

WORKLOAD RESPONSE TO COUNCIL MOTION UNDER G.6 - OMNIBUS PRIORITIES

This is an initial joint NMFS and Council staff workload response for Council consideration. The omnibus priorities identified by the Council are provided in Table 1. Schedules and contingencies for each item are provided under “Suggested Approach.” These approaches represent reasonably reliable staffing commitments that we plan to carry out unless changed by the Council. If this plan is approved, the Council’s Groundfish Workload Priorities document would be revised as per the attached (the Council’s omnibus recommendations are lettered in Table 1 and the workload priorities document).

Table 1. Omnibus priorities currently identified by the Council in June 2016 with potential schedules and staffing.

	Item	Suggested Titles	Suggested Approach	Lead
A	71 + Ramp-up	Greenlight Policy and Harvest Policy Ramp-up	<p>The ramp-up policy brings up some difficult legal questions which need to be explored and may slow the package.</p> <p><i>Develop the greenlight policy through a three Council meeting process starting September of this year for implementation in 2018. Request a legal analysis of the ramp-up policy for the September meeting.</i></p>	Council
B	63, 66, 69 ^{a/}	Recreational and Commercial Discard Survival Rates and Sablefish/Lingcod IFQ Discard Credit	<p>Discard mortalities for GMT projection models can be adjusted without a regulatory process. Sablefish/Lingcod IFQ Discard Credit would require regulation and infrastructure changes.</p> <p><i>Separate the mortality rate issue from the survival credit issue. Assign the discard mortality task to the GMT as their schedule allows. Initiate regulatory action (possible FMP amendment) on the survival credit for IFQ program, starting in June 2017.</i></p>	Council

	Item	Suggested Titles	Suggested Approach	Lead
C	57, 58, 59 ^{b/}	Year-Round Coastwide Nonwhiting Midwater Trawl Fishery	<p>The salmon biop needs to be completed before this action is taken, and data collection will likely be required before a regulatory change is implemented, as previously indicated by NMFS (see item #12 in Agenda Item D.1.a, NMFS Report 3, June 2015).</p> <p><i>Consider an out-of-cycle EFP at the June and September 2017 meetings for issuance by NMFS mid-year in 2018.</i></p>	NMFS
D	54, 55 ^{c/}	Allow Between Trawl Sector Trading of Quota Pounds (all quota species except whiting)	<p>NMFS approval by June of an odd numbered year would be required to implement the change for the following biennial management period.</p> <p><i>Scope this in September 2016 for additional clarity with further Council process starting in June 2017, completion of the Council process in the fall of 2018, and NMFS approval by June 2019 in time for the 2021-2022 biennium.</i></p>	TBD
E	47, 60 ^{d/}	Multi-year Average Catch Policy and Resolution of Long-term Non-Whiting Surplus Carryover Provision	<p>The new draft National Standard One guidelines include adjustments that may allow consideration of the multi-year approach. Work should wait until final guidelines are published. NMFS approval in the first half of an odd numbered year would be required to implement the change for the following biennial management period.</p> <p><i>No action at this time. Schedule once National Standard Guidelines are approved. Tentatively schedule the start of the Council process for June 2017 with completion in the fall of 2018. Earliest implementation would be for the 2021-2022 management cycle.</i></p>	TBD

a/ The items that have been combined are: Discard Survival Credit for Lingcod and Sablefish (specific to IFQ); Discard Mortality Rates for Commercial Nearshore Fisheries; and Discard Mortality Rates for the Recreational Fisheries

b/ The items that have been combined are: Year Round Whiting Season and Other Season Date Modifications; Remove Certain Midwater Area-Management Restrictions; and Remove Certain Restrictions on Trawl Gear Configuration (Gear Regs Update II).

c/ The items that have been combined are: Allow Between Sector Transfer of Unneeded Overfished Species; and Allow Between Sector Transfer of Rockfish from IFQ to MS

d/ The items that have been combined are: Analysis of a Multi-Year Average Catch Policy; Resolve Long-term Non-Whiting Surplus Carryover Provision

Clarifications:

Item B (63, 66, 69): The GAP recommended that item 50 (New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish) be combined with item 63. The Council did not specifically mention item 50, therefore it is assumed that this is not part of the new package that includes items 63, 66, and 69.

Item C (57, 58, 59): Staff would like to confirm its interpretation that the Council intent for item 59 is to move that item forward but remove certain topics that are within, as recommended by the GAP: “The GAP suggest eliminating the following three items from #59 – 1) allowing targeting of whiting with non-midwater trawl gear; 2) eliminate the distinction between midwater whiting and midwater non-whiting trips; and 3) eliminate the distinction between midwater and bottom trawl gear – because conditions no longer warrant changing these distinctions due to interaction with other groundfish issues.”

Item D (54, 55): Staff has interpreted this issue as applying to species except whiting but has questions about the scope of species to which this issue might apply and proposes this question be addressed at an initial scoping session in September.

Council staff also asks the Council guidance on dropping from the Groundfish Workload Priorities document that the GAP identified were no longer of interest (Table 2).

Table 2. Items the [GAP Report](#) recommended be dropped from the [omnibus list](#).

2016 #	Short Title	GAP priority and comments
56	Revise Length of Time Required for the Trawl Fleet to Retain Records	Remove
64	Require Posting of First Receiver Site Licenses	Remove
67	Commercial Gear Restriction for Targeting Flatfish in CA	Remove

Groundfish Workload Priorities

2016 ACTIVE PROJECTS^{a/, b/}

<p>Litigation Response (8,9,10) 17-18 Spex and New MM^{c/} (16)</p> <p><u>Greenlight Policy and Harvest Policy Ramp-up (A—71 + Ramp-up)</u></p> <p><u>Allow Between Sector Trading of Quota Pounds (all quota species except whiting) (D—54, 55)</u></p>	<p>ESA Salmon Consultation (20) Inseason Management (27)</p> <p><u>Stock Assessment Plan & TOR (17)</u></p> <p>Stock Assessment & Projection Methods Review (19)</p>	<p>EFH + RCA Modifications (32)</p> <p><u>Multi-Area Trawl Gear Regs^{e/} (31)</u></p> <p>A21 Alloc. Revisions for POP & DRK, Set-Asides (33)</p>	<p>5-Year Trawl Rationalization Review^{d/} (34)</p> <p>EM for Bottom Trawl & Non-Whiting Mid-water Fisheries (36)</p> <p>Nearshore Management Issues (37) (moved to below)</p> <p>LE Fixed Gear Sablefish Issues (38)</p>
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OMNIBUS PROJECTS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 2017^{a/}

<p><u>Recreational and Commercial Discard Survival Rates (B-1—66 & 69)</u></p> <p><u>Sablefish/Lingcod IFQ Discard Credit (B-2—63)</u></p>	<p><u>Year-Round Coastwide Nonwhiting Midwater Trawl Fishery (C—57, 58, 59)</u></p>	<p><u>Multi-year Average Catch Policy and Resolution of Long-term Non-Whiting Surplus Carryover Provision (E—47, 60)</u></p>
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UNSCHEDULED PROJECTS^{a/}

(struck-thru items have been moved into the above rows and are underlined, shaded items are those the GAP recommended be dropped)

<p>Nearshore Management Issues (37)</p> <p>Rebuilding Revision Rules (43)</p> <p>Stock Complexes (44)</p> <p>Ecosystem Port Sampling Initiative - <i>White Paper and Proposal</i> (45)</p> <p>Ecosystem Component Species (46)</p> <p><u>Multi-Year Average Catch Policy (47)</u></p> <p>60 Mile Bank RCA Lines (48)</p> <p>Rougheye Rockfish GCAs (49)</p>	<p>Sablefish Conversion Factors (50)</p> <p>Permit Size Endorsements (51)</p> <p>Seabird Avoidance Devices, Vessels <55 feet (52)</p> <p>RCA adjustments for Pot Vessels (53)</p> <p><u>Intersector Transfer of d Species (54)</u></p> <p><u>Transfer of Rockfish from IFQ to MS (55)</u></p> <p><u>Trawl Records Retention (56)</u></p> <p><u>Year Round Whiting and 5% Cap Elim. (57)</u></p>	<p>Remove Certain Midwater Area Mgt Restrictions (58)</p> <p>Trawl Gear Regs Update II (59)</p> <p>Long-term Non-Whiting Surplus Carryover (60)</p> <p>Carryover when Management Units Change (61)</p> <p>Trading of Previous Year Quota Pounds (62)</p> <p>Discard Credit Lingcod & Sablefish (63)</p> <p><u>First Receiver Site Licenses (64)</u></p> <p>Eliminate Prohibition on At-Sea Processing S. of 42° (65)</p>	<p>Discard Mortality Rates for Comm. Fisheries (66)</p> <p>Flatfish Gear Restrictions in CA (67)</p> <p>Halibut Retention S. of Pt. Chehalis (68)</p> <p>Discard Mortality Rates Recreational (69)</p> <p>50 fm Depth Restriction (70)</p>
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a/ See Agenda Item G.6.a, Attachment 2, June 2016 for a complete description of each measure.

b/ **Bolded** items are considered core MSA responsibility tasks.

c/ The 2017-2018 package includes reclassifying big skate as "in the fishery" (final) and the following ~~preliminary~~ final preferred measures: retention of flatfish at any depth during the seasonal depth closure in Oregon, new inseason process for California, ~~overfished species hotspot closures in California~~, and retention of petrale sole and starry flounder during the season depth closure in California. Overfished species hotspot closures in California and transfer of rockfish from the IFQ to MS sector (55) was considered but not included in the preliminary-final preferred alternative.

d/ Consideration of the following has been postponed until after the 5-Year Trawl Rationalization Review: QS/QP Control Rule - Safe Harbor for Risk Pools (40); Resolve Long-term Whiting Surplus Carryover Provision (41); and develop criteria for distributing AMP QP (42).

e/ ~~Council action on most of the gear package (Item 13) was completed March 2016 except for fishing in multiple management areas listed here separately as item 31.~~