

**CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW: COMMENTS ON NATIONAL GUIDANCE AND PRELIMINARY PLAN FOR WEST COAST TRAWL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW**

The Council is scheduled to begin its review process for the Amendment 20 trawl catch share program (trawl rationalization) at its June 2016 meeting. This process will be carried out as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and provisions of Amendment 20. Part of the context for this review includes national guidance on catch share program reviews that is currently under development. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released the first draft of this guidance just before the November 2015 Council meeting. While the Council did not have a place on its agenda for full consideration of that draft, it authorized a letter containing initial comments developed by Council staff and augmented by comments from the Scientific and Statistical Committee. That letter is provided here as Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1. At the February 2016 Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting, NMFS provided a PowerPoint overview of the “Draft Guidance for Conducting Reviews of Catch Share Programs,” which also contained a summarization of the concerns of all of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) that deal with catch share programs (Agenda Item C.3.a, NMFS PowerPoint). In response to the concerns of the RFMCs, NMFS is developing revisions to this guidance, which will be presented first at the May 2016 CCC meeting, and then be made available to the Council for review at its June 2016 meeting. At this April Council meeting, the Council should review the slides of the PowerPoint overview, including the slides describing NMFS’ initial response to the concerns of the RFMC and the NMFS perspective on analysis emphasis, and provide guidance, as appropriate, for the Council’s delegation to the May CCC meeting.

Over the winter, Council and NMFS staff worked together to develop a joint funding proposal to cover costs of the Amendment 20 catch share program review, as per the Council-approved Budget Committee recommendation. In March, the Council received word that the proposal was being favorably considered, including \$516,286 for the Council. For budget development purposes the proposal included:

- A community advisory body (CAB) (as specified in Amendment 20)
- Two sets of nine coastal hearings
- Council member compensation and travel for hearings
- Compensation and travel for state agency participants on a technical workgroup
- Council staff and contractor time and travel
- Meeting space, goods, and supplies

The following is the schedule and process used for advance planning purposes.

Quarter	2016	2017	2018
1		CAB Webinar	Hrgs
2	J-CM, Set Process	J-CM, Rev 1 <sup>st</sup> Prelim Draft	M/A CM, Finalize Review; Final Editing
3	S-CM, Scoping; Hrgs; CAB	S-CM, Rev 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prelim Draft; CAB mtg	J-CM – Omnibus Process Starts for
4	N-CM, Directions to Drafters	N-CM, Approve Public Review Draft, CAB Web	Amendatory Actions

(CM = Council meeting; J = June; S = Sept; N = Nov; M/A = Mar or Apr; Hrgs = hearings; Rev = review)

At its June meeting the Council is scheduled to set a process and schedule for the review.

In addition to the Amendment 20 catch share program review, in Amendment 21 the Council committed to a review of intersector allocations at the time of the catch share program review: “All intersector allocations will be formally reviewed along with the formal review of the trawl rationalization program five years after implementation of Amendments 20 and 21.” Funding has not yet been identified for a review of the intersector allocations. However, at the June meeting, Council staff will propose that intersector allocation issues can be scoped during the hearings on the catch share program review at little additional cost. If this approach is taken, then at its November meeting the Council would decide how to proceed on intersector allocation (pending the identification of needed resources). At this meeting, no formal action is required on these plans and proposals; however, the Council should discuss expectations for the June Council Meeting agenda item, when formal decision-making would begin.

**Council Action:**

1. **Discussion and guidance on submitting comments on the draft catch share program review guidance.**
2. **Discussion and guidance on preliminary plan for the west coast trawl catch share program review.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1: January 12, 2016 Letter from Dorothy M. Lowman to Alan Risenhoover on the Draft Guidance for Conducting Reviews of Catch Share Programs.
2. Agenda Item C.3.a, NMFS PowerPoint: NOAA Fisheries Draft Guidance for Conducting 5/7 Year Reviews of Catch Share Programs Overview of Key Components and a Summary of Council Feedback, February 25, 2016.

**Agenda Order:**

- C.3. Catch Share Program Review: Comments on National Guidance and Preliminary Plan for West Coast Trawl Catch Share Program Review Jim Seger  
NMFS Staff
- a. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
  - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - c. Public Comment
  - d. **Council Action:** Discussion and Guidance on: 1) Submitting Comments on the Draft Catch Share Program Review Guidance, and 2) Preliminary Plan for the West Coast Trawl Catch Share Program Review

PFMC  
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