

THE GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON WORKLOAD AND NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURE UPDATE

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the groundfish-related public comments under Agenda Item B.1. As a reminder, in March 2019, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted a new process for groundfish workload prioritization. The GMT encourages the public to submit groundfish items that are not suited to specific items on the Council's agenda to the Workload and New Management Measure item. Submission under this new item will ensure the topic will be discussed by the appropriate groundfish advisory bodies and not be unintentionally overlooked. Additionally, to reduce the likelihood of comment requests being submitted under the wrong agenda item, the GMT suggests that Council staff consider refining their review process for open comments to better classify these public proposals. The GMT provides two tables in Appendix 1 listing potential new management measures. Table A lists those items prioritized by Council in March 2019 as adopted from [G.4.a Supplemental GAP Report 1](#), while Table B lists all other items; the numbering of the items is for convenience and does not indicate a priority ranking.

The GMT identified two letters in the open public comment materials that are focused on groundfish. Under this new groundfish workload process, the GMT provides the following preliminary scoping information on these two items, so that the Council may consider if they wish to (1) add any of these items to the groundfish workload prioritization list and (2) prioritize any added items for GMT and Council action. Additionally, we comment on the salmon troll ping rate issue brought forward by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and Enforcement Consultants.

Public Comment: California Groundfish Collective Exempted Fishing Permit

As described under [Agenda Item B.1.b](#), the California Groundfish Collective (CGC) is seeking relief from the 858 pound annual vessel limit (AVL) for cowcod. In their request, they explain that in order to catch chilipepper rockfish, bocaccio, and petrale sole, they need to access more cowcod than is allowed under the AVL. The cowcod AVL prevents the active vessels in the CGC from utilizing the full quota held by the collective. CGC suggested two proposals to address this issue: (1) an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to exempt individual vessels in the risk pool from the cowcod AVL up to the pool's collective amount or (2) adding a provision to the electronic monitoring exempted fishing permit to exempt vessels from the cowcod AVL.

During scoping discussions of this item, the GMT was unable to identify a solution for 2019. Adding an exemption to the electronic monitoring EFP is not feasible, because the changes would be outside of the scope of that EFP and the supporting analysis. For 2020 and beyond, the GMT recommends the applicants develop a full EFP application that would provide an exemption to the AVL for cowcod for vessels in the EFP. The applicants should follow the procedures in Council Operating Procedure (COP) 19 to develop their full application.

The GMT notes that COP 19 specifies that EFP applications will be considered in November of odd-numbered years to align with the harvest specifications and management measure process. However, because the members of CGC are seeking immediate relief, the GMT discussed whether

or not there was a solution outside the biennial harvest specifications process. The GMT sees two pathways for the Council to consider action on this item. Regardless of the pathway, review of the application and Council approval requires a two-meeting process. The Council could choose to prioritize this potential EFP for action at this meeting in the larger context of the agenda items on the proposed September meeting agenda and Appendix 1 (two meetings: June and September). If the Council chooses this pathway, the GMT recommends the Council create a new standalone agenda item in September for considering the EFP application. Alternatively, if the Council wishes to review the full EFP application before they consider re-prioritizing the GMT's workload, then the applicants could submit their full application under the Workload and New Management Measure item on the September Agenda for review and prioritization at that time (two meetings: September and November). Ultimately, the Council should also consider where this workload would fit in among its other priorities (Tables A and B) and the implications of considering an out-of-cycle EFP.

Relevant Factors for Analysis

Risk to harvest specifications, economic impacts and potential benefits to participating vessels, the CGC, and non-participating vessels.

Potential Benefits

Allowing the CGC into an EFP to exempt the five participating vessels from the cowcod AVL would allow the vessels to target chilipepper rockfish, bocaccio, and Petrale sole while still having minimal risk to exceed the trawl allocation for cowcod. Additionally this EFP could provide information on how removing the AVL could impact cowcod, which has been a topic of discussion since the 5-year catch share review.

Workload

Low for GMT.

Public Comment: Non-trawl RCA Adjustment 42° - 40° 10' N. Latitude

The GMT believes the public comment calling for adjustments to the Non-trawl RCA between 42° - 40° 10' N. lat. under [Agenda Item B.1.b](#) is already included as Item A1 in Table A, which was prioritized by the Council in March 2019 but has yet to be scheduled.

Salmon Troll Ping Rate

The GMT reviewed the Supplemental Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) and Enforcement Consultant (EC) statements (Agenda Item I.2.a, [Supplemental SAS](#) and [Supplemental EC](#) Reports, June 2019) and if the Council chooses to move this item forward for consideration in September, the GMT will bring back our scoping of the idea under the New Management Measure agenda item.

PFMC
06/22/19

Table A: Potential groundfish management measure items prioritized by Council.

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date	Prioritized	Scheduled on YAG
A1	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Non-Trawl RCA Modifications	Area Management	H	Patrick/ Mel/TBD	None	Yes	Not yet
A2	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Trawl/Non-trawl Amendment 21 Allocations	Allocation	M/H	Depends on species chosen	Intersector Allocation Review completed in June 2017	Yes	Not yet
A3	MS	Mothership Sector Utilization	Accumulation Limits	M/H	Patrick/ TBD NMFS/ Council staff	None	Yes	Not yet
A4	Fixed Gear	Moving Emley/Platt EFP into Regulations	Gear	M	Mel/ Caroline	Ongoing EFP	Yes	Not yet

Table B: All other potential groundfish management measure items.

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date	Prioritized	Scheduled on YAG
B1	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21	Catch Accounting	L	Council/ NMFS staff	None	No	No
B2	Trawl IFQ	Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl (SFFT) requirement between 40° 10' and 42° N. lat..	Gear	Unknown	NMFS	Ongoing EFP (Year 2 of 3 needed per Salmon ITS)	No	No
B3	LE FG	LEFG Permit Price Reporting	Permitting	L (if any)	NWFSC	None	No	No
B4	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Area Management	M	CDFW staff	None	No	No
B5	Trawl, Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Catch Accounting	H	Patrick/ TBD	Preliminary discussions held at PacFIN meeting	No	No
B6	Trawl IFQ	Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Nonwhiting	Area Management	H	NMFS staff/ Patrick/ TBD	Ongoing EFP (Year 2 of 3 needed per Salmon ITS)	No	No
B7	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Catch Accounting	M	NMFS/ Council staff	None	No	No

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date	Prioritized	Scheduled on YAG
B8	Rec	Discard Mortality Rates for the Recreational Fisheries	Catch Accounting	M	Heather, Lynn, Caroline, Patrick	Research ongoing	No	No
B9	IFQ	Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management	Allocation	Very H	NMFS/ Council staff/ Patrick/ Mel/ TBD	Ongoing	No	No
B10	IFQ	Increasing IFQ Carryover from 10 Percent	Harvest Specifications	No change from current	TBD	None	No	No
B11	IFQ	Aggregate Non-whiting QS Control Limits and Individual Species Weighting	Accumulation Limits	M	NWFSC / Council Staff	Pending research	No	No
B12	All	Sablefish Harvest Specification Change- Managing with ACTs	Allocation	L	Patrick/TBD/ NMFS/Council staff	Preliminary scoping	No	No
B13	Rec	Permitting Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste	Permitting	None	NMFS/EC staff	None	No	No