

POTENTIAL TRAILING ACTIONS TO  
AMENDMENT 20 ON TRAWL RATIONALIZATION

The Council has scheduled initial consideration of trailing actions on the trawl catch shares program for the September 2010 Council meeting. Potential trailing actions could include both plan amendments and regulatory amendments. Most of the detail of the adopted catch share plan is contained in Appendix E to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The FMP specifies that the portions of the trawl catch share program described in the appendix can be modified through a regulatory amendment process, rather than a plan amendment. After the regulatory amendment is completed, the appendix would then be updated to reflect changes in the regulations. The FMP also states that the Council will establish a process for considering recommended changes to the regulations. Unless the Council wants to establish a different process for trawl catch share program regulatory amendments, the Council can specify that it will use its existing regulatory amendment procedures for that purpose (Agenda Item I.6.a, Attachment 1).

Agenda Item I.6.a, Attachment 2, provides a list and description of some of the main trailing action possibilities that have been mentioned in the final environmental impact statement, by the Council, by Council advisory bodies, or by the public. At this meeting, the Council should decide on a list of topics for formal scoping and identify a potential calendar for the individual candidate topics. In addition to issues brought up under the agenda item by advisors and the public, the Council may wish to consider for inclusion issues identified during its review of the proposed components rule or issues related to the disapproved parts of Amendment 20, both of which were covered under Agenda Item I.5.

In considering a Council calendar for the individual candidate topics, the Council may wish to discuss date completion targets and workload implications. With regard to target completion dates, the Council may wish to separate candidate issues into different time schedules due to reasons of complexity, priority, and the length of time that would be required if all are taken up collectively on the same schedule. With regard to workload implications and the uncertainties of the CY2011 Council budget, the Council may wish to separate a few issues from the list for expedited treatment. The Council has received \$30k to assist in initiating consideration of trailing amendments with some emphasis for issues related to Community Fishing Associations.

As a process efficiency measure, the Council may wish to appoint a group to assist it in scoping and/or begin work on some topics selected for immediate priority. Because of public notice requirements, this group would not be able to have its first meeting until just prior to the November Council meeting. If the Council appoints a workgroup, it should consider both constituent membership and agency support. Workgroups are able to operate most effectively when agency expertise is available during the workgroup meetings. Presence of agency personnel at workgroup meetings may also benefit the decision process at Council meetings.

**Council Action:**

1. **Decide on the process to be followed for regulatory amendments modifying Appendix E to the groundfish FMP.**
2. **Develop a list of scoping topics for trailing actions and amendments and decide whether additional topics will be considered in November.**
3. **Decide on need for a workgroup on trailing amendments and the scope of issues to be assigned to the workgroup.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item I.6.a, Attachment 1: Regulatory Amendment Process Provisions of the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP.
2. Agenda Item I.6.a, Attachment 2: Potential Trailing Actions on Trawl Rationalization.
3. Agenda Item I.6.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:** Designate Amendment Process, Prioritize Issues, and Provide Guidance on Trailing Actions for the Trawl Rationalization Program

PFMC  
08/27/10