

SUMMARY OF DECISION POINTS WITHIN THE CURRENT GEAR SWITCHING ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council's) task at this meeting is to adopt a range of alternatives (ROA) for analysis. While there are three alternatives proposed by the Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC; [Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1](#)), other alternatives have been brought forward at previous meetings; and last fall, the Council encouraged members of industry to work together to come up with a compromise alternative. Therefore, the Council's task involves determining both whether alternatives might be added or subtracted as well as refining the current proposed alternatives as needed.

This document provides all the decision points (options) within the SaMTAAC recommended alternatives. The analysis of these alternatives and decision points that was provided at the November 2020 Council meeting is included in this briefing book as [Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 3](#).

In adopting a ROA for analysis, the Council may want to consider how the current alternatives align with the 29 percent maximum gear switching level adopted by the Council in April 2021 and whether the options within the alternatives need to be refined or can be narrowed. Considering the following key questions may help the Council refine the alternatives and options.

1. *Does the Council want the maximum possible gear switching amount to be 29 percent (certainty) or the expected maximum to be 29 percent (projected gear switching)?*
2. *Does the 29 percent gear switching amount apply to all participants or only those that would receive legacy opportunities?*
3. *What is the long-term objective for a gear switching level?*

Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 4 provides some analysis to assist the Council with these questions. That analysis notes that, in particular, the Alternative 1 Conversion Options 1 and 2 would be unlikely to meet the Council's 29 percent maximum criterion. Additionally, it indicates that under all alternatives, legacy opportunity qualification options and/or the amounts of gear switching allowed by qualifiers and non-qualifiers might need to be modified to meet the 29 percent criterion.

Gear Specific QP Alternative (Action Alternative 1)

Allocation of Gear Specific QP

Gear Specific QP Option 1: 70 percent trawl-only/30 percent unrestricted (any gear)

Gear Specific QP Option 2: 90 percent trawl-only/10 percent unrestricted (any gear)

If the Council selects the opt-out described below, then both Option 1 and 2 are available. If not, then only Option 1 is available.

Option for Conversion to Unrestricted QP

Conversion Date Provision: Yes or No. *If yes, then:*

Conversion Option 1: On August 1, any remaining unused trawl-only sablefish QP in individual accounts will convert to unrestricted sablefish QP.

Conversion Option 2: On September 1, any remaining unused trawl-only sablefish QP in individual accounts will convert to unrestricted sablefish QP.

Conversion Option 3: Any trawl-only QP left at the end of the year will be converted to unrestricted QP (either before post-season trading or when issued as carryover, to be determined).

[Note that Option 3 essentially includes two suboptions for which a choice would need to be made.]

Option for an Opt-out Provision for 100 percent unrestricted QP (any gear).

Opt-out Provision: Yes or no. *If yes, then:*

Opt-out Qualification Suboption:

Opt-out Qualification Suboption A: between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2018, one fixed gear sablefish north landing.

*Opt-out Qualification Suboption B:*¹ between January 1, 2011 and September 15, 2017, a minimum of 10,000 lbs of fixed gear sablefish north landings.

Opt-out Qualification Suboption C: ~~Error! Bookmark not defined.~~ between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2018, a minimum of 10,000 lbs of fixed gear sablefish north landings.

Opt-out Qualification Suboption D: between January 1, 2011 and September 15, 2017 or between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2018, a minimum of 30,000 lbs of fixed gear sablefish north landings.

¹ Opt-out qualification Suboptions B and C might be combined at the time of Council preliminary and/or final action.

Gear-Switching Endorsement Alternative (Action Alternative 2)

Gear-Switching Endorsement and Qualification

To qualify for a gear-switching endorsement, between January 1, 2011 and September 15, 2017 (the control date) the limited entry trawl permit must have landed northern sablefish IFQ with fixed gear totaling at least:

Endorsement Qualification Option 1: 10,000 lbs per year in at least 3 years
Recent Participation Suboption: and participated in at least one year from 2016 through 2018.

Endorsement Qualification Option 2: 30,000 lbs per year in at least 3 years
Recent Participation Suboption: and participated in at least one year from 2016 through 2018.

Endorsement Qualification Option 3: 30,000 lbs per year in at least 3 years and participated in at least one year from 2016 through 2018; or caught 90,000 lbs of northern sablefish cumulatively across three years from 2014 to 2018, with at least one gear-switched landing in each of the three years.

Sablefish Gear-Switching Limits

Trawl permits with gear-switching endorsements. The annual sablefish north gear-switching limit for a gear-switching endorsed permits is:

Endorsement Limit Option 1: for each qualifying permit, the average percentage of the sablefish north trawl allocation caught with fixed gear for years fished between 2011 and the control date.

Endorsement Limit Option 2: the standard northern sablefish vessel QP limit (the current limit is 4.5 percent but this could change in the future).

Sequential Permit Registration

For further Council discussion: Should a vessel be able to expand its gear-switching opportunity by sequentially fishing under multiple gear-switching endorsed permits? Note: Gear switching limits apply to the permit, thereby allowing the limit for a permit to be shared among vessels through a transfer of the permit from one vessel to another.

Gear-Switching Endorsement Alternative (Action Alternative 2)
<p>Gear-Switching Limit Overages</p> <p>Gear switching overages would be deducted from the associated permit’s gear-switching limit for the following year. <i>Suboption:</i> Any QP a vessel uses for gear switching in excess of its gear-switching limit will not reduce the following year gear-switching limit.</p>
<p>Endorsement Expiration</p> <p>Expiration Option 1: Gear-switching endorsements will expire when the permit is transferred to a different owner or a new owner is added to the existing permit ownership (ownership-based phase-down of gear switching). Expiration Option 2: Gear-switching endorsements do not expire when the permit is transferred.</p>
Active Trawler Alternative (Action Alternative 3)
<p>Exemption Qualification.</p> <p>To qualify a permit for an exemption, a vessel must have used fixed gear in the trawl catch share program to land a minimum of: Exempted Vessel Qualification Option 1: 30,000 lbs of northern sablefish per year in at least three years between January 1, 2011 and September 15, 2017. Exempted Vessel Qualification Option 2: 30,000 lbs of northern sablefish per year in at least three years between January 1, 2011 and September 15, 2017 or 90,000 lbs cumulatively across three years from 2014 to 2018, with at least one gear-switched landing in each of the three years.</p>
<p>Exemption Expiration.</p> <p>Exemptions will expire upon transfer of the limited entry permit to a new owner... <i>Exemption Expiration Suboption:</i> ... or 12 years after any fishing under the regulations start, whichever comes earlier.</p>
<p>Gear-Switching Limit Overages.</p> <p>Gear-switching overages would be deducted from the associated vessel or permit’s gear-switching limit for the following year (depending on whether it is an active trawler or fishing under an exempted permit). <i>Suboption:</i> Any QP a vessel uses for gear switching in excess of its gear-switching limit will not reduce the following year gear-switching limit.</p>