

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON LIMITED ENTRY FIXED GEAR CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the materials in the advanced briefing book, including the updated draft of the Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) Permit Stacking Program Review ([Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 1, March 2022](#)), and received a briefing from Ms. Jessi Doerpinghaus and Dr. Jim Seger of Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff.

The GMT commends the analysts on a very thorough job and recommends that the Council move forward with public review of this current document with the addition of spatial distribution and port equity analysis in the research and data needs section, per the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) recommendation ([Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, March 2022](#)).

The GMT reiterates the research and data needs from the SSC from the 2014 review and agrees with keeping the collection of permit sale prices on the workload prioritization list until prioritized by the Council. The GMT also agrees with the recommendation to continue periodic voluntary economic data collection, such as what was collected using the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) Participation survey, particularly given that there are only two years' worth of survey results, one of which may not be representative of average LEFG participation. The GMT sees the continuation of this data collection as potentially helpful for future program reviews or for analyzing any new management measure requests that come up under this program review but notes that only roughly half of the fleet was captured in the survey. The GMT also agrees with the SSC's recommendation to add to the research and data needs section further analysis of changes in the spatial distribution of the fishery and equity among ports and users ([Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, March 2022](#)).

The GMT recommends that any additional new management measures requested by industry, the GAP, and/or public comment be addressed in a separate stand-alone process and be added to and considered relative to the other items in the workload prioritization list (Appendix 2, Tables A and B, in [Agenda Item E.6.a, GMT Report 1, March 2022](#)). The GMT acknowledges that there are public comments submitted for Council consideration but are not making specific comments on them at this time. If the Council identifies any requests as a high priority at this meeting, the GMT will consider prioritization of those items under Agenda Item E.6 at this meeting, alongside all other items on the groundfish prioritization list. All other requests that are added to Section 5 (Recommendations) of the program review will be added to the workload prioritization list. **The GMT recommends that the removal of the base permit designation noted in [Agenda Item E.4.a, NMFS Report 2, March 2022](#) be included as a recommendation in Section 5 of the draft review that is put out for public review.**