

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Sablefish Management and
Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC)
Pacific Fishery Management Council
Watertown Hotel
Freemont/Montlake Room
4242 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105
June 29, 2018

Call to Order

Voting Members in Attendance

Mr. Phil Anderson – Committee and Council Chair
Ms. Kelly Ames – NMFS
Ms. Michele Culver - WDFW
Mr. Pete Hassemer –Council member at large
Ms. Maggie Somers - ODFW

Voting Members Absent

Ms. Joanna Grebel - CDFW

Advisors in Attendance

Mr. Bob Alverson
Mr. Tyler Besecker
Mr. Robert Dooley
Mr. Kevin Dunn
Mr. Mike Okoniewski
Mr. Dan Platt
Mr. Steve Scheiblauer

Advisors in Absent

None.

Review Committee Charge and Calendar

For the charge and calendar, see the attached power point and (SaMTAAC Agenda Item B, Attachment 1). During the meeting, the committee discussed pursuing the Council's charge by focusing on alternatives that would modify management of the shoreside trawl sector dealing with two fundamental issues: southern sablefish area management and gear switching as it affects attainment of the trawl allocations.

The committee's first report back to the Council will be at the November 2018 Council meeting.

At its next meeting, the SaMTAAC will consider asking the Council to modify the calendar to include an additional meeting that would allow the SaMTAAC to review the analysis and develop recommendations before the Council selects its preliminary preferred alternatives.

C. Review of Alternatives

To provide context for discussion of alternatives, staff reviewed the summary of the Council's March 2018 discussion (SaMTAAC Agenda Item C, Attachment 1). Later in the meeting, this summary was used to help start developing potential objectives related to the committee's charge.

The alternatives summarized under this agenda item are in SaMTAAC Agenda Item C, Attachment 1 and covered in detail the following documents.

- Sablefish Area Management and Gear Switching
 - CAB Proposals – [Agenda Item F.2.a Supplemental CAB Report 1, Nov '17](#).
 - GAP Proposals – [Agenda Item E.7.a GAP Report 1, Sept '17](#).
 - Summary of the Council, CAB and GAP Proposals – [Agenda Item F.2 Attachment 7, Nov '17](#).
- Other Issue Areas Impacting Attainment
 - Sablefish Discard Survival Credit – Spex - [Agenda Item E.4, Supplemental Revised Attachment 2, June 2018](#)
 - Post Season QP Trading, Relief from Annual Vessel QP Limits, Elimination of Sept 1 Expiration of QP left in QS accounts - [Agenda Item H.6 Att 1, March '18](#)

Background materials provided to the CAB included excerpts from the fall 2017 CAB and GAP reports that contained full descriptions of the CAB and GAP proposals (SaMTAAC Agenda Item C, Attachments 2 and 3).

The staff presentation also identified the following recent and anticipated changes in the management system that may affect attainment of the trawl allocation.

- Amendment 28 - EFH/RCA Changes for Trawl
- Gear Rule
- Coastwide Year-round Midwater Trawl EFPs
- Overfished Species Rebuilding

D. Review of Existing Analyses

The committee was oriented to the catch share review follow-on analyses that have been conducted to date (SaMTAAC Agenda Item D, Attachments 1 & 2). Relevant elements of the catch share review analysis were identified in SaMTAAC Agenda Item D, Attachment 3 and the Powerpoint presentation but not formally presented during the meeting. Mr. Alverson presented an analysis showing that as of June 2018 only about 7% of the QS appeared to be owned by vessel owners that are gear switching (ownership of about 8% of the QS was undetermined). *A request was made that a similar analysis be developed for 2017, in order to illustrate whether there was a trend and possibly to identify the associations for those QS accounts for which vessel/gear associations could not be determined.*

E. Discussion of Biological Implications of Combining Northern and Southern Sablefish Management Areas for Trawl

Melissa Haltuch from NMFS was present and reviewed biological issues that might be associated with geographic redistribution of sablefish harvest (SaMTAAC Agenda Item E, Attachment 1).

The committee is interested in the following annual time series information by geographic area:

- Proportion of stock caught by area and gear
- Biomass index for each area
- Age and length compositions for each area

The committee also indicated interest in further analysis of returned tags which Dr. Haltuch indicated would help inform assumptions about fish movement. However, further analysis of tagging results is not likely to start until later in 2018 or the start of 2019. Dr. Haltuch also suggested that if the committee can identify expected changes in the gears used to catch sablefish that she could use those assumptions to see how they impacted assessment results.

It was agreed that, based on the committee's discussion, staff would develop a written information request that would be sent to her.

F. SaMTAAC Discussion: Develop a List of New Alternatives and Additional Analysis Requests for Next Meeting

Alternatives were presented by WDFW, NMFS, Pacific Seafood, and Jeff Lackey (SaMTAAC Agenda Item F, Supplemental Attachment 1). *SaMTAAC voting members agreed that Pacific Seafood Proposal Item 4 (reciprocity between sectors to allow trawl acquisition of fixed gear tier limits) is outside the scope of the committee's charge.*

Working from a summary of the Council's March 2018 discussion, Amendment 20 goals and objectives, and FMP goals, the SaMTAAC discussed objectives related to the committee's charge. Notes on that discussion were projected for committee review. *The summary and notes (SaMTAAC Agenda Item F, Supplemental Attachment 2) will be used at the next committee meeting as a starting point for developing objectives for recommendation to the Council.*

G. Schedule Next Meeting and Agenda

Action Items Prior to Next Meeting

1. Data/information request on impact of harvest distribution on the sablefish stock (staff will work with Melissa Haltuch and deliver to Dr. Haltuch prior to the start of August).
2. Develop an analysis for 2017 ownership of QS by vessel owners that use fixed gear.
3. Develop a list of alternatives and identify of administrative issues.
 - a. List will be developed delivered to SaMTAAC by **August 10**.
 - b. SaMTAAC members will each identify their top five by **September 20**.
 - c. Staff will summarize SaMTAAC top fives for the fall SaMTAAC meeting.

4. A doodle poll will be used to schedule the next meeting for sometime in late September or early October, taking into account NPFMC meetings.

Agenda items for next meeting include (not limited to):

- Consideration of a recommendation to add an additional SaMTAAC meeting to the calendar
- Development of objectives related to charge
- Information on impact of harvest distribution on the sablefish stock.
- Narrowing alternatives, working from the top fives list.

Attachments:

SaMTAAC Agenda, June 2018

SaMTAAC Powerpoint, June 2018

SaMTAAC Agenda Item B, Attachment 1, Review Committee Charge and Calendar

SaMTAAC Agenda Item C, Attachment 1, Review of Alternatives

SaMTAAC Agenda Item C, Attachment 2, Appendices to the November 2018 CAB Report

SaMTAAC Agenda Item C, Attachment 3, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Report on Trawl Catch Share Review, Preliminary Range of Follow-On Actions, and Intersector Allocation

SaMTAAC Agenda Item D, Attachment 1, Review of Existing Analysis - Extracts

SaMTAAC Agenda Item D, Attachment 2, Orientation: Existing Analyses – Extracts

SaMTAAC Agenda Item D, Attachment 3, Five-Year Catch Share Review, Index on Gear Switching

SaMTAAC Agenda Item E, Attachment 1, Discussion of Biological Implications of Combining Northern and Southern Sablefish Management Areas for Trawl

SaMTAAC Agenda Item F, Supplemental Attachment 1, Proposals – As Presented to SaMTAAC

SaMTAAC Agenda Item F, Supplemental Attachment 2, Where Do We Want to Go (Objectives)