

BLACKGILL AND SLOPE ROCKFISH QUOTA SHARE ALLOCATION

The Council is contemplating a restructuring of the Slope Rockfish complex south of 40°10' N lat. by removing blackgill rockfish from the complex and managing that stock with stock-specific harvest specifications. This initiative is being considered out of concern for the future status of the stock given its relatively low productivity and precautionary status (the stock was estimated to have a depletion of 30% at the start of 2011, which is below the management target of 40%). Currently, non-trawl targeting is minimized by specification of low cumulative landing limits for blackgill; however, trawl fishermen fishing in the individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery are targeting blackgill using their southern Slope Rockfish quota. The initiative contemplates managing trawl impacts of blackgill rockfish south of 40°10' N lat. with stock-specific quota.

In April, the Council adopted a range of sector allocation and quota share (QS) allocation alternatives proposed by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP); (see [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report, April 2015](#)) for detailed analysis. Included in that range of alternatives is an alternative basis for determining QS allocations to limited entry (LE) trawl permits using more recent (2003-2014) catch histories. The default QS allocation mechanism when restructuring a stock complex that is managed using trawl IFQs is an LE permit receives the same QS percentage for the removed species as is currently allocated for the entire complex. For instance, if an LE permit now has 1% of the southern Slope Rockfish quota, that permit would be allocated 1% of the trawl allocation of blackgill and 1% of the trawl allocation of the remaining species in the complex. While the default mechanism will work in this case, the alternative QS allocation mechanism recommended by the GAP may not. Attachment 1 provides the reasons this may be an untenable proposition. The National Marine Fisheries Service provides their recommendations on this item in Agenda Item D.9.a, NMFS Report.

The Council task at this meeting is to understand the potential effect of this new alternative and consider refining the range of QS allocation alternatives decided for detailed analysis. The Council is expected to receive comments from the Groundfish Management Team, the GAP, and the public to inform their decision on this matter. The Council is scheduled to adopt the final preferred alternative for this initiative at their September meeting.

Council Action:

Refine the range of alternatives for blackgill and southern Slope Rockfish quota share allocations.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.9, Attachment 1: Challenges in the Reallocation of Slope Rockfish Quota Shares.
2. Agenda Item D.9.a, NMFS Report: National Marine Fisheries Service Report on Blackgill and Slope Rockfish Quota Share Allocation.

Agenda Order:

- D.9 Blackgill and Slope Rockfish Quota Share Allocation John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Refine Alternatives for Blackgill and Slope Rockfish Quota Share Allocation

PFMC
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