

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON WORKLOAD AND NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURE UPDATE

This agenda item has been scheduled for a prioritization discussion in March 2023, with all other months being updates only. However, in the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) workload planning statement in June we reiterated the need for some current agenda items to be finalized before prioritization of any additional items, and suggested moving the next prioritization exercise to June 2023 ([Agenda Item C.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, June 2022](#)). In the time between now and June 2023, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) could still do the brief review at additional meetings, if desired.

### Prioritization Lists Updates

Since submitting [Agenda Item G.2.a, GMT Report 1](#), the GMT has identified the below updates that should be made to the tables in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. Changes are **bolded** in the tables.

- Add the Trawl Catch Share Program Review to the Appendix 1 GMT workload matrix. Depending on the outcome of Agenda Item G.9 at this meeting, the inter-sector allocation review and/or accumulation caps analysis could be separate items on a different timeline.
- Remove fixed gear catch share review from Table A (A3)
- Table A, Item #A1: Emley/Platt exempted fishing permit (EFP) will be in regulation starting 2023 so changed the short title to “Non-Trawl Area Management”
- Table B, add “Allow at-sea processing of Pacific whiting south of 42° 10’ N. lat.” back to the list (B17) as a regulatory change, much like B5 which is the regulatory change that the midwater trawl EFP is providing data for

### Modifications to COP 19

The GMT reviewed [Agenda Item G.2, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1](#) on proposed revisions to Council Operating Procedure 19 (COP-19), and appreciates the Council staff’s efforts. The GMT has repeatedly requested that the EFP process be updated<sup>1</sup>. What are the metrics, or benchmarks, that need to be met in order for an EFP to begin the process of being incorporated into regulation? While Attachment 1 attempts to address some of the issues, the GMT has some additional thoughts and considerations.

The first issue that stands out is that the proposed changes put all of the onus and additional workload on the GMT. The GMT believes the EFP applicant, or coordinator(s), should have a role as well, as they are the ones who have the data. Additionally, based on recent experience with EFPs, should the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have a role specified, and if so what?

Second, the GMT has previously indicated when we thought there was sufficient data on an EFP, or suite of EFPs, to start the regulatory process, but NMFS provided guidance to the EFP applicants that they need to renew their EFP due to having insufficient data. Therefore, the GMT wonders

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<sup>1</sup> [Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report, March 2016](#), [Agenda Item G.3.a, Supplemental REVISED GMT Report, June 2016](#), [Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, June 2018](#), [Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental GMT Report, June 2020](#)

what role NMFS will have in this new proposed process. Will NMFS' opinion outweigh that of the GMT? If so, how does the process move forward?

There are inconsistencies and misunderstandings with regard to what is considered "sufficient data/information" to implement an EFP into regulation. The Council, the GMT, NMFS, and others should explicitly use each application's EFP objectives to determine what constitutes "sufficient information" for implementation into regulation. The reviewing parties should coordinate to ensure that the understanding of "sufficient information" is consistent.

During GMT discussions on these proposed revisions, the GMT had a lengthy discussion about the reporting requirements for EFPs. There should be some template or outline of what is required in the annual EFP report. The quantity and quality of recent reports has varied greatly. Additionally, reporting requirements should include not only data and information from the current year of the EFP, but also data and information from the life of the EFP to date. Having all of that information in one place may help aid in the proposed process discussed above.

If the Council wishes to pursue modifications to COP-19, as suggested in Attachment 1, the GMT can come back under the Council Operating Procedure and Membership agenda item at this, or a future meeting, with proposed edits.

### 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											
				Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Biennial Groundfish Harvest Specifications	Biennial Process	M	All					***												
Biennial Groundfish Management Measures		M	All					***												
Exempted Fishing Permit Applications		M	Joe, Lynn					***												
Stock Assessment Updates and Panels		M	All																	
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	Katie, Whitney																	
Trawl Catch Share Review & Inter-Sector Allocation Review		M	Whitney, TBD																	
Sablefish Gear Switching	Council Identified Priorities	CD	Whitney, Katie																	
Non-Trawl RCA Adjustments, Emley/Platt EFP, CCA repeal		CD	Mel, Whitney, TBD																	
Whiting Utilization		CD	Whitney, Katie									***								
Stock Definitions		M	All																	
Ecosystem Items	Ecosystem	M	Daniel, Lynn																	
Halibut CSP Process	Halibut	M	Lynn, James, Lorna																	
Marine Spatial Planning	Marine Planning	CD	TBD																	

\*\*\* notes when regulations are expected to be final

## Appendix 2. The most recent groundfish workload prioritization list (updated Sept 2022)

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	Trawl, Non-Trawl	<b>Non-Trawl Area Management</b>	Area Management	Spatial access	H	Mel/ Whitney/ Todd	analysis and background	ROA/PPA Sept 2022
A2	IFQ	Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management	Allocation/ Area Management	Fishery performance	Very H	Council staff/ Whitney/Katie	Ongoing	PPA Nov 2022
<b>A3</b>	<b>Fixed Gear</b>	<b>Fixed Gear Catch Share Review</b>	<b>Program Review</b>	<b>MSA Mandated</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>preliminary analysis and background</b>	<b>Final June 2022</b>
A3	All	Stock Definitions/Stock Complexes	FMP Amendment	Mandated	H	TBD	NMFS paper describing the issue	Further scoping Sept 2022

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

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Mandated or Requested Improvement</b>	<b>Analytical Workload (H, M, L)</b>	<b>Primary Analysts</b>	<b>Progress to Date</b>
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	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Area Management	Spatial access	M	CDFW staff	None
B4	Trawl, Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	L	TBD	Preliminary discussions held at PacFIN meeting
B5	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	currently year 5 of EFP
B6	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Catch Accounting	Fishery function	M	Council staff	None
B7	Rec	Discard Mortality Rates for the Recreational Fisheries	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	M	Lynn, Chantel, Daniel, Dr. Budrick	draft report presented to SSC in Sept
B8	IFQ	Increasing IFQ Carryover from 10 Percent	Harvest Specifications	Fishery performance	No change from current	TBD	None
B9	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
B10	Rec	Permitting Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste	Permitting	Fishery performance	None	NMFS WCR/EC staff	None
B11	Trawl IFQ	Petrals; Gutted/ Head-on conversion factor	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	L	Katie	None
B12	OA FG	Salmon VMS Ping Rate	Enforcement	Enforcement	L	EC Staff	Preliminary scoping
B13	Trawl	prohibition of directed shortbelly rockfish fishery	Catch prohibition	Fishery prohibition	M/H	TBD	pre-scoping via ODFW report Nov 2021
B14	Salmon troll	lingcod trip limit adjustments north of 40° 10' N. lat.	Species Access	Fishery performance	M?	Corey Niles/Whitney	None
B15	LEFG	LEFG follow on: including cost recovery, removal of base permit, allow use of slinky pots, add 4th permit per vessel, allow cumulative non-sablefish landing limit for each permit	Program enhancement	Fishery performance	TBD	TBD	NMFS paper describing cost recovery
B16	Non-trawl	Remove the non-trawl RCA completely	Area Management	Spatial access	TBD	TBD	
<b>B17</b>	<b>Trawl</b>	<b>Allow at-sea processing of Pacific whiting south of 42° 10' N. lat</b>	<b>Area Management</b>	<b>Spatial Access</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	

PFMC  
09/09/22