

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE SABLEFISH PERMIT STACKING PROGRAM REVIEW SCOPING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) would like to thank Mr. Jim Seger and Ms. Ariel Jacobs for their presentation on this agenda item.

The GMT reviewed the briefing book materials, two supplemental National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reports, and public comments on the sablefish permit stacking program review (Agenda Items H.3.b, Attachments 1-3, Supplemental NMFS Reports 1 and 2, and Public Comment, November 2013). The GMT provides the following comments for the Council's consideration.

The GMT reviewed the indicators presented in Attachment 3 ([Agenda Item H.3.b, Attachment 3](#)) and supports the use of indicators for evaluating program performance, as this is a key component of the program review process. We appreciate the indicators developed and offer no additions.

The GMT agreed that the issues presented in [Agenda Item H.3.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#), should be analyzed during this first phase of the program review. **The GMT recommends a requirement to record the Federal permit number(s) on the fish ticket be considered** and notes that this could be done in conjunction with recording fixed gear sablefish landings on e-tickets. This will reduce the opportunity for underreporting, and may also increase precision of how catch estimates are attributed to each sector of the fixed gear sablefish fishery (e.g., limited entry daily trip limit (DTL), open access DTL, and Tier fisheries).

The GMT also recommends that the range of alternatives shown in Supplemental NMFS Report 2 should be expanded to include paper fish tickets. Perhaps each alternative adds a sub-option utilizing paper fish tickets, for comparison (i.e., replace e-ticket with paper tickets under each option). We feel that the broader analysis is needed to reveal the costs and benefits of implementing e-tickets compared to paper fish tickets.

The GMT agreed, in general, that an evaluation of potential program changes (e.g., Phase 2) should move forward if issues are identified in the program review.

The GMT also considered [Agenda Item H.3.c, Public Comment](#) and notes that changes to sablefish fishery operations of this magnitude would require expansive changes to the methods used for catch accounting, as well as the methods to project harvest and recommend trip limits.