

FIXED GEAR LOGBOOK – FINAL ACTION

Under this agenda item, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will update the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) regarding the current status of the Federal fixed gear logbook. NMFS is seeking clarity and guidance regarding several points, including logbook structure and requirements. The Council has the opportunity to revisit their original guidance for a fixed gear logbook requirement and update it as appropriate.

A fixed gear logbook was originally recommended by the Council in June 2008 as part of the 2009-2010 groundfish harvest specifications and management measure action. The fixed gear logbook was not implemented as part of that action as NMFS determined “development and implementation of a federal logbook system would take more time than is available for this rulemaking. Therefore, it is under consideration for implementation in the future” ([73 FR 80516; December 31, 2008](#)). Due to competing workload and limited resources, NMFS has not been able to develop a fixed gear logbook until recently. NMFS provided detailed examination of potential logbook structure and requirements to the Council at the September 2021 Council meeting under the NMFS report ([Agenda Item C.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2, September 2021](#)). Based on that discussion, this agenda item was scheduled to provide a dedicated opportunity for the Council to discuss and provide updated guidance to NMFS regarding the fixed gear logbook, as appropriate. The Council should consider if their original motion is consistent with their current goals and objectives for the groundfish fishery

NMFS is also seeking clarity and guidance on the Council’s intended scope of the fixed gear logbook described in their report (Agenda Item E.5.a, NMFS Report 1). A point raised in the report by NMFS is whether the Council intends to apply the logbook to only those vessels that use fixed gear or whether the intent is to also include vessels using non-trawl gear. For reference, the regulatory definition of fixed gear ([§660.11\(5\)](#)) does not include commonly used groundfish “hook-and-line” ([§660.11\(6\)](#)) gear types, such as troll gear. Specifying logbooks for fixed gear only may limit the future flexibility of the program, notably if the Council moves forward with allowing certain fixed gear use in the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area as proposed under the 2023-2024 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures. The Council has the opportunity to respond to and provide updated guidance to NMFS regarding the questions in their report.

Council Action:

- 1. Review Council Objectives for Fixed Gear Logbook**
- 2. Adopt Final Recommendations to Clarify Fixed Gear Logbook Requirements**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.5.a, NMFS Report 1: NMFS Report on Groundfish Fixed Gear Logbooks, March 2022
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.5 Fixed Gear Logbook Update Todd Phillips
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Recommendations to Clarify Logbook Requirements, as Appropriate.

PFMC
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