

PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF TRAWL INDIVIDUAL QUOTA (IQ) PROGRAMS

The Council will address consideration of a trawl IQ program (dedicated access privilege program) in two pieces: one is the design of the program, the other is the establishment of allocations of groundfish between the limited entry trawl and other groundfish fisheries. These two issues will be dealt with in separate but related EISs, as reflected in the attached table showing the phases of the process and milestones to be achieved. The Council has complete the Phase I preliminary scoping process for dedicated access privilege alternatives and has moved forward to the Phase I public scoping .

There are numerous groups involved in the process and substantial opportunity for public comment and involvement. An important component of the process design is the division of responsibilities between the Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota Committee (TIQ Committee) and the Council's standing Allocation Committee. The TIQ Committee will deal with those design elements of individual quota program alternatives that are primarily internal to the trawl fishery, the Council Allocation Committee will deal with those issues directly affecting other sectors (e.g. allocation between trawl and other sectors). Another important aspect of the process is the limited scope of the TIQ Committee task. The TIQ Committee is tasked with helping the Council with preliminary scoping and design of a trawl IQ program alternative for analysis in the EIS based on the expertise and knowledge of the participants on the committee. In weighing the TIQ Committee recommendation, the Council will need to take into account the interests represented on the committee. Other Council groups and the public will have a significant role in the design and review of alternatives to be developed for the EIS (Table 2).

The second part of the situation paper (Exhibit C.9) describes details of the process that will take the Council up through selection of a set of alternatives for preliminary analysis. The attached figure provides a schematic representation of that process and its continuation through the first two steps of Phase II. Time goes from top to bottom. The first column (squares) is for the public scoping process and Council meetings. The second column (diamonds) shows meetings of the TIQ Committee. The third column (ovals) shows meetings and work by the TIQ Analytical Team and contractors. The fourth column (rounded squares) shows meetings of the Independent Experts Panel. The last column (hexagons) shows meetings of the TIQ Enforcement Group, Allocation Committee, and efforts of a consultant working on data system design issues. The shaded shapes represent that portion of the effort for which funding has not been secured.

Table 1. Process for consideration of trawl individual quota (dedicated access) programs.

Phase I		Phase II			
Subproject Phase and Milestones	EIS Drafting and Finalization				
Consideration of Dedicated Access Alternatives	Preliminary Alternative Development		Alternatives for Draft EIS Selected	Draft EIS Development	Public Comment Period and Final Decision
Intersector Allocation	Preliminary Scoping	Public Scoping and Preliminary Analysis	Public Scoping	Alternative Development and Preliminary Analysis	Finalize EIS
	Preliminary Scoping: Assessment of scope of allocation issue to be addressed				

Phase III		Phase IV	
Subproject Phase and Milestones	Final Implementation		
Consideration of Dedicated Access Alternatives	NMFS Final Decision and Initial Implementation Steps		NMFS Final Decision and Implementation
Intersector Allocation	EIS Drafting and Finalization	Public Comment Period and Final Decision	
	Draft EIS Development	Pref Alt Selection	Final EIS
		Public Comment Period and Final Decision	

Table 2. Council groups involved in consideration of trawl individual quota (dedicated access) programs.

Group	Representation	Lead Role	Other Review of Products from Lead Group (Column 1)	Public Comment Opportunity
1 Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota (TIQ) Committee	Trawlers, Processors, Tribes, Environmental, Enforcement, PSMFC	IFQ Alternative Development (excluding intersector allocation issues)	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, Council	Comment on committee reports at Council meetings, some opportunity to comment to committees during committee meetings.
2 TIQ Enforcement Group	State and Federal (NMFS, USCG) Enforcement, NOAA General Council (GC), NMFS NWR	Scoping Enforcement Issues, Developing Enforcement Programs and Assessing Enforcement Costs	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, Council	
3 TIQ Independent Experts Panel	University Experts (fishery management biology, economics, and human dimensions experts)	Independent Review of Impacts and Identification of Reasonable Options for Council Consideration	1, 4, 6, 7, 8, Council	
4 TIQ Analytical Team	NMFS, CDFG, Consultants	Development of Analysis	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Council	
5 Allocation Committee	Council Chair, State Agencies, NMFS, NOAA GC	Intersector Allocation Alternative Development	1, 4, 6, 7, 8, Council	
6 Scientific and Statistical Committee	States, NMFS Science Centers, Tribes, at-large	Technical Review	Council	
7 Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP)	Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Industry, Tribes, and Environmental Interest	Constituent Advice to Council on Groundfish Issues	Council	
8 Groundfish Management Team	State, Federal and Tribal Management Agencies	Management Advice to Council on Groundfish Issue	Council	
Council	Voting Members: State, Federal and Tribal Management Agencies and Secretarial Appointees	Policy Decisions/ Recommendations	NMFS	Direct comment to Council during scoping and at decision points. Direct comment to NMFS

Figure: Trawl IQ Process: Phase I through 1st Steps of Phase II

