

## FIXED GEAR CATCH SHARE REVIEW – SCOPING

After their first review, all catch share programs must be reviewed at least once every seven years (Magnuson Stevens Act Section 303A(c)(i)(G)). The limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) primary sablefish fishery occurs north of 36° N. lat. and is managed under a catch share program. Under this program LEFG permits with sablefish endorsements are assigned a tier limit (cumulative landing limit for sablefish north of 36° N. lat.) that can be taken any time during a seven-month primary sablefish season. The previous LEFG catch share program review was initiated in 2013 and completed in June 2014; and the Council met the seven-year review requirement for the current review by initiating it through a planning document that was included in the September 2020 Council briefing materials ([Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 2, September 2020](#)).

At this meeting, the Council will be considering content of the review and a schedule to complete the review. With respect to the content of the review, using the 2014 review as a starting point and the September 2020 document as further guidance, a document has been developed for the public and Council to work with in considering the scope of review content (Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1). The first page of this document poses some specific questions about what should be included in the review. These questions are based on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) guidelines for conducting catch share program reviews, which had not been published at the time of the previous LEFG catch share program review (Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 2). It is important to recognize that the review document's primary function is to evaluate the program, generally not to propose or implement specific changes to the program.

With respect to the schedule, at least two more meetings will likely be required: one to approve a draft for public review and another to receive comments and finalize the document. Alternatively, if the Council were to find the current draft document (Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1) and input at this meeting adequate, it could approve it, modified as necessary, for public review and schedule one more meeting to finalize it.

Another consideration for determining the schedule is whether new management measures are to be developed along with the review. For both the LEFG review completed in 2014 and the trawl catch share review completed in 2017, the Council ran a parallel process during which action alternatives were developed and analyzed such that when the Council approved the final review documents, it also took preliminary or final action to recommend program changes. The final recommendations to NMFS were covered in a document separate from the review document (the review documents typically include recommendations regarding matters for future consideration but on which the Council is not taking action). If a parallel process is initiated to develop new management measures, staffing resources would need to be identified and consideration given to effects on new management measures waiting to be prioritized for action.

The Council may also want to consider whether the process will include public hearings. For the first LEFG catch share program review no public hearings were held, but for the trawl catch share program review a series of hearings were held in coastal communities.

**Draft Review Schedule (CM=Council Meeting)**

Dates	Review Process	Development of Alternatives for Action (if desired)
June 2021 CM	Approve scope of review and process	Determine if new mgmt. measures should be considered with review
TBD CM	Approve public review draft	Selection of issues to be addressed (possibly including a range of alternatives) <sup>a/</sup>
TBD CM		Selection of range and/or preliminary preferred alternatives (possibly two meetings)
TBD	Hearings (if desired)	
TBD CM	Approve final review document	Selection of final preferred alternative

a/ Specifying a range of alternatives at the same meeting issues are selected depends on the complexity of the issue.

**Council Action:**

**Provide guidance on the review process and scope of content.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1: Limited Entry Fixed Gear Review—Outline for 2021, Including Updated Information from 2014 Review.
2. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 2: NMFS Procedure 01-121-01: Guidance for Conducting Review of Catch Share Programs.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.2 Fixed Gear Catch Share Review – Scoping Jim Seger
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on the Review Process and Scope of Content

PFMC  
06/01/21