

Where Do We Want to Go? (Objectives)

This document first provides other guidance on goals and objectives then summarizes SaMTAAC discussion.

Summary of Council Discussion on Sablefish Area Management and Gear Switching from March 2018 – Bullet Points

Principles (from CAB)

- A. We want to get more sablefish to the trawl fleet.
- B. We believe that unlimited catch of sablefish through gear switching is not desirable.
- C. We want to consider existing operations/investments.

Council Discussion

1. overall goals of resource access and utilization
2. trawl gear is the only gear that can viably harvest some groundfish species
3. trawl rationalization was intended to improve the trawl fishery
4. evaluate allocation attainment problems and how solutions address
5. take a long-term view e.g., even if gear switching is not an immediate problem, is a limit needed to prevent future problems?

6. importance of sablefish to the overall economics of a trawl trip
7. the buyers have an interest in trawl trips;
8. the importance of trawl deliveries to maintaining markets;
9. conservation impacts;
10. potential fleet conflicts from geographic redistribution; and
11. implementation costs and challenges of potential solutions.

Amendment 20

Goal

Create and implement a capacity rationalization plan that increases net economic benefits, creates individual economic stability, provides for full utilization of the trawl sector allocation, considers environmental impacts, and achieves individual accountability of catch and bycatch

Objectives

The above goal is supported by the following objectives:

1. Provide a mechanism for total catch accounting.
2. Provide for a viable, profitable, and efficient groundfish fishery.
3. Promote practices that reduce bycatch and discard mortality and minimize ecological impacts.

4. Increase operational flexibility.
5. Minimize adverse effects from an IFQ program on fishing communities and other fisheries to the extent practical.
6. Promote measurable economic and employment benefits through the seafood catching, processing, distribution elements, and support sectors of the industry.
7. Provide quality product for the consumer.
8. Increase safety in the fishery.ⁱ

Groundfish FMP

Management Goals

Goal 1 - Conservation. Prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks by managing for appropriate harvest levels and prevent, to the extent practicable, any net loss of the habitat of living marine resources.

Goal 2 - Economics. Maximize the value of the groundfish resource as a whole.

Goal 3 - Utilization. Within the constraints of overfished species rebuilding requirements, achieve the maximum biological yield of the overall groundfish fishery, promote year-round availability of quality seafood to the consumer, and promote recreational fishing opportunities.

SaMTAAC Discussion

Other possible objectives suggested by individuals during SaMTAAC discussion

- a. Maximum benefit for trawl sector (similar to 3 in Council discussion summary)
- b. Gear switching is an important part of the program for trawl vessels
- c. Recognize existing investment in gear switching (people who have made investment should not lose that investment) (similar to C in CAB principles)
- d. Prevent new entry into gear switching (similar to 5 in Council discussion summary)
- e. Prevent excessive gear switching in the future
- f. One area or region should not be disadvantaged relative to others
- g. Consider needs of quota funds to be able to lease out quota
- h. Solutions should be measured—proportional to the degree/scope of the program.

Amendment 20 also included what were termed “Constraints and Guiding Principles:”

The [Amendment 20] goals and objectives should be achieved while the following occurs:

1. Take into account the biological structure of the stocks including, but not limited to, populations and genetics.
2. Take into account the need to ensure that the total OYs and allowable biological catch (ABC) are not exceeded.
3. Minimize negative impacts resulting from localized concentrations of fishing effort.
4. Account for total groundfish mortality.
5. Avoid provisions where the primary intent is a change in marketing power balance between harvesting and processing sectors.
6. Avoid excessive quota concentration.
7. Provide efficient and effective monitoring and enforcement.
8. Design a responsive mechanism for program review, evaluation, and modification.
9. Take into account the management and administrative costs of implementing and oversee the IFQ or co-op program and complementary catch monitoring programs, as well as the limited state and Federal resources available.