

## CONSIDERATION OF GEAR REGULATIONS FOR THE TRAWL CATCH SHARES SECTOR

The trawl rationalization program (trawl catch shares), implemented at the start of 2011, provided for 100 percent at-sea monitoring and individual vessel accountability for catch of many groundfish species. For those species, trip limit regulations were no longer needed and were therefore eliminated. Full at-sea monitoring and the catch accountability may also have rendered other regulations obsolete, but they were not modified or eliminated at that time. Late in 2011, the Council convened a Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee to identify other regulations that might be liberalized or eliminated. The following year, the Council convened a workshop to continue that effort with a particular focus on regulations pertaining to gear configuration and use for vessels participating in the catch share program. While participating in the program, vessels are allowed to use both trawl and non-trawl gears. Until late 2014, further progress on these issues was delayed to handle other workload priorities. At that time, as part of its omnibus agenda item on groundfish priorities, the Council prioritized for near-term consideration several changes to groundfish gear regulations, including trawl gear configuration and gear use.

An initial public scoping document has been developed that includes a draft purpose and need statement and a strawman range of alternatives for Council consideration (Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1). An excerpt of current gear regulations is provided as Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 2.

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to select a range of alternatives for analysis on any gear issues that it wishes to move forward for further consideration.

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt a range of alternatives for changing gear regulations for the trawl catch shares sector.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1: Groundfish Gear Changes – Draft Purpose and Need, Alternatives.
2. Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 2: Regulations Related To Trawl Gear Configuration, Gears Allowed On Board, and Area of Use.

### **Agenda Order:**

H.2 Consideration of Gear Regulations for the Trawl Catch Shares  
Sector

Jim Seger, Jamie Goen

- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Range of Alternatives for Changing Gear Regulations for the Trawl Catch Shares Sector