

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON FMP AMENDMENT  
20 – TRAWL RATIONALIZATION – ANALYSIS PARAMETERS FOR ADAPTIVE  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a briefing on the analysis parameters for the adaptive management program (AMP) from Ms. Heather Brandon and Mr. Merrick Burden. Both the Council Staff White Paper and Supplemental Staff Report (Agenda Item F.5.a) highlight several important issues that need to be decided and analyzed for the program. The SSC is not able to comment on analyses until the goals and objectives of the program are determined and the design parameters and analyses are further developed.

Nevertheless, the SSC highlighted several aspects of the program that may be particularly important.

1. If the program is intended to address unintended consequences associated with rationalization, those consequences will not be fully known until after rationalization occurs. These consequences may be different in the early periods of rationalization than in later periods after the industry has adjusted to the trawl individual quota program. Therefore, flexibility may be a desirable design feature.
2. The AMP currently states that up to 10 percent of quota pounds can be reserved for the program. The Council will need goals and objectives, as well as the corresponding analysis, to determine the appropriate percentage of the quota to be used in the AMP.
3. Given that 10 percent of the quota is the maximum amount that may be allocated to an AMP, spreading this amount across too many programs could lead to diminished program results.