

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON AMENDMENT 20: TRAWL RATIONALIZATION ALTERNATIVES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed the current options for the trawl rationalization program and has the following recommendations:

1. The GAP supports the Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) recommendations to manage both at-sea whiting sectors with co-ops and the shoreside whiting and shoreside non-whiting fisheries with individual quotas (IQs).
2. The GAP supports the GAC recommendation to combine the shoreside whiting and shoreside non-whiting fishery into one shoreside sector. (Reference A-1.3 from Agenda Item F.6.a. Attachment 1)
3. A majority of the GAP supports the GAC recommendation to adopt an adaptive management program for all sectors (Reference A-3 from Agenda Item F.6.a. Attachment 1).
 - a. A majority of the GAP recommends that the adaptive management be clearly defined and include a sunset date.
4. The GAP supports the Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota Committee (TIQC) recommendations for species coverage and secondary management tools (Reference Agenda Item F.6.d, TIQC Report, pages 1 and 2)
5. The GAP supports the GAC recommendation to include an equal sharing element in the initial allocation formula (as it relates to buyback history). (Reference A.2.1.3a Option 2 of Agenda Item F.6.a. Alternatives page 39).
6. The GAP supports the GAC recommendation that bycatch rates should be used to allocate bycatch of severely depleted species (i.e. cowcod and yelloweye).
7. A majority of the GAP supports the TIQC recommendations for the accumulation limits and grandfather clause. (Reference Agenda Item F.6.d. pages 3 & 4).
8. The GAP is not supportive of the area management approach. Restricting vessels and their movement as well as restricting transfer of bycatch limits the flexibility of individual fishermen. The GAP does not believe there is biological evidence for such restrictions at this time. With the equal sharing component supported above, under initial allocation of quota shares individuals will receive quota for species they have never caught or will need in the future and an area management approach may limit their flexibility.

9. The majority of the GAP does not support implementing fixed terms and auctions (Reference Agenda Item F.6.a. Attachment 1, page 5, Section A-6). Fixed terms and auctions degrade the sense of stewardship and value of the quota share. Participants believe they should not have to “buy” back the shares they may have already purchased through the first term of the program and shares will lose value as the term sunsets or an auction nears.
10. The majority of the GAP supports the TIQC recommendation to suspend the length endorsement. (Reference Agenda Item F.6.d, TIQC Report, page 4).
11. The GAP supports the TIQC recommendation to prohibit QS transfers in the first year of the program. (Reference Agenda Item F.6.d, TIQC Report, page 5).
12. The GAP supports the TIQC recommendation to consider an appeals process when an individual has an overage that is difficult to cover because of limited QS availability or excessive prohibitive cost. (Reference Agenda Item F.6.d, TIQC Report, page 5).

The GAP chose not to address the initial allocation to processors or processor linkages in co-ops due to the contention of these issues which have been previously vetted through the process and will likely be addressed through public comment on this agenda item.

PFMC
06/10/08