

**GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
 TRAWL COST RECOVERY ANNUAL REPORT**

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an update on cost recovery (CR) from Mr. Chris Biegel (National Marine Fisheries Service, [NMFS]) and Ms. Maggie Sommer (NMFS) and offers the following comments.

The GAP appreciates NMFS’ effort to more fully explain program costs. The GAP notes progress in the continued reduction in 2022 of costs in the research and Information Technologies (IT) categories (See Table 1 below). Electronic monitoring (EM) video review costs are included in 2021 and 2022, so costs are elevated in that category.

Table 1 – Individual Fishing Quota categorized costs (supply costs not included).

CATEGORIES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
PSMFC, Observation Science (Monitoring)	\$799,377	\$825,158	\$781,939	\$1,098,634	\$1,243,412
Economics & Social Science Research	\$399,694	\$318,460	\$332,758	\$233,778	\$129,188
NWFSC-IT	\$370,535	\$496,071	\$228,951	\$181,909	\$153,565
Other	\$184,047	\$167,878	\$181,456	\$161,558	\$173,691

The GAP acknowledges the NMFS sentiment expressed in [NMFS Report 2](#) that “to attempt a precise, quantitative with-and-without comparison...would be time-intensive and highly uncertain.” However, the GAP continues to view the original cost recovery methodology developed by Council as tasked in the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MSA) to be not yet implemented. Absent such an exercise the industry does not benefit from the savings from a far more certain set of mortality data under catch shares and industry self-management that lessens burdens and uncertainty on fishery management all around. The GAP doesn’t anticipate a near-term action to remedy the issue of methodology.

Therefore, the GAP views the upcoming catch shares program review as the most practical vehicle to continue these explorations with the ultimate goal of ensuring the catch shares program is managed efficiently, efforts to streamline program elements (such as the Economic Data Collection program) are identified and implemented, and costs borne by the agency and fishery participants are minimized to the extent practicable.

The program review could benefit from a holistic look at program requirements for monitoring and the incurred costs and examine if there are efficiencies to be gained while still achieving sufficient compliance and catch accounting. Industry pays for 100 percent coverage on the water and 100 percent on the dock. Industry further pays for oversight of these monitoring functions in cost recovery. The three layers of monitoring costs are a significant burden.

Going into the catch shares program, participants were made aware that there would be additional costs. However, the intent in program design and expectation of participants was that program benefits would outweigh program costs. The feeling among much of the bottom trawl fleet is that has not been the case.

PFMC
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