

## TRAWL RATIONALIZATION TRAILING ACTIONS SCOPING, PROCESS, AND PRIORITIZATION

At its September 2010 meeting, the Council began an annual process of considering trailing actions for the trawl rationalization program and intersector allocation, which has continued each year up through the present. These trailing actions address issues of concern which were outstanding as of the completion of the Council's initial work on the program (e.g. rules for the distribution of the quota set aside for the Adaptive Management Program (AMP) and safe harbors from control rules for risk pools), as well as addressing new provisions needed to complete, clarify, or improve the program after its initial implementation. An annual process for developing these trailing actions has been followed under which scoping is conducted in September of each year, alternatives for analysis selected in November, analysis completed over the winter, and preliminary and final action taken at the March and April Council meetings, so that the Secretarial review process and implementation can be completed by the following calendar year. Trailing actions for a particular cycle are generally implemented together in a single combined rule package (Program Improvement and Enhancement Rules, PIE Rules), though after Council final action the rule packages have sometimes been reorganized to facilitate efficient implementation. Information about past trailing actions is provided on the Council website: <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/fishery-management-plan/trailing-actions/>.

At this meeting, the Council will conduct its third round of scoping on trawl trailing actions. Agenda Item G.9.a, Attachment 1 provides an overview of information to support the Council deliberations, including possible criteria to consider in setting priorities, current workload issues, and a list of possible issues that the Council may wish to prioritize for action during this round of scoping. At the end of the main text of Attachment 1, a template is provided that may aid the Council in its decision process.

There are two matters ripe for Council consideration under this agenda item based on specific advisory body recommendations. As part of the last scoping process (in 2011), the Council convened its Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee (TRREC) to address the trawl fishery regulatory issues identified at the September 2011 Council meeting. Issues covered in the TRREC report are itemized in Attachment 1 and the full report is provided for reference (Agenda Item G.9.a, Attachment 2). In the summer of 2012, the Council convened a gear workshop to address gear-related issues relevant to the trawl rationalization program. This workshop report was presented at the Council's November 2012 meeting, but no action was taken on the report at that time due to other workload priorities. Issues covered in the gear workshop report are itemized in Attachment 1 and the full report is provided for reference (Agenda Item G.9.a, Attachment 3).

Related to the potential issues summarized in Agenda Item G.9.a, Attachment 1 are two reports provided by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding candidate trailing action matters. The first is a trawl flexibility package that rolls together and prioritizes for consideration measures remaining from the old trip limit framework, which might unnecessarily decrease flexibility, reduce efficiency, or increase regulatory complexity. NMFS identified these measures as part of a broad review of Federal regulations applying to the groundfish trawl fishery, during which they assessed the utility of particular regulations in addressing conservation and

management priorities, while taking into account previous Council work on these issues (Agenda Item G.9.b, NMFS Report 1). NMFS Report 1 includes a purpose and need statement drafted to cover the entire trawl flexibility package. The second NMFS report presents some initial ideas to complete the AMP adopted by the Council but delayed through 2014 (Agenda Item G.9.b, NMFS Report 2). NMFS Report 2 deals with alternative annual distributions of the quota pounds (QP) issued for the quota shares (QS) and halibut individual bycatch quota (IBQ) that the regulations reserve for the AMP (10 percent of all non-whiting QS and halibut IBQ). Currently the QP issued for the AMP QS/IBQ are distributed annually to QS/IBQ holders, in proportion to their QS/IBQ holdings, i.e. distributed based on QS/IBQ percentages. The “pass thru” regulations are scheduled to sunset prior to the 2015 distribution.

As part of the Council’s prioritization of actions for the coming cycle, it may wish to consider the impact of new work on the completion of Secretarial review and implementation of past Council actions (see Agenda Item G.9.a, Attachment 1, sections on “Implementation in Progress on Previous Council Actions” (page 2) and “Implementation Delayed on Previous Council Actions” (page 3)).

### **Council Action:**

**Set priorities for upcoming trailing action cycle, including guidance on priorities for implementing past actions.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.9.a, Attachment 1: Trawl Trailing Action Scoping Issue Overview.
2. Agenda Item G.9.a, Attachment 2. Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee Report on Trailing Actions (From 2011).
3. Agenda Item G.9.a, Attachment 3. Trawl Gear Regulation Change Proposals Developed at Trawl Fishery Gear Workshop.
4. Agenda Item G.9.b, NMFS Report 1: Initial Review of Pre- and Post-Trawl Rationalization Regulations.
5. Agenda Item G.9.b, NMFS Report 2: National Marine Fisheries Service Report on the Adaptive Management Program for the Trawl Rationalization Program.
6. Agenda Item G.9.d, Public Comment.

### **Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
  - b. NMFS Report
  - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - d. Public Comment
  - e. **Council Action:** Prioritize Trailing Actions for the Trawl Rationalization Program.
- Jim Seger  
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