

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT
ON FIXED GEAR CATCH SHARE REVIEW - SCOPING

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the documents pertaining to Agenda Item G.2, Fixed Gear Catch Share Review and have the following comments.

The Enforcement Consultants would like to thank Dr. Jim Seger and Jessie Doerpinghaus for their briefing on G.2, Attachment 1, Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) Review-Outline for 2021.

2.8 Data Collection/Reporting, Monitoring, and Enforcement

Overall the EC is satisfied with the current regulations pertaining to sablefish and specifically the limited entry sablefish tier fishery. When all sablefish landings were required to be documented on electronic fish tickets in 2017, it made tracking permits and the pounds associated with those permits much easier for everyone involved. With electronic fish tickets, if a permit is leased or sold after the start of the season, anyone needing catch accounting data can track the pounds remaining on a specific permit electronically. Prior to this, you would need to first track down what state(s) the landings took place in, and second, track down the associated paper fish tickets before calculating the remaining pounds.

One complexity left for enforcement with the LEFG sablefish fishery is the owner on board requirement. Currently there are exemptions to the owner on board requirement that make it difficult to enforce in the field. For example, it is not clear if an owner on board exemption for one permit applies to non-exempted permits being landed against on the same vessel.

Analysts have requested that to support the review, members of the EC develop an assessment of compliance similar to what has been provided for the trawl catch share program. If the Council would like to see such information, the EC will work to develop a LEFG enforcement report. The effort would be led by National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement but also involve the United States Coast Guard and states.

PFMC
06/26/21