

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
SABLEFISH THREE-TIER PROGRAM, QUALIFICATION WITH SETNET LANDINGS

Mr. Jim Seger presented two proposals to the Scientific and Statistical (SSC) regarding the application of setnet landings from exempted fishing permits (EFPs - also called experimental fishing permits) to the current three-tier cumulative limit system for the primary limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery. Alternative 1 (status quo) keeps vessel limits based on past sablefish landings using fishpots or longlines regardless of vessel participation in experimental setnet fishing for sablefish. Alternative 2 gives vessels credit for setnet landings taken under EFPs from 1984-1987. Credit for EFP setnet landings is primarily an issue of permit allocation with no significant habitat or biological impacts. Under alternative 2, a single vessel would move from tier 2 to tier 1, which would decrease the cumulative limit for tier 1 permit holders by less than 1%. There is an incentive issue involved since the affected vessel incurred costs by participating in the experimental setnet sablefish fishery. Giving credit for landings would encourage participation in other experimental programs.

PFMC
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