

Agenda Item G.8.a  
Supp NMFS PPT 1  
March 2016



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

West Coast Region

# Gear Changes

*in the Groundfish Fishery's  
Trawl Catch Share Program*

Agenda Item G.8  
Attachment 1  
Preliminary Draft EIS

March 2016

# EIS structure

- EIS under construction → “preliminary draft”
- Ch. 1 - Proposed Action, Purpose and Need, background
- Ch. 2 - Alternatives
- Ch. 3 - Affected Environment
- Ch. 4 - Impacts, including cumulative effects (4.9)
- Other chapters under development

# Proposed Action

To revise groundfish gear regulations for the Trawl Catch Share Program, including:

- Loosening or eliminating the minimum mesh size requirement for trawl;
- Updating the procedure for measuring mesh sizes;
- Loosening or eliminating codend regulations;
- Loosening or eliminating selective flatfish trawl gear requirements and restrictions (Large and small footrope distinctions would remain);
- Loosening or eliminating chafing gear regulations;
- Allowing vessels to carry and/or use multiple gear types on a single trip;
- Allowing a gear to be fished in multiple management areas on the same trip; and
- Allowing a vessel's next gear deployment to start before all fish from the previous deployment have been stowed.

Proposed action may affect fishing by any or all of the gear types that participate in the fishery, including bottom trawl (small and large footrope), midwater trawl, and legal groundfish nontrawl gear.

# Impacts

- Affected resources

*Physical → ecosystem, EFH*

*Biological → target, non-target, protected species*

*Socio-economic → harvesters, processors, fishing communities, management entities*

- Type and magnitude of impacts

*Positive – Neutral – Negative*

*Low – Medium - High*

- Uncertainty in the impacts associated with several alternatives

*A3 (mesh size), C2 (codend), E3 (chafing), F3 (mult. gears)*

*Consider risks associated with uncertainty, including whether and how to mitigate.*

- Analysis of impacts in DEIS Sections 4.1 – 4.8 assumes current monitoring by observers and catch monitors (not levels or types of monitoring under EM EFPs)
- Table 3.3 in DEIS shows mortality by sector

# Impacts

## Minimum mesh size (Issue A, DEIS Section 4.1)

		Physical Impacts	Biological Impacts	Socioeconomic Impacts
Alternative A1 (No-action)	<i>Minimum mesh size: 4.5 inches for bottom trawl; 3 inches for midwater.</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Low negative impact.</b>	Protected species: <b>Low negative impact on salmon and eulachon.</b>	Harvesters: <b>Low negative impact.</b>
Alternative A2	<i>Minimum mesh size would be 4 inches for bottom trawl.</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Target species: <b>Low negative impact on stock productivity.</b> ----- Non-target species: <b>Low negative impact on overall harvest for some species like CPS. Low negative impact on stock productivity.</b> ----- Protected species: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Harvesters: Low positive impact. ----- Processors: Low positive impact. ----- Fishing Communities: Low positive impact throughout, medium positive impact in bottom trawl dominant areas.
Alternative A3	<i>No minimum mesh size for bottom or midwater trawl.</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Uncertainty. Medium negative impact.</b>	Target species: <b>Medium negative impact on stock productivity.</b> ----- Non-target species: <b>Uncertainty. Medium negative impact on overall harvest for some species like CPS. Medium negative impact on stock productivity.</b> ----- Protected species: <b>Uncertainty. High negative impact, particularly on salmon and eulachon.</b>	Harvesters: Medium positive impact. ----- Processors: Low positive impact. ----- Fishing Communities: Low positive throughout, medium positive in bottom trawl dominant areas. ----- Management entities: <b>Low negative impact.</b>

NMFS Report suggests 3"

NMFS Report suggests consider risks, could monitor or mitigate

# Impacts

## Measuring Mesh Size (Issue B, DEIS Section 4.2)

		Physical Impacts	Biological Impacts	Socioeconomic Impacts
Alternative B1 (No-action)	<i>Trawl mesh size measurements taken between knots.</i>			Management entities: <b>Low negative impact.</b>
Alternative B2	<i>Trawl mesh size measurements taken between knots or, in knotless mesh, between corners.</i>			Harvesters: Low positive impact. ----- Management entities: Low positive impact.

# Impacts

## Codend (Issue C, DEIS Section 4.3)

		Physical Impacts	Biological Impacts	Socioeconomic Impacts
Alternative C1 (No-action)	<i>Only single-walled. Double-walled prohibited. Chafing gear not used as double-walled codend.</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Low negative impact.</b>	Protected species: <b>Low negative impact, particularly on salmon and eulachon.</b>	Harvesters: <b>Low negative impact.</b>
Alternative C2	<i>No codend restrictions.</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Target species: <b>Medium negative impact on stock productivity.</b> ----- Non-target species: <b>Uncertainty. Medium negative impact on overall harvest for some species like CPS. Medium negative impact on stock productivity.</b> ----- Protected species: <b>Uncertainty. High negative impact, particularly on salmon and eulachon.</b>	Harvesters: <b>Low positive impact.</b>

NMFS Report suggests consider risks, could monitor or mitigate

# Impacts

SFFT (Issue D, DEIS Section 4.4)				
		Physical Impacts	Biological Impacts	Socioeconomic Impacts
Alternative D1 (No-action)	<i>Two-seam net and required shoreward of RCA north of 40°10'</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Low negative impact.</b>	Protected species: Low positive impact, particularly on salmon.	Harvesters: <b>Low negative impact.</b> ----- Processors: <b>Low negative impact.</b>
Alternative D2	<i>Two-seam or four-seam net</i>	Ecosystem: Low positive impact.	Non-target species: Low positive impact on overall harvest or stock productivity. ----- Protected species: Same as No-action.	Harvesters: Low positive impact. ----- Processors: Low positive impact. ----- Fishing Communities: Low positive impact.
Alternative D3	<i>Two-seam or four-seam net and remove requirement shoreward of RCA north of 40°10'</i>		Protected species: <b>Medium negative impact, particularly on salmon and green sturgeon.</b>	Harvesters: Medium positive impact. ----- Processors: Medium positive impact. ----- Fishing Communities: Medium positive impact.

NMFS Report suggests consider risks, could monitor or mitigate



# Impacts

## Chafing Gear (Issue E, DEIS Section 4.5)

		Physical Impacts	Biological Impacts	Socioeconomic Impacts
Alternative E1 (No-action)	<i>Bottom trawl chafing gear last 50 meshes, less than 50 percent circumference, etc. Midwater trawl chafing gear may not cover top of codend, etc.</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Low negative impact.</b>	Protected species: <b>Low negative impact, particularly on salmon and eulachon.</b>	Harvesters: <b>Low negative impact.</b>
Alternative E2	<i>Bottom trawl chafing gear revised to match midwater trawl chafing gear requirements</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Protected species: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Harvesters: Low positive impact.
Alternative E3	<i>Eliminate chafing gear restrictions for bottom trawl and midwater trawl</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Uncertainty. Medium negative impact.</b> ----- EFH: <b>Low negative impact.</b>	Non-target species: <b>Uncertainty. Low negative impact on overall harvest or stock productivity.</b> ----- Protected species: <b>Uncertainty. Medium negative impact, particularly on salmon and eulachon.</b>	Harvesters: Medium positive impact.

NMFS Report suggests consider risks, could monitor or mitigate. Consider cumulative impacts of increased access to rocky areas (EFH/RCA)

Alternative C2 related to chafing gear - would allow double-walled codend

# Impacts

## Multiple Gears (Issue F, DEIS Section 4.6)

		Physical Impacts	Biological Impacts	Socioeconomic Impacts
Alternative F1 (No-action)	<i>On vessel: bottom (small/large footrope) or midwater or fixed gear Fished on trip: only 1 gear</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Low negative impact.</b>	Protected species: <b>Low negative impact, particularly on salmon and eulachon.</b>	Harvesters: <b>Low negative impact.</b> ----- Management entities: Low positive impact.
Alternative F2	<i>On vessel: bottom (small/large footrope) and midwater; or fixed gear Fished on trip: only 1 gear</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Protected species: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Harvesters: Low positive impact.
Alternative F3	<i>On vessel: Multiple gears onboard. Gear Type Sub-option A: Any trawl gear (bottom and midwater). Gear Type Sub-option B: Any legal IFQ groundfish gear Sorting Sub-option A: Vessels must separate catch by gear type. Landings recorded on separate e-tix by gear type. Sorting Sub-option B: Catch by gear comingled. NOTE: gear type sub-options independent of sorting sub-options. Fished on trip: more than 1 gear</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Target species: <b>Uncertainty.</b> Neutral to <b>medium negative impact on stock productivity.</b> ----- Non-target species: <b>Uncertainty.</b> Neutral to <b>medium negative impact on stock productivity.</b> ----- Protected species: <b>Uncertainty.</b> Low negative impact on overall harvest. Low negative to <b>high negative impact on stock productivity.</b>	Harvesters: Low positive impact. ----- Fishing Communities: Low positive impact in areas where harvesters historically fish with multiple gear types in a year. ----- Management entities: <b>Low negative impact with sorting sub-option A. Medium negative impact with sorting sub-option B. High negative impact with gear type sub-option B and sorting sub-option B.</b>

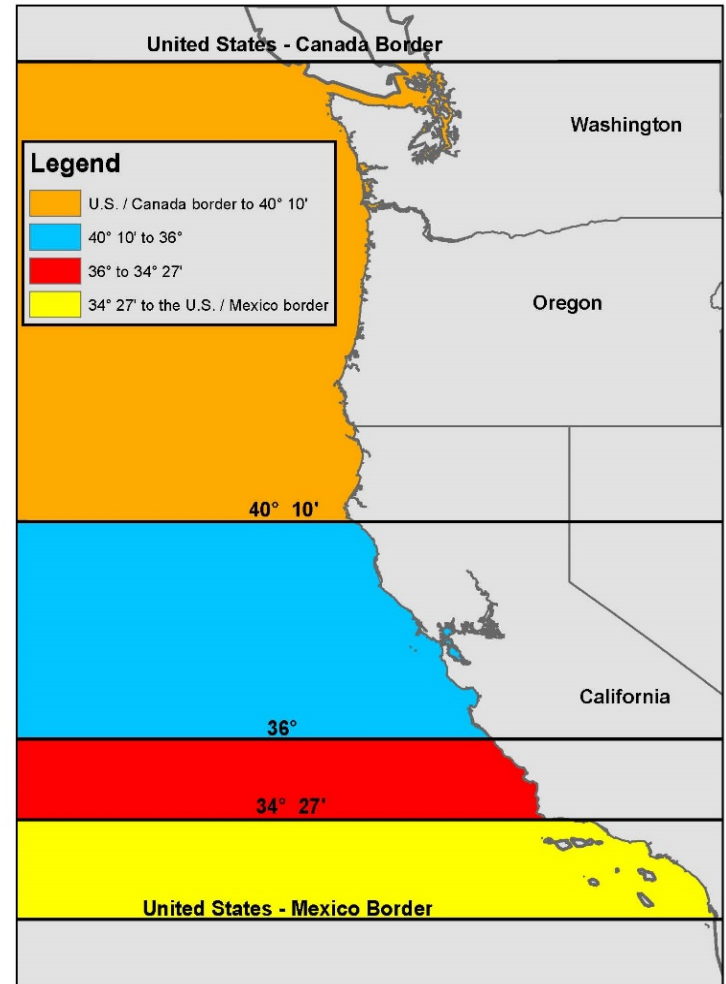
NMFS Report –  
F3 requires increased monitoring.  
Sorting sub-option B would  
reduce data quality.

# Impacts

## Multiple IFQ Management Areas (Issue G, DEIS Section 4.7)



## IFQ Management Areas



# Impacts

## Multiple IFQ Management Areas (Issue G, DEIS Section 4.7)

		Physical Impacts	Biological Impacts	Socioeconomic Impacts
Alternative G1 (No-action)	<i>Only fish in one IFQ area per trip</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Low negative impact.</b>	Protected species: <b>Low negative impact on salmon and eulachon.</b>	Harvesters: <b>Low negative impact.</b> ----- Fishing Communities: <b>Low to medium negative impact with magnitude dependent on proximity to management lines.</b> ----- Management entities: Low positive impact.
Alternative G2	<i>Fish in multiple IFQ areas per trip. Sort catch by area. Record on separate electronic fish tickets.</i>	Ecosystem: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Protected species: <b>Same as No-action.</b>	Harvesters: Medium positive impact. ----- Fishing Communities: Low to medium positive impact with magnitude dependent on proximity to management lines. ----- Management entities: <b>Low negative impact.</b>

NMFS Report –  
Catch must be sorted by IFQ area for catch accounting.  
G2 requires increased monitoring.

# Impacts

## Hauling Onboard before Previous Catch is Stowed (Issue H, DEIS Section 4.8)

		Physical Impacts	Biological Impacts	Socioeconomic Impacts
Alternative H1 (No-action)	<i>Prohibited to bring a haul on board before all catch from previous haul has been stowed. (Shorebased IFQ Program only)</i>			Harvesters: <b>Low negative impact.</b> ----- Management entities: Medium positive impact.
Alternative H2	<i>New haul could be brought onboard and dumped on deck before all catch stowed. No mixing of hauls until observer has collected samples. (Shorebased IFQ Program only)</i>			Harvesters: Neutral impact for smaller vessels, low positive for larger vessels. ----- Management entities: <b>Low negative impact.</b>

NMFS Report – NMFS clarified no mixing of hauls before observer samples. With EM, may require increased monitoring.

# Cumulative Effects

Actions other than proposed action:

- **EM**
- **EFH/RCA**
- Vessel Movement Monitoring
- Harvest Specifications & Management Measures
- ESA consultations
- Sablefish Permit Stacking Program
- Fishery Ecosystem Plan
- Water Pollution
- Climate Change