

OPTIONS FOR DISCUSSION ON FISHING IN MULTIPLE IFQ MANAGEMENT AREAS

This report provides options for discussion on fishing in multiple individual fishing quota (IFQ) management areas in the Pacific coast groundfish fishery's Shorebased IFQ Program. This report adds the new alternative recommended by the Council's groundfish advisory subpanel (GAP) in March 2016 ([Agenda Item G.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)) to the range of alternatives and provides options for catch accounting.

Fishing in multiple IFQ management areas is one of the issues (Issue G) from the preliminary draft environmental impact statement (EIS) provided to the Council in March 2016 ([Agenda Item G.8, Attachment 1](#)) on gear changes for the Pacific coast groundfish fishery's Trawl Catch Share Program. Excerpts from Chapter 4 of the preliminary draft EIS specific to fishing in multiple IFQ management areas are provided for reference as a separate report at Agenda Item G.9, Attachment 2 for this June 2016 meeting and include the preliminary analysis of impacts of the alternatives on the physical, biological, and socioeconomic environment.

ALTERNATIVES, including new GAP alternative

The Shorebased IFQ Program includes IFQ management areas, specified in regulation at §660.140(c)(2), that are based on the stock information for select species, harvest allocations, and the corresponding quota share (QS) for species. The IFQ management areas are as follows:

- Between the U.S./Canada border and 40°10' N. latitude
- Between 40°10' N. latitude and 36° N. latitude
- Between 36° N. latitude and 34°27' N. latitude
- Between 34°27' N. latitude and the U.S./Mexico border

The IFQ management areas were established with implementation of the trawl catch share program in 2011. They were based on species' areas, as specified in the harvest limit tables for all IFQ species combined. Groupings and area subdivisions for IFQ species are those groupings and area subdivisions for which annual catch limits or annual catch targets are specified in Tables 1a and 2d in 50 CFR Part 660, Subpart C in Federal regulation, and those for which there is an area-specific, precautionary harvest policy. For example, some IFQ species are managed as either a single species with different QS by area (e.g., shortspine thornyhead north and south of 34° 27' N. latitude), or as a single species in one area and as a component of a species group in another area (e.g., Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N. latitude and minor slope rockfish south of 40°10' N. latitude). To ensure accurate accounting of different quota pounds for species in the

different IFQ management areas, vessels were prohibited from fishing in different areas during the same trip. Because landings in the Shorebased IFQ Program would include a mix of all hauls taken during a single trip, a vessel would be required to fish entirely in one IFQ management area during any trip to address sorting requirements, at-sea observation, and enforcement of IFQ limits.

The Council is considering changes to this requirement based on feedback from industry that it has been an impediment to efficient fishing, especially at the 40°10' N. latitude management line where many species QS are divided. In looking at vessels in ports near these management lines from Table 4-12 in the preliminary draft EIS excerpts (Agenda Item G.9, Attachment 2), up to 44 vessels might be impacted by this action, although industry input is that this number is likely lower. There are three alternatives for fishing in multiple IFQ management areas on a single fishing trip, labeled Alternatives G1 through G3. Alternative G3 is a new alternative based on input from the GAP in March 2016 that there should be an alternative that does not require sorting by IFQ management area. The alternatives are:

- **Multiple Areas Alternative G1** (No-action) – Fishing in multiple IFQ management areas would remain prohibited under Alternative G1 (No-action). In the Shorebased IFQ Program, trawl vessels could not fish in more than one IFQ management area on the same trip.
- **Multiple Areas Alternative G2** – Fishing in multiple IFQ management areas on the same trip would be allowed. If retaining catch from multiple IFQ management areas on a single trip, then catch would have to be sorted by IFQ management area and recorded on separate electronic fish tickets.
- **Multiple Areas Alternative G3** (GAP recommended) – Fishing in multiple IFQ management areas on the same trip would be allowed. If retaining catch from multiple IFQ management areas on a single trip, catch would not be sorted (i.e., would be mixed with catch from other IFQ management areas) and may be recorded on the same electronic fish ticket.

For more detail on the impacts of Alternatives G1 and G2, see the descriptive text in Section 4.7 of the preliminary draft EIS provided in Agenda Item G.9, Attachment 2. The new Alternative G3 has not yet been analyzed.

OPTIONS FOR CATCH ACCOUNTING

Under Alternative G2 and the new Alternative G3, there are different options for how to handle catch accounting when fishing in different IFQ management areas. Under Alternative G3, where catch is not sorted, there would need to be procedures for how to account for the catch in the Shorebased IFQ Program.

In the Shorebased IFQ Program, retained and discarded catch of all species (groundfish (target and non-target species), non-groundfish (non-target species), and protected species) are tracked by 100 percent monitoring using at-sea observers, at-sea electronic monitoring, and shorebased catch monitors. Landings of IFQ species, including target species, are reported on electronic fish tickets by first receivers. The electronic fish ticket also records what gear type was fished on the trip in what IFQ management area. In addition, the catch monitor tracks and records landed catch during the offload and reports landed catch in the online IFQ vessel account system. The higher of the two catch values is then deducted from the vessel's quota pounds for IFQ species.

To assist in the discussion of options for catch accounting, a table listing the current IFQ species and area designations is included at the end of this report. As displayed in the species table, many IFQ species are part of a complex of species with quota on one side of 40°10' N. latitude and are an individual species with quota on the other side of 40°10' N. latitude. For example, yellowtail rockfish is managed as an IFQ species north of 40°10' N. latitude, but is managed in the minor shelf rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. latitude. Other IFQ management lines to consider are 34°27' N. latitude for thornyheads and 36° N. latitude for sablefish.

ALTERNATIVE G2 – Sorting to management area required

As discussed in the preliminary draft EIS presented to the Council at its March 2016 meeting, under this alternative, catch would be kept separated by IFQ management area on the deck and in the hold. Fishermen would have to fish their full tow on either side of a management line and could not tow across a management line.

ALTERNATIVE G3 – No sorting to management area required

Under Alternative G3, catch from separate IFQ management areas could be mixed on the deck and in the hold. Fishermen could tow across a management line.

Option 1 – Conservative

In order to account for catch from different IFQ management areas, all areas fished would be reported on the same electronic fish ticket. To deduct quota pounds from vessel accounts, each IFQ species would have to be evaluated by area. For species where QS is issued separately on either side of the management line, the quota pounds would be deducted from the management area with more restrictive or conservative harvest limits (could be based on ABC, ACL, trawl allocation, etc). This approach is similar to the trip limit approach that has been used for years where the more restrictive trip limits applies when fishing in areas with different trip limits.

However, this approach quickly gets complex in the IFQ program given the number of IFQ species and may result in further limitations on fishermen if already restrictive quota is even less available.

Option 2 - Pro-rata

In order to account for catch from different IFQ management areas, each area fished would be reported on a different electronic fish ticket. To deduct quota pounds from vessel accounts, each IFQ species would have to be evaluated by area. For species where QS is issued separately on either side of the management line, the quota pounds would be deducted from the management area pro rata on the number of hauls. For example, if six hauls came from north of 40°10' N. lat., and two came from south of 40°10' N. to 36° N. lat., the total weight of each species would be split on two tickets at a 6:2 ratio. Instead of the number of hauls, alternate pro-rata methods are time in areas or estimated weight in hauls. If a vessel tows across a management line during a trip, policies would have to be established for which management area to count the haul toward (i.e., start of tow, end of tow, area with the longest time on the tow).

Option 3 – Port of Landing

Prior to the Trawl Catch Share Program, vessels were able to fish on both sides of a management line, and catch was assigned by port of landing for stock assessment purposes. If a vessel fished on both sides of a management line, then the most restrictive cumulative trip limits applied.

Under this option, if a vessel fished in multiple IFQ management areas on the same trip, all IFQ management areas would be reported on the same electronic fish ticket, but quota pounds would be deducted from the area where the fish were landed.



IFQ species and area designations

effective January 1, 2016

revised 12/15/2015

Species Name	North of 40°10'N latitude	40°10'N to 36° latitude	36°N to 34°27'N latitude	South of 34°27'N latitude
Arrowtooth flounder	Arrowtooth flounder			
Aurora rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Minor Slope South of 40°10'N
Bank rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Minor Slope South of 40°10'N
Blackgill rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Minor Slope South of 40°10'N
Blackspotted rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Minor Slope South of 40°10'N
Bocaccio rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N	Bocaccio rockfish South of 40°10'N - OVERFISHED		
Bronzespotted rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Butter sole	Other Flatfish			
Canary rockfish	Canary rockfish - MANAGED UNDER REBUILDING PLAN			
Chameleon rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Chilipepper rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Chilipepper rockfish South of 40°10'N
Cowcod rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N	Cowcod rockfish South of 40°10'N - OVERFISHED		
Curfin sole	Other Flatfish			
Darkblotched rockfish	Darkblotched rockfish - OVERFISHED			
Dover sole	Dover sole			
Dusky rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Dwarf-red rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
English sole	English sole			
Flag rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Flathead sole	Other Flatfish			
Freckled rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Greenblotched rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Greenspotted rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Greenstriped rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Halfbanded rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Harlequin rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Honeycomb rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Lingcod	Lingcod North of 40°10'N			Lingcod South of 40°10'N
Longspine Thornyhead	Longspine thornyhead North of 34°27'N			LSPN South of 34°27'N (No IFQ)
Mexican rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Pacific cod	Pacific cod			
Pacific halibut	Pacific halibut North of 40°10'N (IBQ)		Pacific halibut South of 40°10'N (set-asides, No IBQ)	
Pacific Ocean Perch	POP North of 40°10'N - OVERFISHED		Minor Slope South of 40°10'N	
Pacific sanddab	Other Flatfish			
Pacific whiting	Pacific whiting			
Petrale sole	Petrale sole - MANAGED UNDER REBUILDING PLAN			
Pink rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Pinkrose rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Pygmy rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Redbanded rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Minor Slope South of 40°10'N
Redstripe rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Rex sole	Other Flatfish			
Rock sole	Other Flatfish			
Rosethorn rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Rosy rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Rougheye rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Minor Slope South of 40°10'N
Sablefish	Sablefish North of 36°N		Sablefish South of 36°N	
Sand sole	Other Flatfish			
Sharpchin rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Minor Slope South of 40°10'N
Shortraker rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Minor Slope South of 40°10'N
Shortspine thornyhead	Shortspine thornyhead North of 34°27'N			SSPN South of 34°27'N
Silvergray rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Speckled rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Splitnose rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Splitnose rockfish South of 40°10'N
Squarespot rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Starry flounder	Starry flounder			
Starry rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Stripetail rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Sunset rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Swordspine rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Tiger rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Vermilion rockfish	Minor Shelf North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N
Widow rockfish	Widow rockfish			
Yelloweye rockfish	Yelloweye rockfish - OVERFISHED			
Yellowmouth rockfish	Minor Slope North of 40°10'N			Minor Slope South of 40°10'N
Yellowtail rockfish	Yellowtail rockfish North of 40°10'N			Minor Shelf South of 40°10'N