

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND PASS-THROUGH OF QUOTA POUNDS

As development of a range of regulatory revisions is being scoped and developed following the Trawl Rationalization 5-year Review, NMFS has identified a disconnect between the Council's record and the agency's record regarding 2014 changes to the pass-through provisions of the Adaptive Management Program (AMP). Specifically, whether or not pass-through of AMP quota pounds will continue indefinitely (e.g. until new AMP-specific regulations supersede the pass-through), or would end after regulatory changes occurring subsequent to the 5-year review (e.g. sunset automatically after any new regulation resulting from the 5-year review, even if unrelated to the AMP).

Given conflicting records and ambiguity in the existing regulations, NMFS recommends that the Council specifically recommend whether or not the AMP pass-through should continue, and if so, for what period of time. NMFS strongly recommends that, if pass-through ends, that the Council specifically address its intentions for disposition of the 10 percent of non-whiting quota shares that are set-aside for AMP. The new disposition should not be inconsistent with the objectives of the AMP.