

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON WORKLOAD & NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

Each year in March or April, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), the public, and advisory bodies have the opportunity to consider tentatively scheduling groundfish topics on the Council's year at a glance (YAG) calendar, based on the workload of the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), Council, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This report reminds the Council, advisory bodies, and the public of the status of this process as of the September 2020 Council meeting, when it was last discussed.

Appendix 1 provides the GMT's workload matrix, which shows the progress of ongoing and scheduled projects. The shaded blocks represent the GMT's anticipated timeline for direct involvement with the issue (e.g., through the Council's final action), noting that some GMT members may have additional workload to assist NMFS and Council staff in planning and/or developing the final regulatory documents.

Appendix 2 shows the most recent (as of September 2020) groundfish workload prioritization list (Table A) and those items that are still relevant but not yet prioritized (Table B). The Council has previously prioritized four items (Table A). The GMT notes that the Trawl/Non-trawl Amendment 21 Allocations agenda item has been crossed out in Table A. Most species were dealt with through the 2021-22 biennial harvest specifications and management measures. If changes want to be considered for any of the remaining species, it could be done through the next biennial process.

In September, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) requested the GMT add a column to the tables to indicate if items are legally mandated or are requested to try to improve fishery performance ([Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2020](#)). That column has been added to Table A and Table B. The GAP also requested a list of items that have been completed through this process. Appendix 3 has been added to address this request and includes the item, when the Council took final action, outcome, and implementation date.

Appendix 1. GMT workload matrix, with progress of ongoing and scheduled projects.

Action	Category	Likely GMT Lead Analyst(s)	2021												2022											
			M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Biennial Groundfish Harvest Specifications	Biennial Process	All																					***			
Biennial Groundfish Management Measures		All																						***		
Exempted Fishing Permit Applications		Caroline, Erica, Kayleigh																						***		
Stock Assessment Updates and Panels		Chantel, Mel, Lynn, Whitney																								
Inseason Monitoring & Management	Inseason	Mel, Whitney, TBD																								
ESA Humpback Whale BiOp Measures	ESA	Caroline/TBD																								
Non-Salmon ESA workgroup		Caroline, Lynn																								
Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Committee (SAMTAAC)	Council Identified Priorities	Whitney, Katie																								
Fixed Gear Catch Share Review		TBD																								
Non-Trawl RCA Adjustments (Including CCA Revisions) & Emley/Platt EFP		Mel, Whitney, TBD																								
Mothership Sector Utilization		Whitney, Katie, Lynn																								
Ecosystem Items	Ecosystem	Lynn, Katie																								
Climate and Communities		Lynn, TBD																								
Halibut CSP Process	Halibut	Lynn, Caroline, Erica		***																						

*** notes when regulations are expected to be final

Appendix 2. The most recent groundfish workload prioritization list (September 2020)

Table A. Potential groundfish management measure items prioritized by the Council. (Number and order is based on when items had been scheduled in September 2020)

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Mandated or Requested Improvement	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date	Scheduled on YAAG a/
A1	MS	Mothership Sector Utilization	Accumulation Limits	Fishery performance	M/H	Council staff/ Whitney/Katie	preliminary analysis and background	March 2021
A2	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Non-Trawl RCA Modifications	Area Management	Spatial access	H	Mel/ Whitney/ TBD	None	April 2021
A4	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Trawl/Non-trawl Amendment 21 Allocations	Allocation	Fishery performance	M/H	Depends on species chosen	None	No
A3	Fixed Gear	Moving Emley/Platt EFP into Regulations	Gear	Species access	M	Mel/ Caroline	EFP completed	April 2021
A4	IFQ	Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management	Allocation/ Area Management	Fishery performance	Very H	Council staff/ Whitney/Katie	Ongoing	April 2021
A5	Fixed Gear	Fixed Gear Catch Share Review	Program Review	MSA requirement	H	TBD	None	June 2021

a/ as show in Agenda Item C.8., Supplemental Attachment 4, November 2020

Table B. All other potential groundfish management measure items (not in priority order, nor scheduled on the Year at a Glance Calendar)

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Mandated or Requested Improvement	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date
B1	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21	Catch Accounting	Fishery function	L	Council staff	None
B2	Trawl IFQ	Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl (SFFT) requirement between 40° 10' and 42° N. lat.	Gear	Fishery performance	Unknown	Council staff	Ongoing EFP (Year 3 of 3 needed per Salmon ITS)
B3	LE FG	LEFG Permit Price Reporting	Permitting	Fishery function	L (if any)	NWFSC	None
B4	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Area Management	Spatial access	M	CDFW staff	None
B5	Trawl, Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	L	TBD	Preliminary discussions held at PacFIN meeting
B6	Trawl IFQ	Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Non-whiting	Area Management	Spatial & Temporal Access	H	Council staff/TBD	Ongoing EFP (Year 2 of 3 needed per Salmon ITS)
B7	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Catch Accounting	Fishery function	M	Council staff	None
B8	Rec	Discard Mortality Rates for the Recreational Fisheries	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	M	Erica, Lynn, Caroline	Pending new research
B9	IFQ	Increasing IFQ Carryover from 10 Percent	Harvest Specifications	Fishery performance	No change from current	TBD	None
B10	IFQ	Aggregate Non-whiting QS Control Limits and Individual Species Weighting	Accumulation Limits	Fishery function	M	NWFSC / Council Staff	Pending research
B11	All	Sablefish Harvest Specification Change-Managing with ACTs	Allocation	Fishery performance	L	TBD/ Council staff	Preliminary scoping
B12	Rec	Permitting Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste	Permitting	Fishery performance	None	NMFS WCR/EC staff	None
B13	Trawl IFQ	Petrals; Gutted/ Head-on conversion factor	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	L	Me/TBD	None
B14	OA FG	Salmon VMS Ping Rate	Enforcement	Enforcement	L	EC Staff	Preliminary scoping

Appendix 3. Table of items completed through the workload planning and prioritization process.

Sector	Short Title	Category	Mandated or Requested Improvement	Time of Council Final Action	Implementation Date	Outcome
Trawl IFQ	Cowcod: Increases to individual vessel limits	Catch Accounting	Fishery Performance	September 2019		EFP issued for 2019
All	Shortbelly Rockfish Annual Management	Catch Accounting	MSA Mandated	November 2019	January 1, 2020	3,000 mt ACL for 2020
All	Shortbelly Rockfish Annual Management	Catch Accounting	MSA Mandated	June 2020	January 1, 2021	made EC species as part of 2021-22 biennial harvest specifications & management measures regulations
Trawl/ Non-trawl	Trawl/Non-trawl Amendment 21 Allocations	Allocation	Fishery Performance	June 2020	January 1, 2021	most species handled through 2021-2022 biennial process. remaining species may be incorporated into the 2023-24 process

PFMC
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