

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON WORKLOAD AND NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

Each year in March or April, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), the public, and advisory bodies have the opportunity to consider tentatively scheduling groundfish topics on the Council's year at a glance (YAG) calendar, based on the workload of the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), Council, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This report reminds the Council, advisory bodies, and the public of the status of this process as of the March 2021 Council meeting, when it was last discussed. The GMT may provide a supplemental report with any new information that arises.

Appendix 1 provides the GMT's workload matrix, which shows the progress of ongoing and scheduled projects. The shaded blocks represent the GMT's anticipated timeline for direct involvement with the issue (e.g., through the Council's final action), noting that some GMT members may have additional workload to assist NMFS and Council staff in developing the final regulatory documents.

Appendix 2 shows the most recent (as of March 2021) groundfish workload prioritization list (items the Council has prioritized; Table A) and those items that are still relevant but not yet prioritized (Table B).

Appendix 1. GMT workload matrix, with progress of ongoing and scheduled projects

Action	Category	Mandated vs. Council's Discretion	Likely GMT Lead Analyst(s)	2022												2023											
				Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
Biennial Groundfish Harvest	Biennial Process	M	All																				***				
Biennial Groundfish Management		M	All																				***				
Exempted Fishing Permit Applications		M	Joe, Lynn																					***			
Stock Assessment Updates and Panels		M	Chantel, Mel, Lynn, Whitney, Katie, James																								
Inseason Monitoring & Management	Inseason	M	Mel, Whitney, Katie																								
ESA Humpback Whale BiOp Measures	ESA	M	Lynn/TBD																								
Non-Salmon ESA workgroup		M	Lynn/TBD																								
Fixed Gear Catch Share Review	Program Review	M	TBD																								
Sablefish Gear Switching	Council Identified Priorities	CD	Whitney, Katie																								
Non-Trawl RCA Adjustments & Emley/Platt EFP		CD	Mel, Whitney, TBD																								
Mothership Sector Utilization		CD	Whitney, Katie, Lynn																					***			
Ecosystem Items	Ecosystem	M	Daniel, Lynn																								
Climate and Communities		M	Daniel, Lynn																								
Halibut CSP Process	Halibut	M	Lynn, James, Lorna		***																		***				
Marine Spatial Planning	Marine Planning	CD	TBD	As needed												As needed											

*** notes when regulations are expected to be final

Appendix 2. The most recent groundfish workload prioritization list (March 2021)

Table A. Groundfish management measure items prioritized by Council.

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Mandated or Requested Improvement	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date	Scheduled on YAAG a/
A1	MS	Mothership Sector Utilization	Accumulation Limits	Fishery performance	M/H	Council staff/ Whitney/Katie	Ongoing	FPA March 2022
A2	Non-Trawl	Non-Trawl RCA Modifications	Area Management	Spatial access	H	Mel/ Whitney/ Todd	preliminary analysis and background	ROA/PPA April 2022
A3	Fixed Gear	Moving Emley/Platt EFP into Regulations	Gear	Spatial access	M	Mel/ James	EFP completed	Combined with A2
A4	IFQ	Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management	Allocation/ Area Management	Fishery performance	Very H	Council staff/ Whitney/Katie	Ongoing	PPA June 2022
A5	Fixed Gear	Fixed Gear Catch Share Review	Program Review	MSA Mandated	M	TBD	preliminary analysis and background	Scoping March 2022; Final June 2022

a/ as show in **Agenda Item C.10, Supplemental Attachment 4, November 2021**

Table B. All other potential groundfish management measure items (not in priority order nor scheduled on YAG). Items bolded are updated or new.

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Mandated or Requested Improvement	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date
B1	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21	Catch Accounting	Fishery function	L	Council staff	None
B2	Trawl IFQ	Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl (SFFT) requirement between 40° 10' and 42° N. lat.	Gear	Fishery performance	Unknown	Council staff	Ongoing EFP (Year 4 of 3 needed per Salmon ITS)
B3	LE FG	LEFG Permit Price Reporting	Permitting	Fishery function	L (if any)	NWFSC	None
B4	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Area Management	Spatial access	M	CDFW staff	None
B5	Trawl, Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	L	TBD	Preliminary discussions held at PacFIN meeting
B6	Trawl IFQ	Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Non-whiting	Area Management	Spatial & Temporal Access	H	Council staff/TBD	starting year 5 of EFP
B7	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Catch Accounting	Fishery function	M	Council staff	None
B8	Rec	Discard Mortality Rates for the Recreational Fisheries	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	M	Lynn, Chantel, Daniel	GMT subgroup working on developing rates for additional species, hope to present sometime in 2022
B9	IFQ	Increasing IFQ Carryover from 10 Percent	Harvest Specifications	Fishery performance	No change from current	TBD	None
B10	IFQ	Aggregate Non-whiting QS Control Limits and Individual Species Weighting	Accumulation Limits	Fishery function	M	NWFSC / Council Staff	Pending research

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Mandated or Requested Improvement	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date
B11	Rec	Permitting Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste	Permitting	Fishery performance	None	NMFS WCR/EC staff	None
B12	Trawl IFQ	Petrals; Guttled/ Head-on conversion factor	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	L	Katie	None
B13	OA FG	Salmon VMS Ping Rate	Enforcement	Enforcement	L	EC Staff	Preliminary scoping
B14	Rec & Comm.	Cowcod Conservation Area removal	Area Management	Spatial access	H	Mel, James	Combined with A2 above
B15	Trawl	prohibition of directed shortbelly rockfish fishery	Catch prohibition	Fishery prohibition	M/H	TBD	None
B16	Salmon troll	lingcod trip limit adjustments north of 40-10	Species Access	Fishery performance	M?	Corey Niles/Whitney	None