

TRAWL INDIVIDUAL QUOTA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This agenda overview will cover matters associated with public scoping, relevant events between the June and September Council meetings, and next steps in the process for considering a trawl individual quota (TIQ) program (Agendum C.11.a, Attachment 1).

The Council scoping information document was released in June 2004 (Agendum C.11.a, Attachment 2) and the formal public scoping period for an environmental impact statement (EIS) on individual fishing quotas for the trawl fishery ended August 2, 2004. Three public scoping hearings were held, 17 people testified, and 9 written comments were received. The comments are provided as Agendum C.11.b, Formal Scoping Period Comments. In addition to comments received during the formal scoping period, input can continue to be received and considered as the TIQ program and accompanying EIS are developed. As with all Council processes under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, opportunity for additional public participation and comment will be provided throughout the process of Council deliberation. Therefore, as the process continues the Council will consider additional public comment as it refines the alternatives and develops the EIS.

On June 28, 2004, staff from Washington Senator Patty Murray and Oregon Senator Gordon Smith convened a meeting of the Ad Hoc TIQ Committee (TIQC) and Council staff in Portland, Oregon to discuss concerns they had about the process and representation on the committee, in the context of their consideration of a specific additional appropriation to support further development of the EIS. In response to a briefing on the results of the meeting, Council Chair Don Hansen announced the appointment of Ms. Ginny Goblirsch to the committee, as a dedicated seat to represent coastal communities. Adding seats for additional processors and environmental groups was also discussed, but the Chairman elected not to do so. He expressed concern that expanding the committee beyond eighteen members would threaten the committee's ability to function. To address questions of seat parity between various processor and fishing representatives as it may affect committee votes, he has asked the TIQC to review the voting rules relative to options of consensus or majority/minority reports as a replacement of the current super majority rules. A related letter has been received from some members of the TIQC (Agendum C.11.d, Public Comment). Issues directly affecting nontrawl sectors will be taken up in the setting of the Allocation Committee rather than the Ad Hoc TIQC.

The Ad Hoc TIQ Analytical Team met July 1-2, 2004 and September 7-8, 2004 to plan analysis of issues that will need to be addressed regardless of the specific design of the TIQ program.

At the September Council meeting, the Council should consider three potential tasks. First, the Council may want to identify any alternatives or design element options it would like to see considered that are not covered in current documents. Second, the Council may wish to state any particular issues or questions on which it would like advisory body advice and comment at the November meeting (noting that refinement of the EIS scope, including selection of alternatives for preliminary analysis, is scheduled for the November Council meeting). Third, at the June 2004 meeting the Council discussed whether the composition of the Ad Hoc Allocation Committee should be adjusted for the specific tasks associated with the trawl fishery IQ EIS. The Council should,

therefore, consider two aspects of the Ad Hoc Allocation Committee role in the EIS effort, specifically, (1) whether the current committee composition is sufficient or a specialized work group with broader representation should be appointed and (2) when this committee or work group should meet. A draft proposed agenda for the next Ad Hoc Allocation Committee or work group meeting on this subject is attached (Agendum C.11.a, Attachment 3).

Between the September and the November Council meetings the following steps will be taken:

Ad Hoc TIQ Independent Experts Panel	September 22 and 23	Meet to review scoping comments and identify additional options that should be considered by the Council.
Ad Hoc TIQ Enforcement Group	September 28	Meet to identify status quo enforcement costs and develop an example estimate of costs for enforcing a generic IQ program based on the 5 monitoring and enforcement programs included in the June 2004 scoping information document.
Ad Hoc Allocation Committee	To be announced; may be postponed until after the November Council Meeting.	Meet to conduct preliminary scoping of between sector allocation issues (historic data to be provided).
Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota Committee	Week of October 25	Meet to review scoping and analysis.

These steps are reflected in the unshaded cells of Attachment 1. Additionally, the Groundfish Management Team will convene during the week of the September Council meeting for a work session on the scoping information document and to discuss projections of the status quo against which IQ and other alternatives will be compared.

At its November meeting, the Council is scheduled to review the scoping results and provide initial options for preliminary analysis over the course of the winter. Some background data pertinent to the options and analysis of some issues pertinent to any IQ program the Council might consider will be provided from the Ad Hoc TIQ Analytical Team. Reports should be expected from the above advisory bodies that meet in late September and October.

Topics that may be covered in the Ad Hoc TIQ Analytical Team analysis include (1) the need for area management (biological and socioeconomic), (2) an assessment of bycatch in the trawl fishery and the IQ program design factors which influence the impact of such programs on bycatch, (3) a description of status quo and current management measures likely to remain in place if IQs are implemented, (4) some generic indicators of the scale of economic activities associated with the trawl industry and potentially affected by an IQ program, (5) indicators of potential program costs

and efficiency gains, and (6) data summaries pertaining to initial allocation options thus far identified.

Council Tasks:

1. Provide guidance as necessary on further defining the scope of the EIS effort by expanding the list of alternatives and design element options.
2. Provide guidance to advisory bodies on particular issues and questions on which the Council would like advice at the November Council meeting.
3. Provide guidance on the composition of the Ad Hoc Allocation Committee in the context of responsibilities associated with the TIQ EIS and when the committee should meet.

Reference Materials:

1. Agendum C.11.a, Attachment 1: Trawl IQ Process: Phase I through 1st Steps of Phase II.
2. Agendum C.11.a, Attachment 2: Information for Public Scoping of Dedicated Access Privileges for the Pacific Coast Limited Entry Trawl Groundfish Fishery.
3. Agendum C.11.a, Attachment 3: Draft Proposed Agenda for Next Ad Hoc Allocation Committee Meeting and Meeting Schedule.
4. Agendum C.11.b, Formal Scoping Summary: Formal Scoping Period Comments on Dedicated Access Privileges (Individual Quotas) for the Pacific Coast Limited Entry Trawl Groundfish Fishery.
5. Agendum C.11.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Summary of Scoping
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Guidance on Process, As Necessary

Jim Seger

PFMC
08/31/04