

GEAR SWITCHING AND SABLEFISH AREA MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC/committee) was appointed by the Council in the spring of 2018 (for the committee charge see Agenda Item H.7.a, SaMTAAC Report, page 2). It has met four times: June 2018, October 2018, May 2019, and October 2019. At the November 2018 and June 2019 Council meetings, it provided informational reports on its progress ([Supplemental Information Report 6, November 2018](#) and [Information Report 2, June 2019](#)). Under this agenda item, the committee will provide another progress report on its work, including the purpose and need statement and range of alternatives it is developing for Council consideration.

At its most recent meeting, the committee revised the purpose and need statement it had previously developed, in part based on the following guidance provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service:

The purpose and need statement is a critical guide that sets the stage for the analysis of an action. Strong purpose and need statements define the range of alternatives considered and strike a balance between not being too broad or too narrow. Purpose and need statements should be able to answer key questions, including: what is the problem, why are we taking action, what are the objectives of the action (solution), and what are we trying to achieve.

The committee will meet again in January 2020. At that time, working from its charge and consistent with its draft purpose and need statement, the committee will continue work on alternatives. The Council is scheduled to adopt a range of alternatives for analysis at its March 2020 meeting and a preliminary preferred alternative at its September 2020 meeting.

Council Action:

Review Progress and Provide Guidance on Alternatives, Future Analyses and Schedule, as Needed.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.7.a, SaMTAAC Report 1.
2. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.7 Gear Switching and Sablefish Area Management Update Jim Seger
- a. Reports of the Sablefish Management and Allocation Attainment Committee
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Review Progress and Provide Guidance on Alternatives, Future Analyses and Schedule, as Needed