

TIQ PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The Council entered into considering an individual fishing quotas (IFQ) system for the trawl fishery at its September 2003 meeting and received summaries of the public scoping results at its September and November 2004 meetings. At this meeting the Council is scheduled to formally conclude the NEPA scoping process with the adoption of a set of alternatives for analysis in the draft IFQ environmental impact statement (EIS). The Council will also be asked when to initiate public scoping for an EIS on intersector allocations. Figure 2 at the end of Attachment 1 shows an overview of the IFQ decision process.

On Monday, there will be an informational briefing on the trawl IFQ program under Agenda Item C.1, which will not be repeated under this agenda item. Figure 1 of Attachment 1 provides the Council with a guide to the decisions needed to complete the Council tasks on this agenda item. In addition to the primary task of adopting a set of alternatives, Council members should identify impacts they would like addressed in the EIS that are not already covered near the end of Attachment 1 (Task V) and decide on a schedule for formally announcing scoping and intent to prepare an intersector allocation EIS (Task VI). In addition to its utility in for an IFQ program, such allocational analyses are needed for implementation of the programmatic bycatch EIS (upcoming Amendment 18 to the groundfish plan) and could be used to support the future biennial groundfish specifications processes.

The conclusion of the TIQC report (attached as Agenda Item C.5.b, TIQC Report) provides a comprehensive set of recommendations on the large volume of materials, with the exception of whether or not there are additions to the list of impacts that should be covered (Task V) and timing for the formal announcement of scoping for the intersector allocation EIS (Task VI).

Funding for further work on the groundfish TIQ EIS, beyond Council staff coordination functions and NMFS staff contributions to the Analytical Team, is not now available. However, Council planning should proceed with the presumption that additional funding will be forthcoming. If no further funding is forthcoming, progress on the TIQ program development will essentially stall or be substantially delayed after collation of the June Council meeting decisions.

Council Decision:

1. Specify alternatives for analysis in an EIS and identify any impacts that should be addressed not already covered in Section 2.2 of Attachment 2.
2. Decide on timing for the initiation of public scoping for an EIS on intersector allocations.

Reference Materials:

1. Guide to Council Decision Process for Trawl IFQs (June 2005 Meeting) (C.5.a, Attachment 1)
2. Overview of IFQ Program Design Elements (C.5.a, Attachment 2)
3. National Environmental Policy Act Scoping Results Document: *Individual Fishing Quotas (A Kind of Dedicated Access Privilege) And Other Catch Control Tools For The Pacific Coast Limited Entry Trawl Groundfish Fishery* (C.5.a, Attachment 3)
4. Appendices H (Background Analysis) and I (Summary of Public Comment) of the Scoping Results Document (on CD)

5. Ad Hoc Trawl Individual Quota Committee Report (C.5.b, TIQC Report)
6. Groundfish Management Team Report (C.5.c, Groundfish Management Team Report)
7. Ad Hoc Allocation Committee Minutes (C.5.c, Allocation Committee Report)
8. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report (C.5.c, SSC Report)
9. Public Comment (C.5.d, Public Comment)

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Ad Hoc Groundfish TIQ Committee
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Approve a Range of Alternatives for Analysis and Public Review

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