

SABLEFISH PERMIT STACKING PROGRAM REVIEW SCOPING

The limited entry fixed gear (longline and fishpot) sablefish permit stacking program is a type of catch share program. At its September 2013 meeting, the Council considered a draft calendar that called for completion of a review (Phase 1), followed by consideration of potential program changes identified during the review (Phase 2). However, the Council decided to include one issue in the Phase 1 review of this program: consideration of a change in the way control is determined for the purpose of assessing the three-permit control limit. At the end of the meeting, under workload planning, the Council decided to solicit comment for this meeting on other potential changes the public would like to see considered and, on the basis of the response, to determine at this meeting whether to roll the two phases together into a single deliberation process (Agenda Item H.3.a, Attachment 1 shows the calendar as currently envisioned). This solicitation was posted in a blog on the Council website and a direct mailing sent to all permit-owners and lease holders (Agenda Item H.3.a, Attachment 2).

In September NMFS presented an outline for the review document and has continued to work to refine the outline. Due to the Federal government shutdown, an updated outline is not available for the advance Council briefing materials. The main issue for the program review is an evaluation of the degree to which the program is meeting its original objectives. Council staff has provided a listing of potential indicators which may be useful in evaluating accomplishment of objectives (Agenda Item H.3.a, Attachment 3).

Council Action:

- 1. Decide which additional potential program changes should be considered in Phase 1 and whether or not a second phase should be planned to cover any issues not included in Phase 1.**
- 2. Provide guidance on the indicators which may be helpful for evaluation of the issue of programs performance with respect to the original program objectives.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.3.a, Attachment 1: Sablefish Permit Stacking Review Calendar.
2. Agenda Item H.3.a, Attachment 2: Notice soliciting comment on potential changes for the program.
3. Agenda Item H.3.a, Attachment 3: Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Permit Stacking Program – Indicators For Evaluating Program Performance.
4. Agenda Item H.3.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Identify Issues and Alternatives for Consideration of Changes in the Sablefish Permit Stacking Program

Jim Seger