

SABLEFISH ELECTRONIC TICKET REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

At its June 2014 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended that all west coast deliveries of sablefish be reported on electronic fish tickets. The purpose of the electronic fish tickets requirement was to “improve the timeliness and accuracy of catch data for monitoring harvest relative to applicable tier limits in the [limited entry fixed gear (LEFG)] sablefish fishery and trip limits in the LEFG non-sablefish fishery and [open-access] fishery.” (p. 10-11 of the *fixed gear sablefish environmental assessment* published October 2016). The description of the alternative specified that after a landing is made, “the first receiver would record all necessary landing and catch information on the electronic ticket and upload it to PSMFC within 24 hours of the landing” (p. 24-25).

The final rule implementing the electronic fish ticket requirement published on November 23, 2016. During the public comment period for the proposed rule and draft environmental assessment, one comment was received regarding the time period for the reporting requirement, requesting that 12-24 hours be allowed between landing and submission of the fish ticket. The electronic fish ticket reporting requirement was effective January 1, 2017.

At its March 2017 meeting, the Council heard from the public that the 24-hour reporting requirement may be creating a hardship for small operators that do not have personnel available on Saturdays or weekends to complete paperwork for deliveries coming in on Fridays. In response to this concern, this agenda item was added to the April meeting as the first in a two-meeting process, through which the 24-hour reporting requirement could be reconsidered and revised, if warranted. A number of public comments on this issue have been received, all of which focus on using a “business day” rather than the 24-hour reporting requirement (Agenda Item F.8.b, Public Comment).

There is a similar 24-hour reporting requirement for the shoreside catch share program, and similar issues have arisen under that program. Those issues have been dealt with through enforcement officer discretion. Under the catch share program in 2015, 94.2 percent of the fish tickets were submitted within 48 hours of landing and 30 tickets (1.5 percent) were submitted more than 5 days late.

Council Action:

Consider whether revisions to reporting requirements might be needed and adopt a range of alternatives for public review, as needed.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.8.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

F.8 Sablefish Electronic Ticket Reporting Requirements

Jim Seger

- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Revised Reporting Timeline for Public Review

PFMC

03/21/17