

OVERVIEW: OTHER ALTERNATIVE 1 ISSUES

Trawl-Only Conversion on Carryover: At its January meeting, the Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (Committee) discussed the possibility that, under Alternative 1, a sub-option might be added such that if a mid-year conversion of trawl-only to unrestricted quota pounds (QP) is not included, any carryover of trawl-only QP would be converted to any-gear QP at the end of the year. NMFS was asked for guidance on administrative challenges this might present but has not yet had time to review the issue. In the absence of this guidance, and with the objective of finalizing the range of alternatives for Council consideration, the Committee might want to consider including the carry-over conversion as an option in the package sent to the Council. If it turns out to be problematic, it could be removed by the Council at a later time. This issue is identified in footnote 5 of the alternatives package.

Other Topics: Footnotes 2, 3, 4, and 6 identify a number of matters for Committee attention that could be brought up under this agenda item. These matters do not necessarily need to be discussed and the package will be complete if no further action is taken.

Footnote 2. Text indicating the trawl-only/unrestricted QP ratios would be specified in the FMP (moved from a discussion section into the alternative).

Footnote 3. Paragraph specifying some of the mechanics of the alternative (moved from a discussion section into the alternative).

Footnote 4. Footnote noting the possibility of a “default rule” approach for determining which type of QP would be debited for a trawl vessel with both trawl-only and unrestricted QP. The Committee has chosen not to use this approach.

Footnote 6. Footnote specifying that after an account opts-out, additional sablefish quota share (QS) could be moved into a vessel account and unrestricted QP would be issued for that QS (moved from a discussion section into the alternative).