

WORKLOAD AND NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURE PRIORITIES – INCLUDING THE SCOPING OF MOTHERSHIP UTILIZATION ISSUES

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to take action on two topics under this agenda item. The first topic is the groundfish workload and new management measures prioritization process and the second is to scope the previously prioritized mothership utilization management measure. The suggested order is for the Council to take up the workload and new management measure prioritization item first and scoping of mothership utilization second.

Groundfish Workload and New Management Measure Prioritization

Under the groundfish workload and new management measure prioritization portion of this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to review and revise the complete list of proposed groundfish management projects, including those previously prioritized, and to provide guidance on groundfish workload, as appropriate.

When this process was developed, the overarching intent was to provide a dedicated time for the Council to review and/or revise the current list of groundfish management measure proposals, set aside a dedicated time for submission of new measures from the public and advisory bodies, as well as provided an opportunity for the Council to prioritize management measures for work in light of its existing management commitments. The GMT has provided a report (Agenda Item D.2, GMT Report 1) that includes their current workload, an up-to-date list of groundfish management measure proposals, and items that were prioritized for further development by the Council in 2019.

The original design of this process was for the Council to examine all of the existing proposed groundfish management measures in March of each year, prioritize a sub-set of items, and schedule them on the year-at-a-glance calendar, as appropriate. At the three subsequent meetings (i.e., June, September, and November), the Council could schedule this agenda item for a brief check-in where new and/or emerging groundfish items could be submitted. These new submissions could be prioritized for work if warranted, (e.g., cowcod harvest specifications in 2019) or added to the list for future discussion. However, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, and its subsequent effects on the Council meeting agendas this year, this meeting marks the first time the Council was able to schedule this agenda item up for discussion. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1 provides a summarized version of the process for Council reference and Council staff is prepared to give a brief presentation to augment this attachment.

Council staff has identified one item the Council should consider adding to the management measure list. The limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) permit stacking program is required to be reviewed per Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA) § 303A(c)(1)(G). This MSA section, in brief, requires catch share programs to be reviewed, and modified if appropriate; whereby, the first review of the program is to occur five years after implementation, with subsequent reviews occurring no less frequently than once every seven years. The first review of this program was initiated with a scoping session in November 2013 and was completed in June of 2014. Therefore, given it has been nearly seven years since the last review, a new review is required. Based on staff's interpretation of the timeline specified by the MSA, the next LEFG permit stacking program

review should begin by the November 2020 Council meeting. Staff has prepared a summary document for Council review (Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 2) on this topic and are prepared to answer questions.

Scoping of Mothership Utilization

At the November 2019 meeting, the Council directed the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) to develop the scope of action and draft purpose and need statements for two of the four prioritized management measures: Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area Modifications and Mothership Utilization. In addition to those two issues, the GAP also provided similar information for the other two prioritized management measures, Trawl/Non-Trawl Amendment 21 Allocations; and Emley/Platt Exempted Fishing Permit Regulations. The GAP presented their work at the June 2020 Council meeting as [Informational Report 4](#). During the workload planning agenda item in June, the Council decide to schedule further scoping and discussion of the mothership utilization item for the September Council meeting.

At this meeting, the Council should consider adopting the mothership utilization draft purpose and need statement for public review as stated in Informational Report 4 and begin the amendment process, or continue to scope the issues and develop the management measure as appropriate. Council and NMFS staff developed a joint document to provide the Council with some things to consider during the scoping process (Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 3).

Council Action:

1. **Review List of Proposed Projects, Amendments, and New Fishery Management Measures.**
2. **Consider Overall Groundfish Workload.**
3. **Provide Guidance on Groundfish Management Priorities and Schedules.**
4. **Scope Issues Regarding Pacific Whiting Utilization in the Mothership Sector and Consider Adopting a Purpose and Need Statement.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1: Conceptual Design of Groundfish New Management Measure Prioritization Process.
2. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 2: Program Review Planning: Limited Entry Fixed Gear Permit Stacking.
3. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 3: Joint Council/NMFS Staff Mothership Utilization Scoping Paper – Things to Consider.
4. Agenda Item D.2.a, GMT Report 1: Groundfish Management Team Report on Workload and New Management Measures Update.
5. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.2 Workload and New Management Measure Priorities and Scoping of Mothership Utilization Todd Phillips and Brett Wiedoff
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review the List of Proposed Projects, Amendments, and New Management Measures; Consider Overall Workload and Provide Guidance on Priorities and Schedules; Scope Issues Regarding Pacific Whiting Utilization in the Mothership Sector and Consider Adopting a Purpose and Need Statement

PFMC
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