

## TRAWL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM AND INTER-SECTOR ALLOCATION REVIEW - PLANNING

After their first review, all catch share programs must be reviewed at least once every seven years (Magnuson-Stevens Act Section 303A(c)(i)(G)). The trawl catch share program (Amendment 20) includes three somewhat separate catch share systems: shoreside individual fishing quotas (IFQs), mothership co-ops, and catcher-processor co-ops. The [previous trawl catch share program review](#) was initiated in June 2016 with the approval of a review calendar and completed in November 2017 with the adoption of the final review document. At that time, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) committed to a 6-year review cycle for the trawl catch share program, in order to avoid heavy workload periods associated with the biennial groundfish specifications. Based on that decision, a review of the trawl catch share program is scheduled to commence this year. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has provided guidance for the conduct of catch share reviews ([NMFSPi 01-121-01](#)). A summary of that guidance in the context of Amendment 20 is provided in Agenda Item G.9, Attachment 1.

Integral to the trawl catch share program are the intersector (trawl/nontrawl) allocations. Those allocations were mainly established through Amendment 21. The Council's trawl catch share action committed to a review of these allocations in conjunction with the catch share program review. Additionally, when NMFS developed its policy for the review of intersector allocations (Fisheries Allocation Review Policy [01-119](#); and Procedure [01-119-01](#)), the Council committed to review of a number of additional allocations. The following are the intersector allocations the Council has committed to reviewing in conjunction with its review of the trawl catch share program (see [Council Operating Procedure 27](#)): Amendment 21 trawl/nontrawl allocations; sablefish north of 36° N. lat.; Pacific whiting allocation among trawl sectors; and trawl bycatch allowances of Pacific halibut.

### **Trawl Catch Share Review and Process**

For Council consideration, staff is proposing that a preliminary review draft be developed by starting with an update of some of the core information from the previous review and information from the new QS owner survey that the Council requested pursuant to results from the last review. A new hire or contractor would develop the preliminary draft, which would be provided for the Council next June. Along with the review document, [Appendix E to the FMP](#) would be updated to reflect follow-on actions implemented since the last review. If the Council desires, hearings could be held sometime in the spring. These hearings might also entail solicitation of comment on the cost project discussed under Agenda Item G.8. Then at the June 2023 meeting, the Council would review the preliminary draft and determine whether there are in areas which the Council would like to see an expanded assessment. At that time, the Council would consider whether to

convene a Community Advisory Board (CAB)<sup>1</sup> and develop new management measures in tandem with completion of the review<sup>2</sup>.

If the Council follows this proposal, for this meeting the other main decision related to the catch share review is whether or not to hold hearings in the spring, the number of such hearings, and whether they would be in-person or virtual.

### **Intersector Allocation Review and Process**

For the intersector allocation review, the Council could develop a similar document and follow a similar process to that described for the catch share review. If hearings are held, they would also solicit comment on intersector allocations.

With respect to what factors could be included in intersector allocation reviews, the NMFS procedural guidance includes a fairly extensive list ([Procedure 01-119-02](#)). The guidance document is summarized in the 2017 Amendment 21 [intersector allocation review](#). Relative to the guidance document, the 2017 review document covered a more restricted range of factors. It documented: allocation, catch, attainment rates, landings, and exvessel values by sector (trawl/nontrawl, including sablefish north). For sablefish north it provided additional breakouts for the limited entry trawl, limited entry fixed gear and open access sectors. For Pacific whiting, it broke out the three whiting sectors and provided information on allocation, catch and attainment rates whiting and certain bycatch species: canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, widow rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish. For Pacific halibut shoreside IBQ and at-sea set asides it provided total mortality and percent attainment.

In summary, the staff proposed process for both reviews would be as follows:

**Fall 2022**—Develop a preliminary draft based on an update of core information.

**Spring 2023**—Hold hearings (if the Council decides to include hearings).

**June 2023**—Review the preliminary draft and determine whether to expand it.

**Summer 2023**—Work on expanding the draft or put draft out for public review. Convene CAB and begin developing new management measures, if desired by the Council.

**TBD**—complete review documents and processes.

### **Council Action:**

**Decide on initial process for the trawl catch share and intersector allocation reviews.**

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<sup>1</sup> Community Advisory Board (CAB): Section A-2.3.4 of Appendix E of the groundfish FMP states: “ A community advisory committee will take part in the review of IFQ program performance.” Appendix E may be modified through subsequent Council policy without an FMP amendment.

<sup>2</sup> For both the LEFG review completed in 2014 and the trawl catch share review completed in 2017, the Council ran a parallel process during which action alternatives were developed and analyzed such that when the Council approved the final review documents, it also took preliminary or final action to recommend program changes. For the recently completed LEFG review, new management measures were not developed concurrently.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.9, Attachment 1: Catch Share Program Review Planning: Trawl Catch Shares.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.9 Trawl Catch Share Program and Inter-Sector Allocation Review - Planning Jim Seger
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Review Initial Plans for the Trawl Catch Share Program and Inter-Sector Reviews and Provide Guidance on the Schedule and Tasks for the Next Steps

PFMC  
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