

LIMITED ENTRY FIXED GEAR FOLLOW ON ACTIONS AND FIXED GEAR MARKING- SCOPING

In March 2023, under Workload and New Management Measure Priorities, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prioritized a series of potential management measures off the groundfish workload list related to the Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) program and gear marking for vessels that operate under the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan that use pot and longline gear. Management measures for the LEFG program were in response to the completion of the [most recent review of the LEFG tier program](#) in June 2022. Considerations of gear marking for pot and longline gear were based on the results of a gear marking workshop held in response to the 2020 Biological Opinion on and recommendations provided in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) *Sablefish Pot Gear Marking - Feasibility Report* ([NMFS Report 3, March 2023](#)). Council staff provide Attachment 1 as an initial scoping of each of the potential management measures, including preliminary analysis, workload discussion, and questions for Council consideration. Additionally, staff provides some thoughts on potential pathways for the Council to move forward with these items (if chosen).

NMFS has also provided two reports for the Council to consider. NMFS Report 1 provides some initial thoughts on some of the LEFG program proposed management measures and includes the recommendation of two new administrative items. NMFS Report 2 discusses implementation of a cost recovery program for the LEFG primary tier program, including a potential range of alternatives for the Council to consider.

At this meeting, the Council should consider the list of proposed management measures and recommend which items to move forward for consideration and selection of a range of alternatives during the September 2023 Council meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Identify issues to be addressed.**
- 2. Provide guidance on packaging of items to be addressed.**
- 3. If possible, provide guidance on potential alternatives.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.4., Attachment 1 – LEFG Follow-on Actions and Fixed Gear Marking Scoping Document
2. Agenda Item H.4.a, NMFS Report 1 - LEFG Follow-on Actions and Fixed Gear Marking - Scoping
3. Agenda Item H.4.a, NMFS Report 2 - Proposal for a Sablefish Tier Stacking Cost Recovery Program
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

H.4. Limited Entry Fixed Gear Follow On Actions and Fixed Gear Marking-
Scoping

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- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Identify Issues to be Addressed, Including Potential Consideration of Alternatives, and Provide Guidance on Process and Timeline

PFMC
06/14/23