

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM FMP AMENDMENT 20-TRAWL  
RATIONALIZATION-FINAL ACTION FOR  
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In April 2009, the Council adopted two options for the first two years of the trawl rationalization program. The first option is a pass through in years 1 and 2 of the trawl rationalization program, while the second option directed the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to develop a simple formulaic approach that could be used in years 1 and/or 2. For years 3 through 5 the Council specified a formulaic approach for years 3 through 5 (whereupon the first review of the program would occur). The GMT presented a report (Agenda Item E.12.b GMT Report) at the May 2009 Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) meeting which discussed a variety of uses for the adaptive management pounds. In that we note tradeoffs between establishing a mechanism designed to address harm in years 1 and 2 versus year 3 that the Council should consider.

Although the GAC recommended a pass through option for the adaptive management program (AMP) in years 1 and 2 of the trawl rationalization program they also requested the GMT further analyze mechanisms to address harm, particularly unforeseen consequences, inseason during these first two years.

As discussed in the GMT report, by definition addressing unforeseen/unintended consequences is not easily accomplished, or perhaps even possible through a simple formula-based approach. To address unforeseen impacts inseason the Council would need some mechanism to recognize, quantify, and then mitigate against harm with AMP quota pounds. Doing this in the first year would require some midseason process. Alternatively, the Council could try to respond to harm that occurred in first year during the second year of the program.

In general the GMT believes that responding to unforeseen consequences may create administrative and process difficulties. However, if the Council wishes to retain a tool to mitigate potential harm or unforeseen consequences, the GMT recommends that the Council utilize the holdback proposal presented by the GMT under Agenda Item E.10, as this tool could be used to address unforeseen consequences within one or more of the trawl sectors, but also for one or more of the non-trawl sectors.

PFMC  
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