

SABLEFISH THREE-TIER PROGRAM, QUALIFICATION WITH SETNET LANDINGS

Situation: In June 1999, the Council requested the preparation of a regulatory package on the issue of whether or not to consider setnet landings in the assignment of sablefish-endorsed permits to tiers. However, it was not until April 2001 that the production of the analysis was given a high enough priority to move it forward in the process. The availability of the draft analysis was announced in May, and the announcement and a synopsis of the analysis was distributed to all fixed gear sablefish permit holders (Attachment 1). The attached announcement provides additional background on the issue currently before the Council. Final Council action has been scheduled for this meeting.

Council Action: Final action on whether or not to allow setnet landings to count toward qualifying for a tier level in the fixed gear sablefish three-tier management system. (MOTION MUST BE IN WRITING.)

Reference Materials:

1. Availability Notice: "Use of Sablefish Setnet Landings To Qualify for Fixed Gear Sablefish Tiered Cumulative Limits, May 15, 2001, Notice of Availability of Analysis, Schedule for Final Decision, and Synopsis of Analysis" (Exhibit C.2, Attachment 1).
2. Analysis: *Use of Sablefish Setnet Landings To Qualify for Fixed Gear Sablefish Tiered Cumulative Limits Including Environmental Assessment, Regulatory Impact Review, and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis*. **PLEASE BRING YOUR COPY WITH YOU.**

PFMC
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