

## GEAR SWITCHING FOR SABLEFISH IN THE TRAWL CATCH SHARE FISHERY

Council discussions on limiting the use of fixed gear in the trawl individual fishing quota fishery (gear switching) began as part of its review of the trawl catch share program, conducted in 2016 and 2017. During that process, the Council adopted a control date of September 15, 2017. The review was finalized at the November 2017 Council meeting, and at its March 2018 meeting the Council decided to begin a formal process that could culminate in a gear switching limitation. To assist it in those deliberations, the Council appointed the Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC) in the spring of 2018. The committee's charge included consideration of factors affecting under attainment of the trawl allocation and associated issues related to sablefish area management. A final report of that committee was provided at the June 2020 Council meeting. The report included a set of action alternatives to limit gear switching, along with a no action alternative, and it recommended that any action to modify the management of the sablefish allocation south of 36° N. lat. be delayed until after the gear switching issue is resolved. The Council formally reviewed the report at its September 2020 meeting, voted to move forward with considering of a range of alternatives that would limit gear switching for sablefish in the trawl individual fishing quota fishery north of 36° N. lat., and adopted a purpose and need statement.

At the September 2020 Council meeting, a new alternative was proposed in public comment, and the Council expressed hope that industry members might work together to develop an alternative that would be agreeable to the interests on various sides of the issue, perhaps over the fall or winter. To preserve an opportunity for the Council to move the process ahead as soon as it is ready, the Council action for this meeting was noticed as the adoption of a range of alternatives for analysis. However, at this meeting, the Council could choose to do one or more of the following: modify the alternatives developed by the SaMTAAC; eliminate an alternative(s); add new alternatives; and adopt or postpone adoption of the range of alternatives for analysis.

The action alternatives developed by the SaMTAAC are provided in Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 1 and a summary of the decision points specifically identified in the alternatives is provided as Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 2. Analysis related to provisions of the action alternatives is provided as Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 3 (Section 1.3 of that document provides the purpose and need statement adopted by the Council at its September 2020 meeting). In developing its recommended alternatives, the SaMTAAC considered a set of principles (see Section 1.4 of Attachment 3) and the goals and objectives of Amendment 20 and the FMP along with Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standards (see [SaMTAAC Meeting Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1](#) and Table 6-1 at the end of that document).

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt a Range of Alternatives and Provide Guidance, as Necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 1: SaMTAAC Recommended Alternatives.
2. Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 2: Summary of Decision Points Within The Current Gear Switching Action Alternatives.
3. Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 3: Preliminary Analysis of Gear Switching Alternatives.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.1 Gear Switching for Sablefish in the Trawl Catch Share Fishery Jim Seger
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. Council Action: Adopt a Range of Alternatives and Provide Guidance, as Necessary

PFMC  
10/20/20