemental Analysis); and a presentation on tracking monitoring and costs (Agenda Item F.6.b, Supplemental Tracking, Monitoring, and Costs). The presentation used to summarize analytical results for the GAC is provided as Agenda Item F.6.b, GAC Meeting Presentation, with the augmentation of cross references to sections of the analysis. We do not anticipate reviewing these slides as part of the presentation to the Council.

The start of the overview of the decision points (Agenda Item F.6.a, Attachment 1) provides a hierarchy for addressing the major decisions needed to develop a preliminary preferred alternative. This order reflects that followed by the GAC at its meeting. The Council may find it beneficial to organize its discussion and action in the same order or to entertain a motion with a slate of preferred options and work through the motion with amendments.

Council Action:

Specify alternatives and preferred options for analysis in the preliminary DEIS.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.6.a, Attachment 1: Trawl Rationalization Decision Points.
2. Agenda Item F.6.a, Alternatives: Goals, Objectives, and Alternatives, Excerpts from Chapters 1, 2, and 6 of the EIS.
3. Agenda Item F.6.b, Analysis - Chapters 4 & 10: Excerpts from the Analysis, Chapters 4 and 10.
4. Agenda Item F.6.b, Analysis - Appendices: Excerpts from the Analysis, Appendices A (excerpts), B, and C.
5. Agenda Item F.6.b, *Supplemental* Analysis.
6. Agenda Item F.6.b: *Supplemental* Tracking, Monitoring, and Costs.
7. Agenda Item F.6.b, GAC Meeting Presentation.
8. Agenda Item F.6.c, GAC Report: Groundfish Allocation Committee Report on Amendment 20: Trawl Rationalization Alternatives.
9. Agenda Item F.6.d, TIQC Report: Trawl Individual Quota Committee Report on Amendment 20: Trawl Rationalization Alternatives.
10. Agenda Item F.6.e, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Overview of the Analysis
- c. Recommendations of the Groundfish Allocation Committee
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Adopt Alternatives for Analysis in a Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement and a Preferred Alternative for Public Review

Jim Seger
Analytical Staff
Don Hansen

PFMC
05/27/08