

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 20 – TRAWL RATIONALIZATION  
REGULATION LANGUAGE REVIEW AND  
MISCELLANEOUS IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS

The Council adopted its final recommendations on trawl rationalization at its June 2009 meeting (E.6.a, Attachment 1). Over the summer, the Council staff has been working to update the preliminary draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to reflect the Council's final action and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region (NWR) has been reviewing the Council action and the updated draft EIS.

At this meeting, NMFS is scheduled to present the Council with an update on the implementation process, including any regulatory language it has developed and any initial questions that may have arisen regarding Council intent (Agenda Item E.6.b, NMFS Report).

Following this meeting, the approval process calls for the following to occur this fall: continued review of and revisions to the draft EIS, transmittal of the draft EIS to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the start of the public comment period on the draft EIS (to commence upon EPA publication of the notice of availability of the document). The Council's Amendment 20 recommendations are tentatively scheduled for official transmittal in the spring of 2010. Assuming the Council recommendations are approved, it is anticipated that the program will be implemented at the start of the 2011.

Directly following the June Council meeting, the Council staff released to permit holders the analysis estimates of quota share (QS) allocations for each permit and an example conversion of those QS to quota pounds based on application of trawl allocations to the 2010 OYs. After release of the QS estimates used in the analysis, many permit owners expressed substantial concern about the initial QS allocation. In response to these concerns an "airing" session is scheduled to occur Saturday morning (September 12) at the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel meeting. There has been some talk among industry representatives about asking that the Council reconsider the initial allocation formula. Public testimony to the Council on this issue may also come up under the open public comment period just prior to this agenda item. If the Council decides to reopen this issue, it could not do so at this meeting but would have to take the matter up under Agenda Item J.4, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning, and schedule the question of reconsideration on Amendment 20 for a subsequent meeting.

**Council Task:**

1. Review NMFS submissions and respond to questions.

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item E.6.a, Attachment 1: Appendix D Council Preferred Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Alternative.
2. Agenda Item E.6.b, NMFS Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Jim Seger, Kit Dahl, Merrick Burden
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance as Appropriate

PFMC  
08/24/09

Z:\!PFMC\MEETING\2009\September\Groundfish\E6\_SitSum\_TRat.doc