

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON STANDARDIZED BYCATCH REPORTING METHODOLOGY

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received an overview from Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff, reviewed the documents in the briefing book and reviewed the [Groundfish Fishery Management Plan](#) (FMP).

The Summary of the final rule ([82FR6317, January 19, 2017](#)) and criteria for consistency review document ([Agenda Item C.3., Attachment 2, November 2020](#)) suggested that each advisory body examine their respective FMP, identify the fisheries that are subject to this review, then review the FMP to see if it meets each of the requirements. The GMT identified four fishery sectors (trawl, limited entry fixed gear, open access, and recreational) and conducted a preliminary review of the FMP for each of those fisheries to see if the requirements are met. The results of the GMT’s review are included in Table 1 with references to the applicable fishery management plan section, using the same format as Table 1 in [Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2](#). The FMP meets all of the requirements for the four fishery sectors identified.

Table 1. Summary of GMT review of the FMP to determine if the standardized bycatch reporting methodology in the FMP is consistent with the final rule for the four sectors identified, with the corresponding FMP section(s) listed for reference.

FMP/Fishery	Contain SBRM?	Meet the Purpose?	Consider Characteristics of Bycatch?	Feasibility Check?	Address Data Uncertainty	Address Data Use?
Groundfish/ Trawl Sector	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.1 & 6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.5.3)
Groundfish/Limited Entry Fixed Gear	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.1 & 6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.5.3)
Groundfish/ Open Access	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.1 & 6.4.1.2)	Y (6.4.1.2)	Y (6.5.3)
Groundfish/ Recreational	Y (6.4.1.3)	Y (6.4.1.3)	Y (6.4.1.3)	Y (6.4.1.3)	Y (6.4.1.3)	Y (6.5.3)

While reviewing the FMP for this exercise, the GMT noted some sections appear to be out of date, such as the description of the state recreational fishery estimation processes. These sections could be updated through a plan amendment to more clearly present the current standardized bycatch reporting methodologies that are required for fisheries managed under the FMP. Some details and examples that may need periodic updates could be removed from the FMP, and included instead in other documents like the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document, to better reflect evolving practices. The GMT does not have a recommendation on timeline for these changes, and requests Council guidance on if/when to prioritize this among the other groundfish workload items.