

OMNIBUS GROUND FISH WORKLOAD PLANNING

Council Operating Procedure 9 specifies that in June of the even-numbered years (e.g., 2016) the Council will adopt a draft schedule and prioritized list of new management measures¹ to be analyzed outside of the harvest specifications and management measures process. The prioritization and implementation process, referred to as the omnibus, is intended to control workload during the biennial process and increase the probability that harvest specifications will be implemented January 1. Consideration and prioritization of trawl trailing actions are also included in the omnibus process to allow for a more holistic evaluation of groundfish priorities and workload. Attachment 1 contains regulations published since the last omnibus discussion, which was in September 2014.

An initial unprioritized list of potential management measure topics, ordered by category and sector, has been provided in Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 2, derived from previous Council discussions. In order to assist in comprehensive workload planning, this attachment also includes a list of other groundfish-related matters with workload implications for Council, state, and Federal staff. Under Agenda Item G.6, the Council is scheduled to establish a tentative list of topics and provide guidance on the implementation timeline. Under Agenda Item F.6 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning, the Council and NMFS staff will report on the staff resources available to accomplish the Council's priorities. For actions to be implemented by the start of 2018, alternatives for analysis will have to be finalized at the November 2016 Council meeting and final action taken by April 2017.

Some of the criteria the Council may want to have in mind when establishing priorities are provided as Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 3, which includes the Magnuson Stevens Act National Standards, groundfish Fishery Management Plan goals and objectives, and the Groundfish Strategic Plan executive summary.

Ad hoc Committees

During the September 2014 omnibus discussions, the Council recommended establishing ad hoc committees in June 2016 to develop alternatives for Phase 2 of the limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery catch share program review (see Attachment 2, item 38) and for the nearshore management approaches topic (see Attachment 2, item # 37). If the Council maintains these items as near term omnibus priorities, then the Council may wish to outline the tasks and identify seats for the two ad hoc committees. Draft proposals for the ad hoc committee tasks and seats are provided in Attachment 4.

¹ New management measures are those for which the environmental impacts have not been previously analyzed and/or have not been previously implemented in regulations.

Council Action:

1. **Identify new management measures priorities and timeline for further consideration under Agenda Item F.6 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning.**
2. **Outline the tasks and identify seats for an ad hoc committee associated with developing alternatives for Phase 2 of the limited entry fixed gear sablefish catch share program review, as necessary.**
3. **Outline the tasks and identify seats for an ad hoc committee associated with the nearshore management approaches topic, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 1: Regulations Published Since September 2014.
2. Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 2: Groundfish Management Measures for Council Consideration.
3. Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 3: Considerations for Prioritizing the List of Groundfish Management Measures.
4. Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 4: Draft Ad hoc Committee Charge and Seats.

Agenda Order:

- G.6 Omnibus Groundfish Workload Planning Kelly Ames and Jim Seger
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Develop a Preliminary Omnibus Priority List of Groundfish Issues for Workload Planning Purposes, and Provide Additional Guidance as Appropriate

PFMC
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