

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT
ON OMNIBUS PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the agenda item from Dr. Jim Seger, Council Staff, and participated in a joint session with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to review the items on the Omnibus list. The GAP offers the following comments.

The GAP and GMT have submitted a joint table under this agenda item showing all of Omnibus items with recommendations from each group, and the GAP has provided a summary table showing only the items we would like moved forward through the Omnibus. The GAP appreciates the Groundfish Management Team's (GMT) efforts to significantly narrow the list of omnibus items, and in terms of what to keep on the list we generally align with the GMT recommendations¹, with a few exceptions. On the list of previously identified items (Table 1), the GAP recommends keeping the 60-mile bank RCA lines (Item 48), and the elimination of the prohibition on at-sea whiting processing south of 42° (Item 65). On the list of newly identified items (Table 2), the GAP recommends adding the Emley-Platt yellowtail rockfish jig fishing exempted fishing permit (EFP) to be moved into regulation. GAP recommendations that differ from the GMT recommendations are highlighted in Tables 1 and 2 and discussed further below.

¹ [Agenda Item G.4.a, GMT Report 1, November 2018](#)

Table 1. Previously identified omnibus items with GAP support to move forward

2016 Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Rec. keep by
1	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21	Catch Accounting	GMT, GAP
13	Trawl	Removal of SFFT Requirement Between 40° 10' N lat. and 42° N lat.	Gear	GMT, GAP
38	LE FG	LE Fixed Gear Sablefish – Phase 2 (Sept 2016, Apr 2017)	Permitting	GMT, GAP
48	Recreational	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Area Management	GAP
50	Trawl, Non-trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Catch Accounting	GMT, GAP
53	IFQ, Non-trawl	Move the Seaward Non-Trawl RCA Line Closer to Shore for Pot Vessels	Area Management	GMT, GAP
58	Trawl IFQ	Remove Certain Midwater Area-Management Restrictions	Area Management	GMT, GAP
61	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Catch Accounting	GMT, GAP
65	MS/CP	Eliminate the Prohibition of At-Sea Processing South of 42°	ESA	GAP
68	LEFG, OA	Retain Halibut in the Sablefish fishery (South of Point Chehalis)	Season Structure	GMT, GAP
69	Recreational	Discard Mortality Rates	Catch Accounting	GMT, GAP

Previously Identified Omnibus Items - GAP Recommendation Differs from GMT*60 Mile Bank RCA Lines (Item #48)*

This proposal to define a rockfish conservation area (RCA) for the 60-mile bank, a cowcod-rich area along the US/Mexico border, was removed from the essential fish habitat (EFH)/RCA scoping in 2015. Charter boat operators who target migratory species such as bluefin and yellowfin tuna on the 60-mile bank cannot retain any groundfish species taken incidentally, thus creating regulatory discards. The GAP recommends this item remain on the Omnibus list as a low priority.

Eliminate the Prohibition of At-Sea Processing South of 42° (Item #65)

NMFS previously recommended that the issue be explored through an EFP, and the GAP supports keeping this item on the omnibus list so that the at-sea sectors could collect data on processing South of 42° in the future.

Table 2. “Newly” identified (since 2016) Omnibus items with GAP support to move forward

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Rec. keep by
N-1	IFQ	Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management	Allocation	GMT, GAP
N-2	All	Flexibility in ACL Management Response	Harvest Specifications	GMT, GAP
N-3	IFQ	Aggregate Non-Whiting QS Control Limits and Individual Species Weighting	Accumulation Limits	GMT, GAP
N-4	All	Amendment 21 Trawl/Non-Trawl Allocations; including lingcod S of 40° 10’	Allocations	GMT, GAP
N-5	Non-trawl	CCA revisions	Area Management	GMT, GAP
N-6	MS	Mothership Sector Utilization	Accumulation Limits	GMT, GAP
N-7	Non-trawl	Emley-Platt EFP to Regulation	Gear	GAP (GMT =TBD)

Newly Identified Omnibus Items - GAP Recommendation Differs from GMT*Emley-Platt Yellowtail Rockfish Jig Fishing EFP to Regulations (Item #N-7)*

The purpose of this EFP was to test a new commercial jig gear configuration to harvest yellowtail, an underutilized stock, to enhance the optimum yield while avoiding overfished stocks. The EFP has been successfully conducted since 2013. The GAP recommends the new gear configuration be moved to regulation, instead of only being allowed under an EFP, now that the EFP has provided sufficient data. This would help reduce the workload for the Council and the EFP applicants, and make the benefits more broadly available.

Other Comments on Omnibus Items*Bill James Public Comment*

The GAP supports Bill James’ request to analyze a modification to the non-trawl RCA, and recommends it be incorporated into Item #53 on the omnibus list, non-trawl RCA modifications.

Aggregate Non-Whiting QS Control Limits (Item #N-3)

As in previous statements², the GAP continues to support the Community Advisory Board (CAB) recommendation³ for a more in-depth analysis of the aggregate non-whiting quota share control limits for the shoreside individual fishing quota sector to examine potential benefits or impacts of lifting the aggregate cap (such that the individual species caps would default to a new higher aggregate cap).

Mothership Sector Utilization (Item #N-6)

The GAP continues to support⁴ the proposal to analyze raising the 45% mothership processing cap⁵. The GAP also received a briefing from Ms. Sarah Nayani on the Mothership Sector meeting held in Portland, Oregon on October 29, 2018 and understands that some additional consensus proposals may be forthcoming to be incorporated into the mothership sector utilization omnibus item.

² [Agenda Item F.6.c, Supp GAP Report, November 2016; Agenda Item E.7.a, GAP Report 1, September 2017](#)

³ [Agenda Item E.7.a, CAB Report 1, September 2017](#)

⁴ [Agenda Item I.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2018](#)

⁵ [Agenda Item I.7.b, Supplemental Public Comment 1, September 2018](#)

Allow Natural Bait in the Oregon Longleader Gear Fishery (Item #N-8 on GAP/GMT Table)

The GAP reviewed the public comment from Oregon Coast Anglers, and does not support moving the proposal onto the omnibus list at this time. Therefore we have not included it on the list of newly identified omnibus proposals above (Table 2).

Omnibus Schedule

The GAP generally supports the GMT proposal to update the omnibus review schedule. We would like to review the omnibus list and prioritization more frequently, however, we do not want this process to take away Council or NMFS time from other priority actions.

PFMC

11/06/18

Revised 8:42 a.m.