

TRAWL COST RECOVERY REPORT

Each year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) receives a report from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on cost recovery for the trawl catch share program (Agenda Item G.2.a, NMFS Report 1). The report covers costs and fee collections from the previous year along with fee rates for the current year. This agenda provides the Council an opportunity to review the cost recovery levels established by NMFS.

At this meeting, NMFS will also provide a report (Agenda Item G.2.a, NMFS Report 2) addressing questions raised by the Council and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel about accounting for cost savings resulting and efficiencies in cost recovery fee determination. The report provides, for each major trawl fishery management, monitoring, and enforcement function, an overview of NMFS' incremental tasks and costs with and without the trawl program and a discussion of net cost changes.

Background: As authorized under Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) Sections 303A(e) and 304(d)(2), Amendment 20 included a Council recommendation that fees be charged for cost recovery. This was followed, in September 2011, with a Council recommendation on the methodology for identifying and assessing “management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement programs that are directly related to and in support of the program” (MSA303A(e)(1)). The Council’s final recommendation on cost recovery is available on the [cost recovery webpage](#) and includes an ongoing, periodic review role for the Council. Cost recovery fees were first charged starting in 2014, and NMFS provided its first report on cost recovery at the April 2014 Council meeting. West Coast groundfish trawl program cost recovery regulations at 50 CFR 660.115(b)(1)(i) define actual incremental (recoverable) costs as net costs:

Actual incremental costs means those net costs that would not have been incurred but for the implementation of the trawl rationalization program, including additional costs for new requirements of the program and reduced trawl sector related costs resulting from efficiencies as a result of the program.

Council Action:

Provide Comments on the Report.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2.a, NMFS Report 1: Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program 2023 Cost Recovery Annual Report: Fee Calculation for 2023 and Fishing Year 2022 Payments.
2. Agenda Item G.2.a, NMFS Report 2: National Marine Fisheries Service Report on Cost Savings and Efficiencies in the Trawl Rationalization Program.
3. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

G.2 Trawl Cost Recovery Annual Report

- a. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate

Jim Seger
Ryan Wulff

PFMC
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