

SABLEFISH GEAR SWITCHING

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) discussions on limiting the use of fixed gear in the trawl individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery (gear switching) began as part of its review of the trawl catch share program, conducted in 2016 and 2017. During that process, the Council adopted a control date of September 15, 2017. The review was finalized at the November 2017 Council meeting, and at its March 2018 meeting, the Council decided to begin a formal process that could culminate in a gear switching limitation. To assist it in those deliberations, the Council appointed the Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC) in the spring of 2018. The committee provided a final report at the June 2020 Council meeting which included a set of action alternatives to limit gear switching, along with a no action alternative. The Council formally reviewed the [SaMTAAC report](#) at its September 2020 meeting along with a preliminary assessment of trawl under-attainment issues ([Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1, September 2020](#)), adopted a purpose and need statement, and voted to move forward with considering of a range of alternatives that could limit gear switching for sablefish in the trawl IFQ fishery north of 36° N. lat. (no action continues to be included). At its November 2020 meeting, the Council reviewed the alternatives ([Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1, September 2021](#); also see [Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 2, September 2021](#) for a summary of decision points within the alternatives) along with a related analysis ([Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 3, September 2021](#)) and asked for an analysis to help identify a level of gear switching that would be used to guide further development of the SaMTAAC recommended alternatives. At its April 2021 meeting, the Council reviewed that analysis and set 29 percent as the maximum gear switching level that it would use in further developing the range of alternatives (see [April meeting transcript page 105](#)). An analysis of the degree to which the SaMTAAC alternatives meet the 29 percent criterion is provided as [Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 4, September 2021](#). That analysis poses three questions for Council consideration as it uses the 29 percent criterion in further developing the alternatives:

- 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?*

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to adopt a range of alternatives for analysis.

This agenda item has two parts. Part 1 is scheduled to occur on Friday, September 10 with the overview, reports and comments of management entities and advisory bodies, and public comment. Council action will occur during Part 2, which is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14.

Council Action:

Adopt a range of alternatives and provide other guidance, as appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1: SaMTAAC Recommended Alternatives.
2. Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 2: Summary of Decision Points Within the Current Gear Switching Action Alternatives.
3. Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 3: Preliminary Analysis of Gear-Switching Alternatives.
4. Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 4: Supplement to Preliminary Analysis of Gear Switching Alternatives.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.5 Sablefish Gear Switching Jim Seger
(Part 1 - C.5.a and C.5.b on Friday, then continue Tuesday with C.5.c)
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Range of Alternatives and Provide Other Guidance, as Appropriate
- C.5 Sablefish Gear Switching - (Part 2 - Continued from Friday) Jim Seger
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Range of Alternatives and Provide Other Guidance, as Appropriate

PFMC
08/18/21