

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
TRAWL INDIVIDUAL QUOTA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an update from Mr. Jim Seger of the Council staff on the trawl groundfish individual quota (TIQ) process. Since the GAP had provided comments on the scoping document in June and the public comments received during the scoping process have covered the range of issues, the GAP decided not to provide further comments on the document.

The GAP spent a considerable amount of time discussing how to begin the process of inter-sector allocations. The GAP had recommended in June that the inter-sector allocation process be expedited. The GAP examined the positive and negative aspects of using the Council's existing Ad Hoc Allocation Committee versus creating a new committee. The unanimous recommendation of the GAP is as follows:

1. Create a new ad-hoc inter-sector allocation committee with the following structure -
 - 2 limited entry trawl representatives
 - 2 limited entry fixed gear representatives
 - 2 recreational representatives
 - 1 open access representative
 - 1 processor representative
 - 1 tribal representative
 - a neutral, non-voting moderator/chairman

In choosing the trawl, fixed gear, and recreational representatives, the GAP expects the Council to provide appropriate representation within in each sector (e.g., one pot fishing and one longline fishing representative; one charter and one private sport representative).

2. The members of the committee should be chosen with the advice of the GAP.
3. The charge of the committee is to recommend inter-sector groundfish allocations on all groundfish species/complexes except sablefish and Pacific whiting. In the case of sablefish, an exhaustive allocation process has already taken place and need not be repeated. In the case of whiting, the fishery is entirely harvested by trawl, and an intra-fishery sector allocation is in place.
4. The charge of the committee is further clarified as providing recommendations on allocations between trawl and nontrawl sectors as a first priority, so allocation issues among nontrawl sectors do not hold up development of a TIQ program.

The GAP believes this new committee structure is the most appropriate path to take, as there is a need for a level of expertise and experience with each of the sectors on the committee. We strongly recommend the Council adopt this structure and process.

PFMC

09/16/04