

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO RECOMMENDATIONS ON AMENDING THE
GROUNDFISH FMP TO INCORPORATE THE TRAWL RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM

The following changes to amendatory language in Attachment 3 are proposed to clarify the relationship between the detailed description of the trawl rationalization program that will be included in Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Appendix E (which will be in the form shown in Agenda Item E.10.a, Attachment 2 as updated to incorporate the Council's final action) and implementation of the program in Federal regulations. Appendix E describes the program and regulations would be consistent with that description.

Proposed changes to Attachment 3:

1. A sentence would be added to the end of the paragraph in Chapter 1 of the FMP describing the appendices (see pages 1-2 of Attachment 3):

Appendix E contains a detailed description of the trawl rationalization program (see Section 6.9.3.1).

2. Changes proposed for Section 6.9.3.1 are shown other side of this sheet, which reproduces page 4 of Attachment 3, with those changes as incorporated.

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in a sector-endorsed fishery may be subject to sector total catch limit management. A sector endorsement, whether it is applied to vessels that already hold limited entry permits or to those in the open access or recreational fisheries, is a license limitation program.

6.9.3 Fishery Rationalization Individual Fishing Quota

6.9.3.1 The Trawl Rationalization Programs

The trawl rationalization program applies to vessels holding trawl-endorsed groundfish limited entry permits (and mothership processors registered to mothership permits). The program is intended to reduce fishery capacity, minimize bycatch, and meet other goals of the FMP. The program replaces most cumulative landing limits (in both whiting and nonwhiting shoreside limited entry trawl sectors) with individual fishing quotas. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, “an ‘individual fishing quota’ means a Federal permit under a limited access system to harvest a quantity of fish, expressed by a unit or units representing a percentage of the total allowable catch of a fishery that may be received or held for exclusive use by a person.” The Council may establish IFQ programs for any commercial fishery sector. ~~IFQ programs would be established for the purposes of reducing fishery capacity, minimizing bycatch, and to meet other goals of the FMP. Participants in an IFQ fishery may be subject to individual total catch limit management (Section 6.7.1).~~The Pacific whiting mothership sector is managed through a system of cooperatives (co-ops) under which catcher vessels choosing to fish in a co-op would be obligated to deliver their catch to an associated mothership processor. Each year motherships and catcher vessels must identify which co-op they plan to participate in. If they do not plan to join a co-op for that year they participate in a non-co-op fishery. The Pacific whiting catcher-processor sector operates as a single, voluntary co-op. If the voluntary catcher-processor co-op dissolves any allocation to the sector will be divided equally among the catcher-processor endorsed permits.

Appendix E describes the details of the trawl rationalization program, which ~~are also specified~~will be implemented in Federal regulations at ~~feitel~~.

The trawl rationalization program described in Appendix E may be modified through regulatory amendments proposed by the Council per §303(c) of the MSA and reviewed by the Secretary per §304(b). Appendix E may be revised from time to time to reflect changes to the program ~~as specified in regulations~~, but such changes can be made without submitting such changes for review by the Secretary as described in §304(a) of the MSA. The Council will establish a process for considering recommended changes to the regulations.

6.9.3.2 Rationalization of Other Fishery Sectors

IFQ programs could be established in other fishery sectors for the purposes of reducing fishery capacity, minimizing bycatch, and to meet other goals of the FMP. Participants in an IFQ fishery may be subject to individual total catch limit management (Section 6.7.1).

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