

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON TRAWL CATCH SHARE COST PROJECT - UPDATE

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed Attachment 1 (G.3, Attachment 1, April 2023) in the briefing book and received a presentation from Mr. Darrell Brannan during our team's webinar on March 27th. The GMT generally does not advise the Council on cost recovery or administrative costs associated with West Coast fisheries. However, we did see value in providing some clarifications regarding the draft report's description of the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fishery ([Attachment 1, Section 3.1 - West Coast Groundfish Catch Share Program Structure](#)), and the GMT sees merit in revising the draft report to reflect these clarifications.

On page 9 of Attachment 1, the report states that, "QP [quota pound] holders are not credited with an amount of discards that are expected to survive." However, [Section 2.6.1 of the Groundfish Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation \(SAFE\)](#) document points out that, "QP for lingcod caught and discarded in the trawl catch shares fishery are debited from IFQ accounts based on the gear-specific DMRs [Discard Mortality Rates] used in stock assessments and year-end catch accounting." This is also true for sablefish. Table 2-12 of the SAFE shows the current assumed gear-specific DMRs for each species.

The GMT also points out some clarifications regarding statements made on page 10 about the at-sea whiting sectors, specifically with regard to the catcher vessel obligation requirement and the mothership processor cap. As of January 2023, there is no longer a requirement that catcher vessels be obligated to a mothership ahead of the fishing season, and the mothership processing cap of 45 percent was removed ([87 FR 77000](#)).

Lastly, the GMT is aware that some participants in the trawl catch share fishery were not contacted with an opportunity to provide input. Moving forward, we hope Mr. Brannan is able to contact all fishery participants who may be interested in weighing in and to thoroughly document the outreach methods used within the report. In general, the team appreciated the thorough characterization of stakeholder input received to date and anticipates that the management-related requests will be incorporated into the ongoing Trawl Catch Share Program Review.