

SABLEFISH CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW PHASE I

The Council began a review of its sablefish permit stacking program at its September 2013 meeting. Phase I of the program review includes:

- 1) an assessment of the program as it has performed against its original objectives;
- 2) consideration of two issues for action—
 - a) rules for assessing permit control, and
 - b) electronic fish tickets; and
- 3) identification of additional issues for potential action.

The Council is scheduled to approve the final program assessment document and final preferred alternatives for the two action items at its June 2014 meeting. If during the review additional issues for action are identified, a second phase of the review will be conducted for the purpose of considering these issues—process to commence in September 2014.

The first phase of this review process will produce two separate documents: a program assessment and a document that presents and analyzes impacts for the two action issues.

The first of these two documents, the program assessment document (Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 1), will be completed and finalized for public review after this Council meeting. The current draft contains an initial assessment of the achievement status for the ten adopted program objectives. Council members may wish to comment on the draft or provide additional guidance on the content to be included in the document.

The latter of these two documents (Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 2) will eventually become the environmental analysis (EA) required under the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as fulfill the analytical requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. The current draft describes the purpose-and-need and alternatives related to both issues, and provides an analysis of the impacts of changing the rules for assessing permit control. Analysis of the impacts of requiring electronic fish tickets will be provided as Agenda Item C.6.a, Supplemental Attachment 3. The Council was scheduled to select a preliminary preferred alternative for both of these issues, however, because the analysis of the electronic fish ticket issue was not available in the advance briefing materials the Council may wish to defer selection of a preliminary preferred alternative and instead move straight to selection of a final preferred alternative for electronic fish tickets at the June meeting. At this meeting the Council may wish to refine the electronic fish ticket alternatives which will be analyzed.

In April of 2012, under its trawl trailing actions, the Council made a recommendation to re-establish regulations which allow joint registration of trawl and fixed gear (longline and fishpot) permits to the same vessel at the same time. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is developing an implementation package on this issue, which will be combined with the two action items being considered as part of this review. In June, after the Council takes final action on the fixed gear catch sharing program review and issues for action, a draft EA will be published and proposed regulations promulgated on all three issues. If NMFS identifies any questions

regarding Council intent with respect to the joint registration issue (none have been identified as of the time of the advance briefing book), it may bring those questions to the Council under this agenda item and a noticed Council response may be scheduled for the June Council meeting.

Council Action:

1. **Provide guidance on refinement of the draft review document, as appropriate.**
2. **Select a preliminary preferred alternative for the rules for assessing permit control.**
3. **Refine electronic fish ticket alternatives, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 1: Preliminary Draft and Outline, Pacific Coast Groundfish Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Permit Stacking Program Review.
2. Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 2: Sablefish Permit Stacking Program – Action Issues: Draft Council Decision Analysis Document.
3. Agenda Item C.6.a, Supplemental Attachment 3: Sablefish Permit Stacking Program – Action Issues, Electronic Fish Ticket Analysis.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for Electronic Fish Tickets and Permit Control Rule; Provide Guidance for Program Review and Related Actions, as Appropriate
- Jim Seger

PFMC
03/21/14