

Groundfish Workload Priorities

2015 ACTIVE PROJECTS^{a/}

EFH + Area Modifications ESA Salmon Reconsultation	17-18 Spex and MM Whiting Spex and Set-Asides	Stock Assessments Litigation (Glacier Fish)	Inseason Management
Amendment 25: Forage Fish Fixed Gear Cost Recovery Report	Vessel Movement Monitoring Revise Flow Scale Regulations	EM Regulations	
Widow Rockfish QS and Divest. Gear Regs Update	Blackgill and Slope South Allocation Rebuilding Revision Rules	Methodology COP Midwater Sport Fishery	Flexible Management of Set-Asides

POSTPONED PROJECTS

Currently Scheduled for 2016

Nearshore Management Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Issues 5-Year Trawl Rationalization Review

UNSCHEDULED PROJECTS^{b/}

Stock Complexes (36)	Rougeye Rockfish GCAs (37)	Sablefish Conversion Factors (38)	Permit Size Endorsements (40)
Trawl Records Retention (42)	Discard Credit Lingcod & Sablefish (53)	First Receiver Site Licenses (54)	Adaptive Management Program (55)
Halibut Retention S. of Pt. Chehalis (58)	50 fm Depth Restriction (59)	EC Species (61)	Multi-Year Average Catch Policy (62)
Transfer of Rockfish from IFQ to MS (65)	Seabird Avoidance Devices (41)	Intersector Transfer OF'd Species. (71)	Flatfish Gear Restrictions in CA (57)
Comm. Descending Device Rates (63)			

a/ **Bolded** items are considered necessary tasks.

b/ See Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1, June 2014 for a complete description of each measure.

DRAFT COUNCIL AND NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE STAFF
 WORKLOAD PLANNING FOR GROUND FISH ISSUES
 February 17, 2015

The following action plan identifies the Council’s active Priority 1 and 2 items for implementation in the near term (Tables 1 and 2), those measures delayed by Council action (Table 3), and potential future action items (Table 4). The work plan is based on Council action taken under Agenda Item J.1 Omnibus Regulation Change Priorities in September 2014 and updates at the November 2014 Council meeting. Table 5 contains a list of activities and rule-makings completed in 2014. In addition to these items, NMFS is currently working to implement a number of items that the Council has already taken final action on.

Several items related to the 2017-2018 specifications and management measures are awaiting identification of a lead agency pending the publication of the final rule implementing the 2015-2016 specifications and management measures. The lead agency and lead contact for those items should be identified no later than the March Council meeting and invitations/requests for other staff confirmed shortly thereafter.

Table 1. Council- adopted Priority 1 items currently on the 2015 Year-at-a-Glance (YAG) Council Activity Schedule. Bolded items in the short title column indicate the Council’s core responsibilities within the Priority 1 items. Remaining items are ordered by the YAG schedule.

Original Item # ^{a/}	Sector	Short Title	Action Plan	YAG Schedule	Implementation Goal	Point of Contact ^{b/}
24, 47 ^{c/} , 66	Trawl, Non-Trawl, and Rec	24: EFH Phase 3 of the 5 Year Review and Area Modifications 47: Remove Certain Area-Management Restrictions (RCA), 66: Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines, Other Modifications]	Council staff lead; conduct concurrent w/EFH Amendment process; begins in April 2015;	April 2015 (scoping), September 2015 (Range of Alts)	2017	Council: Kerry Griffin SFD: Colby Brady
29, 64, 44	Tribal, Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	2017-2018 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures (29) including Non-salmonid ESA considerations (as necessary) 64: Management Model Reviews (Kelly Ames) EFPs (John DeVore) and 44: Eliminating Prohibition of At-Sea Processing S. of 42°N. lat (Colby Brady)	Lead on the entire package to be determined	June 2015 (Adopt Schedule)	January 1, 2017	Council: SFD:

Original Item # ^{a/}	Sector	Short Title	Action Plan	YAG Schedule	Implementation Goal	Point of Contact ^{b/}
28	Tribal, Trawl, Non-trawl, Rec	Stock Assessments for 2017-2018 Biennium	Implemented with the specifications package above, lead TBD	June and Sept 2015	January 1, 2017	Council: John DeVore SFD: Dr. Sean Matson
20	Tribal, Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Inseason Management		April, June, Sept, and Nov 2015	~3 weeks post Council Meeting	Council: Kelly Ames SFD: Cloby Brady
	Tribal, Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	ESA Salmon Reconsultation	NMFS lead	April and June 2015	2015	Council: Kit Dahl SFD: Frank Lockhart
	Tribal, Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Pacific Whiting Harvest Specifications and Set-Asides	NMFS Lead	April 2015	May 15, 2015	Council: John DeVore SFD: Miako Ushio
9	Trawl CP	Respond to Litigation: Glacier Fish Lawsuit on Cost Recovery				Council: Jim Seger SFD: Christopher Biegel
25	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Amendment 25: Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment (i.e., forage fish protections)	NMFS lead; assign workload to non-GF staff (Mar 2015)	March 2015 (FPA)	Winter 2015	Council: Mike Burner SFD: Yvonne deReynier
39,43, 47b ^{a/} 70	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Vessel Movement Monitoring 39: Increase VMS Ping Rates; 43: Fishery Declaration Enhancements (when moving from MS to IFQ); 47: Movement of Pot Gear Across Management Lines; 70: Provide for Retrieval of Derelict Crab Pots in RCAs]	Council staff lead including Council IT staff assistance; combine w/HMS VMS matter; Explore new technologies beyond VMS; schedule as an Enforcement Agenda Item outside both GF and HMS groupings; first report in April 2015	April 2015 (Range of Alts) and Sept (PPA) 2015	2017	Council: Brett Wiedoff SFD: Sarah Williams
56	LEFG	Cost Recovery for the Permit Stacking Program	NMFS lead; <i>NMFS will do an initial analysis to determine utility and report to the Council in 2015.</i>	June 2015	N/A	Council: Jim Seger SFD: Christopher Biegel
30	Trawl IFQ and MS	Electronic Monitoring Regs Update	Council staff lead	June 2015	2016 for whiting, 2017 for non-whiting	Council: Brett Wiedoff SFD: Steve Freese
45	Trawl IFQ, MS & CP	Revise Regulations for At-Sea and Shoreside Flow Scales	NMFS lead; Council defers to NMFS to proceed w/AK model and reduce Council process to regulation deeming; Sept 2015 CM	Sept 2015; deeming only	Mid-2016	Council: Kelly Ames SFD: Becky Renko

a/ Item numbers and correspond to [Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1, June 2014](#). Complete descriptions of each item can also be found in the same report.

b/ Lead agency identified by bold font.

c/ Item 47 has been split between 47a, area modifications, and 47b, vessel movement monitoring, with the issue of movement of pot gear across management lines placed in the vessel movement monitoring item.

Table 2. Council adopted Priority 2 items currently on the 2015 Year-at-a-Glance (YAG) Council Activity Schedule.

Original Item # ^{a/}	Sector	Short Title	Action Plan	YAG Schedule	Implementation Goal	Point of Contact ^{b/}
52	Trawl IFQ	Widow Rockfish QS Reallocation Including Divestiture	Council staff lead in analysis/NEPA document; ROA at Nov. CM, Final Council Action April 2015	April 2015 (FPA)	Divestiture delay Nov 2015 Allocation mid-year 2016	Council: Jim Seger SFD: Colby Brady
67	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Reconsider Blackgill and Slope South Allocation	Council staff lead with strong CDFW assistance	April (PPA) and June (FPA) 2015	2017	Council: John DeVore SFD: Karen Palimigiano
	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Methodology Council Operating Procedure	Council staff lead	April 2015	2015	Council: John DeVore SFD: Kevin Duffy
	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Flexible Management of Set-Asides	Council staff lead	April 2015	TBD	Council: John DeVore SFD: Gretchen Hanshew
60	Recreational	Mid-water Sport Fishery (OR/CA)	NMFS lead; June 2015	June 2015 (PPA), September (FPA)	2017	Council: Kelly Ames SFD: Craig Heberer
46,48	Trawl IFQ	Gear Regs Updates 46: Gear Use - Multiple Gears Onboard & Use; 48: Remove Certain Restrictions on Trawl Gear Configuration]	NMFS lead; ROA Sept 2015	Sept 2015 (Range of Alts)	2017	Council: Jim Seger SFD: Jamie Goen
35	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Rebuilding Revision Rules	Include in 2017-2018 package, if analysis is ready; lead TBD	Nov 2015 (shaded)	January 1, 2017	Council: John DeVore SFD: Colby Brady

a/ Item numbers and correspond to [Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1, June 2014](#). Complete descriptions of each item can also be found in the same report.

b/ Lead agency identified by bold font.

Table 3. Remaining omnibus items and requirements scheduled for Council discussion and action in 2016. The implementation goals for each item will be determined at a later date.

Original Item #^{a/}	Sector	Short Title	Action Plan	YAG Schedule	Implementation Goal	Point of Contact^{b/}
68	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Evaluate Nearshore Management Approaches, Including Deferral	Consider ad hoc committee concept in June 2016			
69, 72, 74, 76	LE FG	Misc Sablefish Issues 69: Combine the Fixed Gear LE DTL Fishery and Tier Fishery; 72: Require Permit Price Reporting for LE FG Permit Transfers; 74: Combine Longline and Fishpot into a Single Fixed Gear Limited Entry Gear Endorsements; 76: Pot Gear Retrieval Requirements	Consider ad hoc committee concept in June 2016			
32	Trawl IFQ, MS, & CP	Five Year Trawl Rationalization Program Review	Delay onset to Nov. 2016, Lead to be determined	Anticipated Nov 2016	Final review document – Sept 2017 Final Action document – April 2018	Council: Jim Seger SFD: Jamie Goen

a/ Item numbers and correspond to [Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1, June 2014](#). Complete descriptions of each item can also be found in the same report.

b/ Lead agency identified by bold font.

Table 4. Remaining omnibus items for potential prioritization and scheduling at the June 2016 Council meeting.

Original Item #	Sector	Short Title
36	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Further Consideration for Reorganizing Stock Complexes
37	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Groundfish Conservation Areas for Rougheye Rockfish
38	Trawl and Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish
40	Trawl and Non-Trawl (LE)	Eliminate Permit Size Endorsements
41	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Seabird Avoidance Devices for Vessels less than 55 feet
42	Trawl IFQ, MS & CP	Revise Length of Time Required for the Trawl Fleet to Retain Records
53	Trawl IFQ	Discard Survival Credit for Lingcod and Sablefish
54	Trawl IFQ	Require Posting of First Receiver Site Licenses
55	Trawl IFQ	Develop Criteria for Distributing Adaptive Management Program QP
57	LEFG and OA	Commercial Gear Restriction for Targeting Flatfish in CA
58	LEFG and OA	Retain Halibut in the Sablefish Fishery (South of Pt. Chehalis)
59	Recreational	50 fm Depth Restriction (WA and OR)
61	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Further Consideration for Ecosystem Component Species
62	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Analysis of a Multi-Year Average Catch Policy
63	Non-trawl	Mortality Rates for Descending Devices in the Rod-and-Reel Fishery
65	Trawl IFQ & MS	Allow Between Sector Transfer of Rockfish from IFQ to MS
71	Trawl	Allow Between Sector Transfer of Overfished Species
75	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Move the Seaward Non-Trawl RCA Line Closer to Shore for Pot Vessels

Table 5. Actions Completed in 2014.

1. Transmittal of Council action to rescind previous action on Amendment 22: Open Access License Limitation, 12/23/2014
2. Trawl Cost Recovery Final Rule, 1/10/2014
3. Trawl Program Improvement and Enhancement (PIE 2) Rule, 3/5/2014
4. Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan, Final Rule, 4/4/2104
5. Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Final Rule, 4/17/2014
6. Whiting Fishery Allocations, Final Rule, 5/13/2014
7. Several Inseason Actions, including transfer of darkblotched rockfish, 11/12/2014, 11/20/2014
8. Trawl Chafing Gear Final Rule, 12/2/2014
9. AMP Pass-thru & Initial Allocation for 2015 Fisheries Final Rule, 12/17/2014