

NMFS Groundfish Priorities

Omnibus

NMFS reviewed the list of possible groundfish and Pacific halibut (halibut) management measures from the Council's June and September meetings (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1, September 2014). This report builds from NMFS Report 1 under Agenda Item J.1.b, which lists NMFS rulemakings in progress over 2014. This document lists the agency's criteria used to determine our priorities. Using these criteria, we provide our initial priorities for action on groundfish and halibut management items, including items with less discretion on timing (e.g., responding to litigation, complying with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and other laws, and implementing harvest limits) and other more discretionary items. Finally, the last sections cover estimated timelines for priority items and some ideas for packaging items. The document sections are as follows:

- I. Criteria for Prioritizing
- II. NMFS Prioritized List
- III. Timelines
- IV. Potential Packaging

As the Council considers groundfish actions under the omnibus agenda, NMFS would like to emphasize that the Council, NMFS, and stakeholders should all be actively engaged up front and throughout the development of actions through the Council process, consistent with the Regional Operating Agreement (ROA), November 2013. Early participation by all parties is important for fully considered actions within the constraints of all applicable laws and to improve collaborative decision-making.

I. Criteria for Prioritizing

NMFS considered several criteria to use in prioritizing the list of groundfish and halibut items. NMFS criteria are similar to and adapted from the September 2013 Council meeting on trawl trailing actions which provided criteria for prioritization (Agenda Item G.9.a, Attachment 1, September 2013). In addition, NMFS referred to the considerations for prioritizing the list of groundfish management measures provided at the June 2014 Council meeting (Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 3, June 2014) and again at this meeting under Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 2. That document provides the following resources to guide prioritization: the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) National Standards, the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) goals and objectives, the trawl rationalization program goals and objectives from Amendment 20, the sablefish permit stacking goals and objectives from Amendment 14, and the Groundfish Strategic Plan from 2000 which provided a vision for the future of the groundfish fishery and actions to get there.

Based on the above information, NMFS used the following criteria in prioritizing the list of actions:

- Responding to litigation (as it arises, it trumps all other priorities)
- Complying with deadlines and requirements of MSA, ESA, and other applicable law
- Implementation of harvest specifications and maintaining catch within set harvest levels
- Implementation of the original FMP Amendment provisions (e.g. Amendment 14, 20, & 22)
- Maximizing conservation, social and economic benefits consistent with the FMP¹ and MSA

¹ The FMP lists the management goals in priority order as 1) conservation, 2) economics, and 3) utilization. In addition, the FMP describes procedures for establishing and adjusting management measures in Section 6.2, including procedures and criteria for decision-making when there is a resource conservation concern, a social or economic concern, or a habitat concern. These sections of the FMP could provide further guidance on priority-setting.

II. NMFS Prioritized List

This section describes NMFS priority categories and lists items from the Council’s compilation of possible groundfish management measures (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1) that fit those priority categories. NMFS has prioritized these items based on the criteria described in Section I. For items that are not listed under a particular category, NMFS does not consider them a priority under the criteria from Section I. given all of the other priorities. Minor items, such as those not anticipated to require further analysis, that are not listed under a priority category may get folded in to other rulemakings by NMFS, as appropriate (e.g., from Appendix A, #5 (cost recovery corrections) and 54 (posting site licenses)). Appendix A to this report provides NMFS prioritized list in a different format, using the Council’s full list of management measures (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1) and noting NMFS priorities in the far right column. NMFS priority categories are as follows:

- In progress (see NMFS Report 1)
- Priority 1 – must do
- Priority 2 – should do
- Potential priority
- Post trawl 5-year review
- Post EFH revisions

IN PROGRESS

These are items where NMFS is in the process of implementation. NMFS Report 1 provides more information on the progress of these actions, including draft schedules.

	Sector	Short Title
A. Items on Which Council Action Has Been Completed Which Still Entail Some Workload		
1.	Tribal, Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	2015-2016 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures and Amendment 24
2.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Seabird Rule - Mandatory Streamers for vessels ≥ 55'
4.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Fishery Declaration Enhancements
6.	Trawl IFQ & MS	Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permits
7.	Trawl IFQ & MS	Pacific Dawn Lawsuit Appeal to District Court (Whiting Allocation)
8.	Trawl IFQ, MS & CP	Whiting Cleanup Rule, Including Maximized Retention Regulations
9.	Trawl CP	Glacier Fish Co Lawsuit (Cost Recovery)
10.	Trawl IFQ & Non-Trawl	Joint Registration and Prohibition of Processing IFQ Sablefish
11.	Trawl IFQ	Move Shorebased Whiting Season Opening Dates
12.	Trawl IFQ	Continue Adaptive Management Program Pass-Through
13.	Trawl IFQ	Update eTicket for Web-based Submissions
14.	Trawl IFQ	Rule for Redistribution of Excessive Aggregate NonWhiting QS
15.	LEFG	Revise Limited Entry Fixed Gear Permit Control Rule
16.	LEFG and OA	Require E-Tickets for Sablefish Landings
17.	LEFG and OA	Sablefish North of 36 Degrees - Allocation Correction
B. Immediate and Long-Term Commitments		
26.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	2015 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (Sept and Nov 2014) and 2016 CSP (Sept 2015)

PRIORITY 1 – must do

These are items that must be done in a timely manner. Reasons for giving these items highest priority are noted in the table. The first 3 bullets from the criteria listed in Section I. all fall in this category: responding to litigation as it arises, complying with federal law, and setting harvest limits. Other ongoing, routine fishery management actions not listed on the Council’s table from Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1 would also fall in this category, such as scientific research permits.

	Sector	Short Title	NMFS Priority
B. Immediate and Long-Term Commitments			
20.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Inseason Management (Sept 2014 and beyond, excluding March 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Maintaining catch within harvest limits</i>
21.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Adopt Final Stock Assessment Plan and TOR for 2015 (Sept 2014)	Priority 1 <i>Informs harvest specifications</i>
24.	Tribal, Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Essential Fish Habitat: Phase 3 of the 5 Year Review (April 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Conservation implications</i>
25.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Amendment 25: Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment (Sept 2014 and Mar 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Conservation implications</i>
27.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	2015 Incidental Regulations for Pacific Halibut (Mar and Apr 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Maintaining catch within harvest limits</i>
²	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Pacific Whiting Harvest Specifications and Set-Asides (April 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Setting harvest specifications</i>
28.	Trawl, Non-trawl, Rec	Stock Assessments for 2017-2018 Biennium (June and Sept 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Informs harvest specifications</i>
29.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Start of the Process to Establish 2017-2018 Specifications and Regulations (June 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Setting harvest specifications</i>
30.	Trawl IFQ & MS	Electronic Monitoring Regulations (Sept and Nov 2014, June 2015)	Priority 1
32.	Trawl IFQ, MS, & CP	Five Year Trawl Rationalization Program Review (Starts in 2016)	Priority 1 <i>Compliance with MSA</i>
C. Candidate Items for Prioritization in September			
39.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Increase VMS Ping Rates	Priority 1 <i>Conservation and enforcement implications. Responding to litigation.</i>
45.	Trawl IFQ, MS & CP	Revise Regulations on At-Sea and Shoreside Flow Scales	Priority 1 <i>Conservation and enforcement implications</i>
56.	LEFG	Cost Recovery for the Permit Stacking Program	Priority 1 <i>Compliance with MSA</i>
64.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Management Model Review and Refinement	Priority 1 <i>Continue refinements to further improve compliance with NS, including, but not limited to, NS-1, NS-2, and NS-6</i>

² Pacific whiting harvest specifications and set-asides were inadvertently excluded from the list created in June 2014. This item was added to the September 2014 list but left unnumbered in order to maintain the numbering established in June.

PRIORITY 2 – should do

These are items that should be done in a timely manner. Reasons for giving these items near-term priority are noted in the table. Items that would maximize conservation, economics, and utilization (in priority order) consistent with the FMP and MSA would fall in to this category. In addition, items that would implement original provisions from any previously approved amendment should be prioritized. NMFS also reviewed the Groundfish Strategic Plan for the broad groundfish fishery changes it envisioned that might still be appropriate, such as licensing all commercial fisheries including open access.

	Sector	Short Title	NMFS Priority
A. Items on Which Council Action Has Been Completed Which Still Entail Some Workload			
19.	OA	Amendment 22 - Open Access License Limitation	Priority 2 <i>Facilitate compliance with Marine Mammal Protection Act, Strategic Plan recommended</i>
C. Candidate Items for Prioritization in September			
52.	Trawl IFQ	Widow Rockfish QS Reallocation	Priority 2 <i>Implements original Am 20 provision (i.e., either reallocate or start trading). Consider outcome of upcoming assessment</i>

POTENTIAL PRIORITY

These items may become a priority at any point in time for the reasons noted.

	Sector	Short Title	NMFS Priority
C. Candidate Items for Prioritization in September			
35.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Rebuilding Revision Rules (signal vs. noise)	Potential priority <i>Proposed rule on NS1 guideline revisions expected late 2014</i>
36.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Further Consideration for Reorganizing Stock Complexes	Potential priority <i>Dependent on results of stock assessments, revised PSA analysis on risk of overfishing, and new sorting requirements</i>
41.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Seabird Avoidance Devices for Vessels less than 55 feet	Potential priority <i>Dependent on research results from SeaGrant and discussions with USFWS.</i>
58.	LEFG and OA	Retain Halibut in the Sablefish Fishery (South of Pt. Chehalis)	Potential Priority <i>Would reduce discards and, depending on how reallocated, improve safety at sea by changes to derby-style directed fishery</i>
60.	Recreational	Mid-water Sport Fishery (OR and CA)	Potential Priority <i>Economic benefits to local communities and improves utilization of healthy stocks</i>
67.	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Reconsider Blackgill Allocation	Potential priority <i>Should be considered with stock complex reorganization (#36)</i>
68.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Evaluate Nearshore Management Approaches, Including Deferral	Potential priority <i>Should be considered with stock complex reorganization (#36)</i>
76.	LE FG	Require All Fishpots be Returned to Shore at the End of Each Trip	Potential priority <i>Dependent on assessment of current regulations</i>

POST TRAWL 5-YR REVIEW

These are items the Council may want to consider after the 5-year review of the trawl rationalization program. The trawl program 5-year review will begin in 2016 and is intended to determine “progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act, and any necessary modification of the program to meet those goals.” (MSA 303A(c)(1)(G)). The trawl 5-year review will inform what aspects of the trawl rationalization program need to be addressed to meet the goals of the program. Beginning in 2016 and during the 5-year review, NMFS recommends that work on trailing actions (other than harvest specifications, inseason actions and electronic monitoring (EM)) affecting the trawl fishery should be postponed until completion of the 5-year review. After the 5-year review, the Council and NMFS could consider whether these items should be addressed through the Council process for potential implementation. NMFS requests that, under future Council meeting planning, planning for the trawl rationalization program 5-year review begin in mid to late 2015 and that a review team be formed consisting of Council, Region, and Science Center staff, and potentially the Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee (TRREC) or a subset of the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP).

	Sector	Short Title	NMFS Priority
B. Immediate and Long-Term Commitments			
33.	Trawl IFQ	QS/QP Control Rule - Safe Harbor for Risk Pools - post 5-year review	Post trawl 5-yr review
34.	Trawl IFQ	Resolve Long-term Whiting Surplus Carryover Provision - post 5-year review	Post trawl 5-yr review
C. Candidate Items for Prioritization in September			
38.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Post trawl 5-yr review
40.	Trawl and Non-Trawl (LE)	Eliminate Permit Size Endorsements	Post trawl 5-yr review
43.	Trawl IFQ (& MS & CP?)	Fishery Declaration Enhancements (With Gear Stowed and Testing Gear)	Post trawl 5-yr review
44.	Trawl IFQ, MS & CP	Year Round Whiting Season and Other Modifications	Post trawl 5-yr review
46.	Trawl IFQ	Gear Use - Multiple Gears Onboard and Use	Post trawl 5-yr review
47.	Trawl IFQ and LE Pot	Remove Certain Area-Management Restrictions	Post trawl 5-yr review, Post EFH revisions
48.	Trawl IFQ	Remove Certain Restrictions on Trawl Gear Configuration	Post trawl 5-yr review
49.	Trawl IFQ	Resolve Long-term Non-Whiting Surplus Carryover Provision	Post trawl 5-yr review
50.	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Post trawl 5-yr review
55.	Trawl IFQ	Develop Criteria for Distributing Adaptive Management Program QP	Post trawl 5-yr review <i>AMP based on need in the program and determined through 5-yr review process</i>
65.	Trawl IFQ & MS	Allow Between Sector Transfer of Rockfish QP from IFQ to MS	Post trawl 5-yr review
71.	Trawl	Allow Between Sector Transfer of Unneeded Overfished Species	Post trawl 5-yr review

POST EFH REVISIONS

These are items the Council may want to consider after any recommendations for revisions to EFH resulting from Phase 3 of the EFH review for the groundfish fishery. The EFH review began in 2010 and is intended to determine, in part, whether existing measures to protect groundfish EFH are adequate, what new information exists, and what changes are needed. During the final phase of that review, Phase 3, the Council will recommend any necessary revisions to EFH. After the Council makes its recommendations from Phase 3 and using the information gathered and analyzed from the EFH review, the Council and NMFS could consider whether the items in the list below should be addressed through the Council process for potential implementation.

	Sector	Short Title	NMFS Priority
C. Candidate Items for Prioritization in September			
37.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Groundfish Conservation Areas for Rougheye Rockfish	Post EFH revisions
47.	Trawl IFQ and LE Pot	Remove Certain Area-Management Restrictions	Post trawl 5-yr review, Post EFH revisions
66.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Post EFH revisions
75.	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Move the Seaward Non-Trawl RCA Line Closer to Shore for Pot Vessels	Post EFH revisions

III. Timelines

This section provides rough timelines for NMFS's Priority 1 and 2 items listed in Section II. These timelines are only estimates for planning purposes and are likely to change. These timelines largely reflect those of NMFS Regional staff working on analyses, rulemakings, and implementation. NMFS Science Center staff may have different priorities, workload, and timelines. In addition, NMFS expects from this point forward that NMFS is engaged up front on these issues as they move through the Council process, consistent with the ROA. These timelines reflect that commitment by all parties.

Using the priorities from the table in Section II, the chart below shows an estimated timeline for NMFS workload over 2015 and 2016. Some items are ongoing annual or biennial commitments, such as halibut fishery regulations, whiting fishery regulations, and groundfish harvest specifications and management measures. Others, such as EFH Phase 3 and the trawl rationalization program 5-year review, are periodic, large workload and time commitments. EFH Phase 3, which will consider any necessary regulatory changes, was scheduled to go through the Council process this fall but has been postponed until 2015. Any corresponding regulations would be implemented for 2016, at the earliest. The MSA-required trawl rationalization program 5-year review will begin in 2016, but planning should start in mid to late 2015. As noted above in Section II, under the description of "Post 5-year Review," trailing actions affecting the trawl fishery should be postponed until after the 5-year review is complete. The review is intended to inform what changes need to be made. Therefore, program changes should not continue while the review is ongoing. The analyses for the review could be used as the starting point and foundation for any trailing actions. The remaining Priority 1 items, including EM and the comprehensive ecosystem-based amendment, must also be addressed over 2015 and 2016.

Given the time and workload commitments from ongoing, routine management requirements and from Priority 1 items, NMFS expects to have limited capacity to take on additional items for completion over 2015 and 2016.

The table below shows NMFS estimated timeline for priority items over 2015 and 2016 as listed in the Table in Section II and does not necessarily include all routine, ongoing actions.

Priority category	Action	2015				2016			
		Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Priority 1	Halibut incidental regulations (#27)								
ROUTINE	GF harvest spex								
	Priority 1	inseason actions (#20)							
	Priority 1	stock assessments (#21, 28)							
	Priority 1	2017-2018 spex process (#29)							
		management model review/refinement (#64)							
	Priority 1	Whiting specifications							
		EM							
	In progress	EFPs (#6)							
	Priority 1	regulations (#30)							
	Priority 1	EFH Phase 3/regulations (#24)							
Priority 1	5-year review - trawl program (#32)								
Priority 1	Ecosystem amendment 25/regulations (#25)								
In progress	Whiting season date change (#11)								
In progress	Whiting cleanup (#8)								
Priority 1	VMS ping rate (#39)								
Priority 1	Revise at-sea scale requirements (#45)								
	Sablefish Program								
In progress	regulations from review (#4, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17)								
Priority 1	cost recovery analysis/implementation (#56)								
Priority 2	Widow rockfish QS reallocation (#52)								
Priority 2	OA license limitation - Am 22 (#19)								

IV. Potential Packaging

This section provides ideas and suggestions for moving forward, including potential packaging. NMFS expects to have some limited capacity to take on items in addition to ongoing, routine management and other Priority 1 items. NMFS encourages a strategic, collaborative approach to figuring out how to proceed, using this as an opportunity for creative, efficient packaging of issues. After the Council prioritizes items at its September meeting, NMFS suggests that Council and NMFS staff work together to develop ideas for potential packaging of items and bring those ideas to the November 2014 meeting.

Depending on the Council's recommended priorities, timelines and packaging of items may vary. For example, if the Council decides not to reallocate widow but to move to QS trading, then workload for that item would be largely reduced. In addition, if the Council moves forward with EFH Phase 3 and any resulting revisions, then larger groundfish closed area changes could be considered in conjunction with any EFH changes. NMFS has recommended postponing work on trawl trailing actions in 2016 until after the 5-year review. However, some work could begin in 2016 on items affecting other sectors (e.g., open access (Am 22) or recreational) or all sectors (e.g., closed area changes).

NMFS looks forward to working with the Council and stakeholders on a strategic, efficient, and effective path forward to implement needed changes to the groundfish and halibut fisheries.

APPENDIX A

Council's list of possible management measures (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1) with NMFS priorities.

The table below lists the Council's possible management measures and, in the far right column, NMFS initial determination of the agency's priorities. Priority categories are described in Section II. of the main document. For items where NMFS has not noted a priority and left the cell blank, these items are not NMFS near-term priorities for action. They are not considered priority items either under the NMFS criteria given in Section I of this document or under the FMP's goals, objectives, and processes for prioritizing Council workload. Minor items that are not anticipated to require further analysis may get folded in to other rulemakings by NMFS, as appropriate.

	Sector	Short Title	NMFS Priority
A. Items on Which Council Action Has Been Completed Which Still Entail Some Workload			
1.	Tribal, Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	2015-2016 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures and Amendment 24	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
2.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Seabird Rule - Mandatory Streamers for vessels ≥ 55'	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
3.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21	
4.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Fishery Declaration Enhancements	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
5.	Trawl IFQ, MS, & CP	Cost Recovery Corrections	
6.	Trawl IFQ & MS	Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permits	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
7.	Trawl IFQ & MS	Pacific Dawn Lawsuit Appeal to District Court (Whiting Allocation)	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
8.	Trawl IFQ, MS & CP	Whiting Cleanup Rule, Including Maximized Retention Regulations	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
9.	Trawl CP	Glacier Fish Co Lawsuit (Cost Recovery)	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
10.	Trawl IFQ & Non-Trawl	Joint Registration and Prohibition of Processing IFQ Sablefish	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
11.	Trawl IFQ	Move Shorebased Whiting Season Opening Dates	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
12.	Trawl IFQ	Continue Adaptive Management Program Pass-Through	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
13.	Trawl IFQ	Update eTicket for Web-based Submissions	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
14.	Trawl IFQ	Rule for Redistribution of Excessive Aggregate NonWhiting QS	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
15.	LEFG	Revise Limited Entry Fixed Gear Permit Control Rule	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
16.	LEFG and OA	Require E-Tickets for Sablefish Landings	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
17.	LEFG and OA	Sablefish North of 36 Degrees - Allocation Correction	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
18.	LEFG and OA	Logbooks for Fixed Gear	
19.	OA	Amendment 22 - Open Access License Limitation	Priority 2 <i>Facilitate compliance with Marine Mammal Protection Act, Strategic Plan recommended</i>
B. Immediate and Long-Term Commitments			

	Sector	Short Title	NMFS Priority
<i>Currently on the Year at a Glance Schedule (See Agenda Item C.6.a, Attachment 1)</i>			
20.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Inseason Management (Sept 2014 and beyond, excluding March 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Maintaining catch within harvest limits</i>
21.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Adopt Final Stock Assessment Plan and TOR for 2015 (Sept 2014)	Priority 1 <i>Informs harvest specifications</i>
22.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Develop a COP for Groundfish Methodology Review Process (Nov 2014 and Apr 2015)	
23.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Omnibus Regulations Changes (Sept and Nov 2014, Mar-Sept 2015)	
24.	Tribal, Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Essential Fish Habitat: Phase 3 of the 5 Year Review (April 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Conservation implications</i>
25.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Amendment 25: Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment (Sept 2014 and Mar 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Conservation implications</i>
26.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	2015 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (Sept and Nov 2014) and 2016 CSP (Sept 2015)	In progress <i>(see NMFS Report 1)</i>
27.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	2015 Incidental Regulations for Pacific Halibut (Mar and Apr 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Maintaining catch within harvest limits</i>
³	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Pacific Whiting Harvest Specifications and Set-Asides (April 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Setting harvest specifications</i>
28.	Trawl, Non-trawl, Rec	Stock Assessments for 2017-2018 Biennium (June and Sept 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Informs harvest specifications</i>
29.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Start of the Process to Establish 2017-2018 Specifications and Regulations (June 2015)	Priority 1 <i>Setting harvest specifications</i>
30.	Trawl IFQ & MS	Electronic Monitoring Regulations (Sept and Nov 2014, June 2015)	Priority 1
<i>Items on the Horizon</i>			
31.	Non-Trawl	Discard Mortality Rates for Commercial Nearshore Fisheries (TBD)	
32.	Trawl IFQ, MS, & CP	Five Year Trawl Rationalization Program Review (Starts in 2016)	Priority 1 <i>Compliance with MSA</i>
33.	Trawl IFQ	QS/QP Control Rule - Safe Harbor for Risk Pools - post 5-year review	Post trawl 5-yr review
34.	Trawl IFQ	Resolve Long-term Whiting Surplus Carryover Provision - post 5-year review	Post trawl 5-yr review
C. Candidate Items for Prioritization in September			
35.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Rebuilding Revision Rules (signal vs. noise)	Potential priority <i>Proposed rule on NS1 guideline revisions expected late 2014</i>
36.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Further Consideration for Reorganizing Stock Complexes	Potential priority <i>Dependent on results of stock assessments, revised PSA analysis on risk of overfishing, and new sorting requirements</i>
37.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Groundfish Conservation Areas for Rougheye Rockfish	Post EFH revisions

³ Pacific whiting harvest specifications and set-asides were inadvertently excluded from the list created in June 2014. This item was added to the September 2014 list left unnumbered in order to maintain the numbering established in June.

	Sector	Short Title	NMFS Priority
38.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Post trawl 5-yr review
39.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Increase VMS Ping Rates	Priority 1 <i>Conservation and enforcement implications. Responding to litigation.</i>
40.	Trawl and Non-Trawl (LE)	Eliminate Permit Size Endorsements	Post trawl 5-yr review
41.	Trawl and Non-Trawl	Seabird Avoidance Devices for Vessels less than 55 feet	Potential priority <i>Dependent on research results from SeaGrant and further discussions with USFWS.</i>
42.	Trawl IFQ, MS & CP	Revise Length of Time Required for the Trawl Fleet to Retain Records	
43.	Trawl IFQ (& MS & CP?)	Fishery Declaration Enhancements (With Gear Stowed and Testing Gear)	Post trawl 5-yr review
44.	Trawl IFQ, MS & CP	Year Round Whiting Season and Other Modifications	Post trawl 5-yr review
45.	Trawl IFQ, MS & CP	Revise Regulations on At-Sea and Shoreside Flow Scales	Priority 1 <i>Conservation and enforcement implications</i>
46.	Trawl IFQ	Gear Use - Multiple Gears Onboard and Use	Post trawl 5-yr review
47.	Trawl IFQ and LE Pot	Remove Certain Area-Management Restrictions	Post trawl 5-yr review, Post EFH revisions
48.	Trawl IFQ	Remove Certain Restrictions on Trawl Gear Configuration	Post trawl 5-yr review
49.	Trawl IFQ	Resolve Long-term Non-Whiting Surplus Carryover Provision	Post trawl 5-yr review
50.	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Post trawl 5-yr review
51.	Trawl IFQ	Allow Trading of Previous Year Quota Pounds in Current Year	
52.	Trawl IFQ	Widow Rockfish QS Reallocation	Priority 2 <i>Implements original Am 20 provision (i.e., either reallocate or start trading). Consider outcome of upcoming assessment</i>
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	Post trawl 5-yr review <i>AMP based on need in the program and determined through 5-yr review process</i>
56.	LEFG	Cost Recovery for the Permit Stacking Program	Priority 1 <i>Compliance with MSA</i>
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)	Potential Priority <i>Would reduce discards and, depending on how reallocated, improve safety at sea by changes to derby-style directed fishery</i>
59.	Recreational	50 fm Depth Restriction (WA and OR)	
60.	Recreational	Mid-water Sport Fishery (OR and CA)	Potential Priority <i>Economic benefits to local communities and improves utilization of healthy stocks</i>
61.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Further Consideration for Ecosystem Component Species	

	Sector	Short Title	NMFS Priority
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	
64.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Management Model Review and Refinement	Priority 1 <i>Continue refinements to further improve compliance with NS, including, but not limited to, NS-1, NS-2, and NS-6</i>
65.	Trawl IFQ & MS	Allow Between Sector Transfer of Rockfish QP from IFQ to MS	Post trawl 5-yr review
66.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Post EFH revisions
67.	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Reconsider Blackgill Allocation	Potential priority <i>Should be considered with stock complex reorganization (#36)</i>
68.	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Evaluate Nearshore Management Approaches, Including Deferral	Potential priority <i>Should be considered with stock complex reorganization (#36)</i>
69.	LE FG	Combine the Fixed Gear LE DTL Fishery and Tier Fishery	
70.	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Provide for Retrieval of Derelict Crab Pots in RCAs	
71.	Trawl	Allow Between Sector Transfer of Unneeded Overfished Species	Post trawl 5-yr review
72.	LE FG	Require Permit Price Reporting for LE FG Permit Transfers	
73.	LE FG	Convert Daily Trip Limits to a Tier Endorsement⁴	
74.	LE FG	Combine Longline and Fishpot into a Single Fixed Gear Limited Entry Gear Endorsements	
75.	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Move the Seaward Non-Trawl RCA Line Closer to Shore for Pot Vessels	Post EFH revisions
76.	LE FG	Require All Fishpots be Returned to Shore at the End of Each Trip	Potential priority <i>Dependent on assessment of current regulations</i>

⁴ This item is a duplicate of item #69.