

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON WORKLOAD & NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

In March 2019, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted a new process to consider groundfish issues relative to workload. The primary purpose of this report is to provide the Council, advisory bodies, and the public with an update on ongoing and scheduled groundfish projects. Given that this is a new process, we provide a review of the key concepts below.

Each year in March, the Council, the public and advisory bodies have the opportunity to consider moving groundfish issues to the Council's Year At a Glance (YAG) calendar, based on the workload of the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), Council, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Last fall, the GMT worked with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) to provide our input on issues that were stale, completed, or no longer needed ([Agenda Item G.4.a., Supp GAP/GMT Report 1, November, 2018](#)). In March of 2019, the GMT followed up with a report that summarized the background, analysis needed, and the workload associated with the groundfish items that the Council chose to maintain ([Agenda Item G.4.a, GMT Report 1, March, 2019](#)). At that same meeting, the GAP and the GMT also provided our recommendations on which items to prioritize or delay ([Agenda Item G.4.a., GAP Report 1, March 2019](#)), ([Agenda Item G.4.a, GMT Report 4, March, 2019](#)). These reports continue to be a good resource for more information on these issues.

In addition to the annual prioritization process, a stand-alone agenda item was established to provide the public with a clear place to submit new and/or, emerging, groundfish items at each meeting. This agenda item was intended to be brief, and only as needed, as its ultimate purpose is to provide a specific place to introduce emergent issues so the Council can discuss them in the context of current overall groundfish workload.

Appendix 1 shows our workload matrix, which details the progress of ongoing and scheduled projects, in context with the current work of NMFS. The shaded blocks represent the GMT's anticipated timeline for direct involvement with the issue (e.g., through the Council's final action), noting that some GMT members may have additional workload to assist NMFS and Council staff in developing the final regulatory documents.

Appendix 2 shows the most recent groundfish workload prioritization list (Table A) as well as current, but not yet prioritized (Table B) items. The GMT notes that the first item on the prioritized list is shown in strikethrough to indicate that the experimental fishing permit has been issued, and this item can be removed from the list. Given that there are five groundfish items already scheduled on the YAG and the workload of the GMT, Council staff, and NMFS is currently focused on completing the biennial harvest specifications process for 2021-2022, the GMT recommends the Council delay prioritizing anything new at this time.

If needed, the GMT will submit a supplemental report under this agenda item to address any new items that may come up after the advanced briefing book deadline.

Appendix 1. GMT workload matrix, with progress of ongoing and scheduled projects, in context with the current work of NMFS.

Action	Category	GMT Lead Analyst(s)	2020												2021														
			Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov		
2021-2022 Groundfish Harvest Specifications	2021-2022 SPEX	All																***											
2021-2022 Groundfish Management Measures		All																	***										
Inseason Monitoring and Management		All																											
P* Considerations and Phased in ABC		Patrick, Abby																											
Stock Assessment Updates and Panels		Patrick, Mel, Karen																											
2021-2022 EFP Applications		Caroline, Erica																		***									
ESA Salmon Mitigation Measures	ESA	Patrick, Karen							***																				
ESA Seabird Mitigation Measures		Caroline, Lynn			***																								
Non-Salmon ESA workgroup		Caroline, Patrick																											
Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Committee (SAMTAAC)	Individual Items	Patrick, Abby, Mel																											
Revisions)		Patrick, Mel, Caroline																											
Cowcod: Increase to individual vessel limits	Council Identified Priorities	Mel, Caroline, Patrick			***																								
Shortbelly Rockfish Harvest specification		Patrick, Mel, TBD			***																								
Mothership Sector Utilization		Patrick, Abby																											
A-21 Trawl/Non-Trawl Allocations		Patrick, Mel																											
Emley Platt EFP into Regulation		Caroline, Mel																											
Ecosystem Items	Ecosystem	Andrew, Heather																											
Climate and Communities		Andrew, Heather, Lynn																											
Halibut CSP Process	Halibut	Heather, Lynn, Caroline						***											***										
Directed Commercial Halibut Fishery		Heather, Lynn						***											***										
*** notes when regulations are expected to be final																													

Appendix 2. The most recent groundfish workload prioritization list

Table A. Potential groundfish management measure items prioritized by Council. (re-ordered and numbered based on when item has been scheduled)

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date	Scheduled on YAG
A1	Trawl IFQ	Cowcod: Increases to individual Vessel Limits	Catch Accounting	M	Mel/Caroline	EFP Issued for 2019	Sept 2019
A2	All	2020 Shortbelly Rockfish	Catch Accounting	M	Patrick/ Mel/ Stacey Miller (NMFS lead)	FPA November 2019	Nov 2019
A3	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Non-Trawl RCA Modifications	Area Management	H	Patrick/ Mel/TBD	None	March 2020
A4	MS	Mothership Sector Utilization	Accumulation Limits	M/H	Patrick/ Council staff	None	April 2020
A5	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Trawl/Non-trawl Amendment 21 Allocations	Allocation	M/H	Depends on species chosen	Intersector Allocation Review completed in June 2017	June 2020
A6	Fixed Gear	Moving Emley/Platt EFP into Regulations	Gear	M	Mel/ Caroline	Ongoing EFP	June 2020

Table B. All other potential groundfish management measure items (not in priority order nor scheduled on YAG)

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date
B1	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21	Catch Accounting	L	Council/NMFS staff	None
B2	Trawl IFQ	Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl (SFFT) requirement between 40° 10' and 42° N. lat..	Gear	Unknown	Council staff	Ongoing EFP (Year 2 of 3 needed per Salmon ITS)
B3	LE FG	LEFG Permit Price Reporting	Permitting	L (if any)	NWFSC	None
B4	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Area Management	M	CDFW staff	None
B5	Trawl, Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Catch Accounting	L	Patrick/ TBD	Preliminary discussions held at PacFIN meeting
B6	Trawl IFQ	Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Non-whiting	Area Management	H	Council staff/ Patrick/ Karen	Ongoing EFP (Year 2 of 3 needed per Salmon ITS)
B7	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Catch Accounting	M	Council staff	None
B8	Rec	Discard Mortality Rates for the Recreational Fisheries	Catch Accounting	M	Heather, Lynn, Caroline, Patrick	Pending research
B9	IFQ	Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management	Allocation	Very H	Council staff/ Patrick/ Mel/ TBD	Ongoing
B10	IFQ	Increasing IFQ Carryover from 10 Percent	Harvest Specifications	No change from current	TBD	None
B11	IFQ	Aggregate Non-whiting QS Control Limits and Individual Species Weighting	Accumulation Limits	M	NWFSC / Council Staff	Pending research
B12	All	Sablefish Harvest Specification Change-Managing with ACTs	Allocation	L	Patrick/TBD/ Council staff	Preliminary scoping
B13	Rec	Permitting Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste	Permitting	None	NMFS WCR/EC staff	None
B14	Trawl IFQ	Petrале; Guttled/ Head-on conversion factor	Catch Accounting	L	Patrick/ Mel	None
B15	OA FG	Salmon VMS Ping Rate	Enforcement	L	EC Staff	Preliminary scoping