

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
TRAWL CATCH SHARE COST PROJECT – UPDATE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of this agenda item from Dr. Jim Seger, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff, and a presentation from Mr. Darrell Brannan of Brannan & Associates.

The GAP provided detailed recommendations related to the scope of this project in our [September 2022 GAP Report](#). The GAP continues to recommend that these topics should be focus areas of this project because the information should be relevant to ongoing discussions about trawl fishery cost recovery and the upcoming review of the Catch Shares Program. To highlight a specific area of interest, as noted by the GAP in September 2022 and in our current cost recovery report (Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental GAP Report 1, April 2023), monitoring costs are one of the most significant costs borne by trawl fishery participants in all sectors – whiting and non-whiting harvesters and at-sea and shoreside processors. Therefore, the GAP strongly recommends this be a focus area of the cost project.

As detailed in the [Initial Review Draft](#) (Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1, April 2023), the current report provides a comprehensive review of the operational aspects of the groundfish trawl catch share program and information about other catch share programs. This is helpful background information. However, fishery participant input detailed in the current report is generally more about aspects of the program rather than costs borne by industry for participating in the catch share program. As highlighted above, it would be helpful to document the entirety of these costs including payments to National Marine Fisheries Service for cost recovery and direct industry costs (such as monitoring costs, as well as those from participation in fishery cooperatives and other individual and sector costs). To this end, the GAP encourages Mr. Brannan to continue to seek out industry input.

Finally, clearly this project, the cost recovery program, and the pending catch share program review are all closely related. The GAP recommends that efforts be made to ensure the cost project information and analyses are informative to ongoing cost recovery program refinements and the catch share program review.

PFMC
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