

**GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
 WORKLOAD AND NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE**

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a briefing on the workload and new management measures agenda item from Mr. Todd Phillips, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), and offers the following comments.

The GAP used the Groundfish Management Team’s (GMT) workload prioritization list ([Agenda Item I.2.a, GMT Report 1, June 2019](#) – Attachment 2) as the basis for our discussion. First we separated out the four items that the Council had previously prioritized at the March 2019 Council meeting: non-trawl RCA modifications, trawl/non-trawl Amendment 21 allocations, mothership sector utilization, and moving the Emley/Platt exempted fishing permit (EFP) into regulation (Table 1). The GAP considers these items to have moved off of the workload prioritization list and into future workload planning, as Council-identified priorities that await scheduling for future Council meetings. Keeping these items on the workload list after the Council prioritized them will create confusion in the process, and frustration from stakeholders who were able to demonstrate a need for action and have that item prioritized by the Council.

Table 1. Council-Identified Priorities - In Limbo Until Scheduled

GMT Item Number	Sector	Title	Category
6	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Non-Trawl RCA Modifications	Area Management
13	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Trawl/Non-Trawl Amendment 21 Allocations	Allocation
14	Mothership	Mothership Sector Utilization	Utilization
15	Fixed Gear	Moving Emley/Platt EFP into Regulations	Gear

After removing the Council-identified priority items, thirteen items remain on the current workload prioritization list, including the new item that was added in March 2019 (#17). We assigned GAP priority rankings, and in one case recommend dropping an item from the list (#8 - Carryover when Management Units Change), with notes on rationale for each GAP recommendation (Table 2).

Table 2. Remaining Groundfish Workload Prioritization List, with GAP Priority Identified

GMT Item Number	Sector	Title	Category	GAP Priority/ Recommendation	GAP Notes ¹
1	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21	Catch Accounting	Low	Reg fix for consistency, low benefit to industry. Most appropriate in 2022 A21 review.
2	Trawl IFQ	Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl (SFFT) requirement between 40° 10' and 42° N. lat.	Gear	Low	This item is important to industry, but is low priority now due to time constraints from EFP requirements (2019 is year one of three under the salmon ITS).
3	LE Fixed Gear	LE Fixed Gear Permit Price Reporting	Permitting	Low	SSC recommendation from 2014, low benefit to industry.
4	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Area Management	Low	Interested parties should bring forward more information/specifics.
5	Trawl, Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Catch Accounting	Medium	More accurate conversion factors could lead to savings in amount debited for dressed landings of sablefish.
7	Trawl IFQ	Remove Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Nonwhiting	Area Management	Medium	The benefits of the midwater rockfish fishery are high, and once this EFP shows results, we recommend this as a priority for regulation. However we have significant concerns about having to redo the salmon BiOp and this needs to be addressed prior to moving to regulation.
8	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Catch Accounting	Drop from List	Because occurs so rarely, GAP recommends handling on case-by-case basis through spex when/if management unit changes.
9	Rec	Discard Mortality Rates for the Recreational Fisheries	Catch Accounting	Medium	“Credit” for use of descending devices, improved accuracy for mortality estimates. Addl scientific information on post-release survival of descended rockfish appear to support higher survivorship. Support state reg for req possession of ready descending device while targeting rocky reef fishing sites.
10	Trawl IFQ	Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management	Allocation	Low	Placeholder until SaMTAAC provides advice to the Council.
11	Trawl IFQ	Increasing IFQ Carryover from 10 Percent	Harvest Specifications	Low	While additional carryover would help, NMFS can only issue carryover for species where the ABC is greater than the ACL, and only up to the amount of the ABC.
12	Trawl IFQ	Aggregate Non-Whiting QS Control Limits and Individual Species Weighting	Accumulation Limits	Low	Waiting for NWFSC research.
16	All	Sablefish Harvest Specification Change, Managing with ACTs	Allocation	High – move to 21/22 spex & MM	Change ACLs to ACTs, no reallocation between N/S or between any sectors.
17	Rec	Permitting Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste	Permitting	Medium	This item was added to the Groundfish Workload Prioritization List in March 2019.

¹ See [Agenda Item G.4.a. GMT Report 1, March 2019](#) for more detailed descriptions of each item.

The GAP identified one priority item (#16, Sablefish Harvest Specification Change, managing with annual catch targets) that we recommend move to the 2021-2022 harvest specifications process, given the many potential benefits described by the GMT². Otherwise, the GAP does not recommend moving any of the remaining Groundfish Workload Prioritization List items (from Table 2) forward for action at this time. The GAP believes that the four Council-identified priorities (from Table 1) that previously moved off the Groundfish Workload Prioritization List should be addressed as soon as possible.

The GAP also discussed new groundfish proposals coming forward at this June Council meeting, and offers the following comments.

Cowcod Vessel Limits

The GAP recommends that the cowcod vessel limits proposal³, which was submitted under Open Public Comment, be considered instead under this Workload Prioritization agenda item, since it is a groundfish issue. During GAP discussion of the issue, the proposal did not seem to fit well into the criteria for a new EFP, or to an existing electronic monitoring EFP. While we recognize that the cowcod vessel limit may be constraining, the GAP recommends that the broader issue of vessel limits be added to the workload prioritization list.

The Community Advisory Board previously prioritized vessel limits, but it didn't rise to the level of the few action items that were forwarded given the high number of items coming out of the five-year review process.

Shortbelly

As the Council is aware, there is an emerging issue with shortbelly rockfish in the trawl fishery that will be addressed under inseason, and the GAP flags it here as a high priority for a 2020 fix.

Petrале

We heard from a member of the GAP that some Oregon fishermen have been approached by their processor to gut petrale at-sea, and we recommend this item be added to the groundfish workload prioritization list for further consideration since there is a Federal regulation that would need to be changed.

PFMC

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² [Agenda Item G.4.a, Supplemental GMT Report 4, March 2019](#) – page 4

³ https://pfmc.psmfc.org/CommentReview/DownloadFile?p=077d8c31-9f4a-4d01-8643-85d9004d2336.pdf&fileName=cgc_letter_cowcod-June2019-BB_PFMC.pdf