

Agenda Item D.2 Workload and New Management Measure Priorities--Including the Scoping of Mothership Utilization Issues

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.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

I move the Council adopt for public review the following purpose and need statement regarding Pacific Whiting utilization in the Mothership Sector:

This action is needed because the mothership (MS) sector of the Pacific whiting fishery has experienced low attainment of its allocation since the start of the trawl catch share program, particularly since 2015, leading to social and economic losses for participants. The Council's five-year review of the Trawl Rationalization Program confirmed that mothership sector participants were not realizing the same economic gains as their counterparts in the shoreside and catcher processor whiting sectors. During the last five seasons, more than 350 million pounds of whiting worth more than \$28 million in ex-vessel revenue has been left unharvested in the mothership sector. Some catcher vessels have been unable to harvest and deliver their full MS sector allocations and, in certain cases, catcher vessels have been stranded without a mothership processor to deliver to for a season or year. Many whiting MS sector participants, including all six MS processor vessels and several MS catcher vessels, participate in the Alaska pollock fishery. The Alaska pollock fishery's record high catch limits in recent years has limited the availability of processor vessels and some catcher vessels to participate in the Pacific whiting fishery during the primary whiting season, between May 15 and December 31. This reduced availability of processor vessels has coincided with record high catch limits in the Pacific whiting fishery.

These factors, combined with regulatory barriers that have hindered flexibility, have contributed to decreased utilization rates in the mothership sector. The purpose of this action is to improve MS sector utilization and flexibility, and better meet elements of the Council's Trawl Rationalization Program goals to "create and implement a capacity rationalization plan that increases net

economic benefits, creates individual economic stability, [and] provides for full utilization of the trawl sector allocation.” Moved by Pete Hassemer; 2nd by Bob Dooley

Amendment: The purpose is to address the underutilization in the MS Sector. However, alternatives such as an earlier season start date would apply to or could at least indirectly affect all whiting sectors through participants in common. Moved by Heather Hall; 2nd by Phil Anderson

Amendment to the amendment (Moved by Phil Anderson 2nd by Butch Smith):

after start date delete “would apply to or could at least indirectly affect” and replace with “may apply to”

Vote on Mr. Anderson’s amendment to the amendment passed unan.

Amendment as amended passed unan.

Main motion as amended passed unan.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

WDFW Motion on D.2

I move that the Council add another agenda item to the September 2020 Council Meeting Agenda to consider an emergency action that would extend the primary sablefish tier season from October 31, 2020 until December 31, 2020.

Moved by Heather Hall

2nd by Christa M. Svensson

Motion carried unan.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES