

Relevant CFR Citation	Description of recommended action(s)	Rationale of how the recommended action(s) reduces burdens on domestic fishing and increases production within sustainable fisheries	Proposal for initiating each recommended action(s) within 1 year of the date of this order (i.e., by May 7, 2021)
n/a	Survey Funding	<p>Even prior to the cancellation of the Northwest Fishery Science Center West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl and Hook and Line surveys in 2020, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) budget to fund surveys had not kept pace with rising costs (Agenda Item I.1.b Supplemental NMFS NWFSC Presentation 1 (Hastie) June 2019). There is broad agreement of the importance of ongoing groundfish surveys to inform management and provide stability to domestic groundfish fisheries, a point emphasized in Agenda Item C.1.a Supplemental GAP Report 1. Survey-collected data, not only provides important length and age observations that inform the population length- and age-structure, but also provides critical information on incoming year-class strength (often a year or more prior to being caught by commercial fisheries). Additionally, data collected coastwide using a standardized sampling approach allows for the creation of indices of abundance that are an essential component in stock assessments to derive current trends in stock abundance. The Council should reiterate to NMFS that funding for surveys should be a top agency priority.</p>	<p>The Pacific Council should send a letter to NMFS detailing the importance of prioritizing ongoing survey work in the annual budget process for management and fishery stability after the September 2020 meeting.</p>
n/a	Program costs	<p>These costs support biological and environmental sustainability, but may limit competitiveness in international and domestic markets with lower conservation standards. For example, the Economic Data Collection Program reports that these costs amounted to over \$8 million in 2018 for businesses in the West Coast Groundfish Catch Share Program. Congress may wish to explore further subsidizing these costs to provide parity with international substitute products, and ensure that environmental responsibility and stewardship in American fisheries management results in seafood products that are affordable on a global market.</p>	<p>After the September 2020 meeting, the Pacific Council should request that the NMFS Interagency Seafood Trade Task Force provide a report to Congress indicating the degree to which legally required industry costs (i.e., buyback fees, cost recovery for limited access privilege programs, and monitoring coverage) compare to industry costs in competing fisheries in other countries.</p>
50 CFR 660	Non-trawl area	<p>The unharvested non-trawl allocation is valued at \$55 million across all species (assuming 2019 non-trawl average prices). Harvesting the entire non-trawl allocation for each groundfish species may never be fully achievable, but there is an opportunity to expand access to healthy, underutilized stocks for industry, and to a valuable product for domestic and international consumers. Stakeholders have submitted ample public comment emphasizing the importance and urgency in accessing these underutilized stocks via this management measure.</p>	<p>The Pacific Council should initiate this action at the March or April 2020 meetings. Likely a three meeting process, and subsequent 9-12 month notice-and-comment rulemaking by NMFS.</p>

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50 CFR 660	Mothership sector utilization:		The Pacific Council initiated this item at the September 2020 meeting.
50 CFR 660	Midwater trawl gear targeting non-whiting stocks:	<p>The Year-Round Coastwide Midwater Rockfish Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) has been ongoing since 2018 and allowed midwater gear landings prior to May 15, resulting in an annual average of \$2.2 million per year. Moving this EFP into regulation may help processors in developing year-round markets for midwater rockfish species, improving the ability to compete with foreign seafood products. The EFP will have been in place for the required three years at the end of 2020, so the Council could move forward with scoping in March or April of 2021. The GMT notes that this change could require reinitiation of the 2017 salmon Biological Opinion based on the scope of the proposed action.</p>	The Pacific Council should initiate this action at the March or April 2020 meetings. Likely a three meeting process, and subsequent 9-12 month notice-and-comment rulemaking by NMFS.