

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered issues raised this week and the documents under this agenda item and offers the following comments.

Combine Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

The GAP understands there is interest in combining the existing trawl gear EFP (selective flatfish trawl/gear modification EFP) with a year-round/non-whiting/midwater EFP (Coastwide mid-water trawl non-whiting) proposal to be brought to the Council in June. The GAP supports this option, as it would save time on the Council agenda and makes sense to combine these two EFPs. Therefore, we suggest combining these issues and making sure it is on the June agenda.

Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) Sablefish Fishery Issues

While GAP members found LEFG price reporting and combining longline and pot gear endorsements valuable issues to consider, we recommend they be considered low priority and mark them as “unscheduled” at this point.

Intersector Quota Pound Trading:

The GAP agrees with the GMT statement under [F.4, Trawl Catch Shares and Intersector Allocation Progress](#), to delay the consideration of intersector quota pound trading until the completion of the intersector allocation review. The Council could then consider prioritizing this issue with other follow-on actions from the review.

Splitting the Catch Share Review into Two Agenda Items

Given the complexity and volume of information that is bound to be generated in documents for the Five-year Catch Share Review for the June 2017 Council meeting, the GAP suggests breaking this agenda item into two parts, similar to what has been done with other “big” agenda items, such as essential fish habitat. The first agenda item would be comprised of the presentations to be made early in the week; the second agenda item would include the advisory body reports, public comment and Council deliberation.

Fixed Gear Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Lines in California

The GAP recommends keeping the two recommendations (Usal and Noyo Canyons) that were approved under Agenda Item F.7, Updated Coordinates for the 125 Fathom RCA Lines, on the June 2017 agenda. The GAP also recommends the remaining RCA line changes in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife report and additions included in the GAP report be included in the 2019-2020 harvest specifications and management measures process.

Combine three items to coincide with the 2019-2020 harvest specifications process: The GAP suggests combining 1) Multi-year average catch policy, 2) National Standard 1 Guideline carryover provision and 3) mid-biennium ACL adjustment and rebuilding harvest rate adjustment (“green light”) issues. The GAP sees value in combining these to determine which one is the best one to move forward, especially as the Council and advisory bodies will be considering harvest

specifications. However, the GAP also respectfully requests the Council reconsider the need for pursuing a multi-year average catch policy is worth the time and analysis, given that current regulations that prohibit exceeding an ACL in any given year.

SSC Review of Groundfish Analysis

The GAP supports the Oregon Trawl Commission letter and report, submitted under public comment under this agenda item, asking the Council to request the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to review the analysis as part of the groundfish fishery's Marine Stewardship Council action plan and certification. The Council in 2013 affirmed it would take on this task, as is stated in the public comment. That analysis could help inform decisions that pertain to transboundary stocks at the southern end of their range. The GAP recommends this for SSC review when there is sufficient time on their agenda.

Transboundary stocks

The GAP requests consideration of the transboundary nature of certain stocks, like Pacific ocean perch, as we move forward with the 2019-20 harvest specifications process and after this year's round of stock assessments are completed in the summer. The GAP supports putting this on the year-at-a-glance schedule for September.

PFMC
04/11/17