

TRAWL RATIONALIZATION TRAILING ACTIONS

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to continue work on priorities it established at the September 2011 Council meeting. Detailed information on each of these prioritized actions is provided in Agenda Item E.7.a, Attachment 1, divided into the following groups:

- Ongoing Issues (for January 1, 2013 implementation)
- Trailing Actions for Program Improvement and Enhancement Rule 2 (PIE 2) (for January 1, 2013 implementation)
- Standalone Priorities (with variable implementation targets)
- Trailing Actions for PIE 3 (for January 1, 2014 implementation)
- Trailing Actions for PIE 3 – NMFS List (for January 1, 2014 implementation)
- Issues Tentatively Slated for 2013-2014 Biennial Specifications (for January 1, 2013 implementation)
- Candidate Trailing Actions from September 2011 Not Prioritized for Active Status

“Ongoing Issues” are those issues which the Council initially prioritized and began work on in 2010 but have not yet reached a point of finality. For each ongoing issue, trailing action for PIE 2, and standalone priority, Attachment 1 provides a summary which includes the next steps to be taken and actions the Council may wish to consider at this meeting. Included as a next step for a number of the items is a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determination of the type of National Environmental Policy Act analysis that will be required. NMFS is expected to provide this information in Agenda Item E.7.b, Supplemental NMFS Report.

A number of issues listed in Attachment 1 are slated to be addressed in the 2013-2014 specifications. Under Agenda Item E.9.b, NMFS will be providing advice on whether or not those issues should be covered within the biennial specifications process (Agenda Item E.9.b, NMFS Report).

The Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee (TRREC) will meet on October 27 to address two priorities for potential implementation in 2013: the first priority was to review regulations and develop recommendations regarding (a) making it permissible for stacking both a limited entry trawl and fixed gear permit on a single vessel at the same time, (b) changing the season opening date for whiting, (c) allowing vessels to carry multiple gears at the same time, and (d) modifying several identified trawl gear regulations that impair increased efficiency and selectivity. As a secondary priority, the TRREC focused on other regulations made obsolete by implementation of the new trawl rationalization program in 2011. Their report will be provided in supplemental materials (Agenda Item E.7.b, Supplemental TRREC Report).

At the stock assessment “mop-up” meeting held after the last Council meeting, it was tentatively determined that widow rockfish has been rebuilt. In the event that this conclusion is approved by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Council, one of the more significant issues for Council decision making will be whether the issue of reallocation of widow rockfish quota shares (QS) should be reprioritized for active consideration at this time. The trawl

rationalization program calls for a review of QS allocation whenever a species is removed from the overfished species designation.

One follow-up to Council decision-making at the September Council meeting was an assessment of workload capabilities to achieve implementation targets. New issues identified by the TRREC (if moved forward by the Council), a possible move-up in the target date for action on the widow rockfish reallocation, and other information which may be forthcoming at the November Council meeting may also require reprioritization of issues slated for implementation in 2013 based on workload capabilities. Council staff and NMFS will provide an assessment of workload capabilities as part of this agenda item.

Council Action:

1. Provide guidance on trailing action issues as listed in Attachment 1.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.7.a, Attachment 1: Trailing Action Priorities And Status.
2. Agenda Item E.7.b, Supplemental NMFS Report: NMFS' Preliminary Determinations on the Appropriate Level of NEPA for Trailing Actions.
3. Agenda Item E.7.b, Supplemental TRREC Report: Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee Report on Trailing Actions.
4. Agenda Item E.7.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Jim Seger
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on Further Refinement of Trailing Issues, Including Stacking of Trawl Permits with Fixed Gear Permits

PFMC
10/13/11