

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON TRAWL CATCH SHARE
PROGRAM AND INTER-SECTOR ALLOCATION REVIEW - HEARING SCHEDULE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a brief overview from Dr. Jim Seger on the proposed hearing schedule for the upcoming Trawl Catch Share Program and Inter-sector Allocation Review and offers the following comments/suggestions.

Giving consideration to both budget and staff time requirements for in-person meetings, staff have proposed four in-person hearings and two virtual hearings (six meetings total) to be completed over a 1.5-week period between the end of April and beginning of May 2023 (this compares to nine in-person meetings that were held during the last program review). It is the GAP's preference that the two in-person meetings be held in both Washington (Seattle and Westport) and Oregon (Astoria and Newport) as is being proposed for California (Eureka and San Luis Obispo/Monterey) for a total of six in-person meetings along with the two virtual meeting options (eight meetings total). Given the geographic locations of the trawl and fixed gear sectors, the GAP feels it is unrealistic to plan for a single hearing in Oregon unlike in Washington where, if necessary, a single in-person meeting is more feasible. If the Council/staff determine that there can only be four in-person meetings, the GAP recommends these meetings be held in Seattle, Astoria, Newport, and Eureka.

The GAP appreciates the addition of holding virtual hearings as a way of increasing stakeholder participation and helping to address concerns with the potential limited geographic scope of in-person meetings. It is the GAP's preference that more in-person meetings be held; however, the Council/staff could consider the addition of a third virtual meeting to help ensure as much participation and stakeholder input as possible.

Lastly, when finalizing the hearing schedule, the GAP recommends the Council/staff be cognizant of the time of the year and when vessels/sectors may be actively fishing (i.e., moving the proposed May meetings into April to better accommodate the fishing schedule of the at-sea fleet).

PFMC
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