

Groundfish Allocation Committee Report

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel
Cascade Room
8235 N.E. Airport Way
Portland, Oregon 97220
February 22, 2008

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Donald Hansen, Dana Wharf Sport Fishing, Pacific Fishery Management Council Chairman
Dr. David Hanson, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Ms. Gway Kirchner, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Representative
Ms. Michele Culver, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Representative
Ms. Marija Vojkovich, California Department of Fish and Game Representative
Mr. Frank Lockhart, National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Regional Office, NMFS Representative

Non-voting Advisors Present:

Mr. Pete Leipzig, Limited Entry Trawl Representative
Ms. Heather Mann, Shoreside Processor Representative
Mr. Shems Jud, Conservation Representative
Mr. Robert Osborn, Recreational Representative
Ms. Michele Longo-Eder, Limited Entry Fixed Gear Representative
Mr. Tom Ghio, Open Access Representative
Mr. Dan Waldeck, At-sea Processor Representative
Ms. Eileen Cooney, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) General Counsel

Others Present:

Mr. L.B. Boydston, Pacific Fishery Management Council Consultant
Mr. Rod Moore, West Coast Seafood Processors Association, Council Member
Dr. Donald McIsaac, Pacific Fishery Management Council Executive Director
Mr. Corey Niles, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, GMT Member
Ms. Heather Reed, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, GMT Member
Ms. Joanna Grebel, California Department of Fish and Game, GMT Member
Mr. Robert Jones, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, GMT Member
Mr. Jim Seger, Pacific Fishery Management Council Staff
Mr. John DeVore, Pacific Fishery Management Council Staff
Ms. Heather Brandon, Pacific Fishery Management Council Staff
Ms. Kelly Ames, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, GMT Member
Mr. Marion Larkin, Washington Trawl, GAP Member
Mr. Dayna Mathews, NOAA Office for Law Enforcement
Ms. Laura Pagano, Natural Resources Defense Council

Mr. Steve Bodnar, Coos Bay Trawlers Association and Bandon Submarine Cable Committee
Mr. Randy Fisher, Pacific State Marine Fisheries Commission
Mr. Bill James, Open Access Fisherman
Mr. William Daspit
Ms. Lucia Morici

The Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) identified the following issues regarding Amendment 22: Open Access Limitation: Adopt Alternatives for Public Review (Agenda Item F.4, March 2008).

- Consider Amendment 22 Open Access Limitation alternatives at the March 2008 Council meeting.
- Consider selecting a preliminary preferred alternative at the September 2008 Council meeting with a final preferred alternative at a future Council meeting in order to facilitate a 2010 implementation goal.
- The intent of the range of alternatives before the Council in March is to provide program elements that can be combined in order to create a preferred alternative with acceptable elements.
- Some draft alternatives allow use of both a “B” permit and an “A” permit on the same vessel during the same year, and other draft alternatives do not.
- Some GAC members felt that the goal of Amendment 22 should be to limit capacity to current levels, while others stated that the intent of the proposed program should be to reduce the number of participants in that fishery.
- There may be an issue for someone who has fished a small amount of groundfish in nearshore waters in Oregon and California. Nearshore groundfish species are not counted towards the landings history of an individual fisherman. Currently, as it is written in the Environmental Assessment, someone who targets nearshore groundfish species and made one landing of any amount of a “B” permit species, regardless of the proportion of contribution of “B” permit species in the landings, would get a “B” permit. This effect may have a coastwide permit allocation implication depending on how the program is developed and implemented.
- Uniformity in tracking the landings history is lacking across Washington, Oregon, and California. Oregon records catch history by vessel, Washington records catch history by individual, and California uses both. The Council may wish to provide guidance to help the three states achieve uniformity, such as calling the entity used for tracking the “permit holder,” and defining permit holder as an individual or a vessel.
- There are allocation issues depending on how the qualification criteria for “B” permits are set up, which warrants further analysis.

PFMC
03/05/08