

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR  
REVIEW OF THE WEST COAST TRAWL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM AND  
INTERSECTOR ALLOCATIONS INCLUDING COMMENTS ON DRAFT GUIDANCE  
FOR CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEWS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the briefing book materials and received an overview from Mr. Jim Seger, Council Staff, Ms. Abigail Harley, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR), Dr. Lisa Pfeiffer, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), Ms. Sarah Towne, NMFS WCR, and Dr. Wendy Morrison, NMFS Headquarters on this agenda item. The GMT provides the following for Council consideration.

**Organization of the Analytical Effort: Teams, Analytical Approach, and Timelines**

The GMT notes that the process that has been laid out by the project team is well-organized and thorough. The calendars displayed in Tables 1 and 2 of [Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 1](#) are detailed, with reasonable timelines and milestones for completing the Amendment 20 catch-share review. Further, Table 5 provides substantial detail on the timeline milestones for the two different proposed analytical approaches.

Considering the two possible models for organizing the analytical effort, the GMT believes that either approach is feasible. However, the Model 2 approach, in which the Council formally convenes an analytical team, may result in relatively greater focus on the five-year review tasks. Under the Model 1 approach, which would enlist Federal and state agency personnel as subject matter leads, the GMT believes that it's more likely that completion of the five-year review tasks would be preempted by other Council-related workload, as the subject matter experts would likely be GMT members.

Furthermore, the draft schedule proposes two sets of nine hearings in coastal ports. The GMT believes that the proposed meeting schedule and geographic coverage are well-conceived. However, the GMT requests that consideration be given to either adding Seattle as a hearing location, or replacing the Bellingham location with Seattle. Seattle is the principal home-port location for companies engaged in the at-sea sector. Additionally, it serves as a prominent home port for others engaged in the groundfish trawl fishery, and those not engaged in the groundfish trawl fishery but who are potentially affected by catch shares (i.e. primary sablefish longliners).

Regarding the completion of the Amendment 21 intersector allocation review, Table 1 in [Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 1](#) indicates a proposed schedule in which scoping and public hearings would follow the same timeline as the Amendment 20 catch-share review. However, finalizing the intersector allocation review is dependent on acquiring additional resources. Given the current issues involving intersector allocation, the GMT recommends timely identification of these resources to minimize lag between its completion and that of the catch-share review.

**Content of the Review**

The proposed outline of the five-year review document as detailed in the Five-Year Review – Document Outline, Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 2 is well organized and thorough. At this time,

the GMT does not suggest any changes in organization or proposed content. However, as the proposed content of the review is still fairly general, the GMT will continue to follow and provide comment on content of the review as the process moves forward.

The GMT appreciates that there are a broad range of performance metrics proposed for use in the five-year review (exhibited in [Agenda Item G.5.b, NMFS Report 1](#)). Additionally, the GMT thinks that the performance metrics cover a wide diversity of economic and demographic aspects related to fishery performance for catcher vessels, catcher-processors, motherships, and processors. As the process continues to move forward, the GMT expects to have additional comments on the metrics proposed, their application to particular issues, and make suggestions on new measures that may be of use.

Regarding the designation of whiting versus non-whiting classification of vessels used in the performance metrics, the GMT does recommend that vessel classification should utilize the current designation of whiting trips used in regulations (50 CFR 660, Subpart D, § 660.140). This regulation defines a whiting trip as a “fishing trip where greater than or equal to 50 percent by weight of all fish reported on the state landing receipt is whiting.” This will provide consistency in how the trips are treated during this review process and other Council processes.

PFMC

06/25/16