GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FINAL TRAWL COST PROJECT PHASE 1 REPORT AND NEXT STEPS FOR THE TRAWL CATCH SHARE AND ALLOCATION REVIEWS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) appreciates the analysis in the <u>G.7</u>, <u>Attachment 1</u>: <u>Comparative Cost Study</u>. The GAP acknowledges there is not an immediately obvious large cost savings item to be easily addressed. Also, any reduction in program features to achieve cost savings should consider potential trade-offs in program function or data generation.

However, the GAP believes there are potential areas for further investigation and efficiency gains for phase 2. For example, from stakeholder input bullet point on page 14 of the study: "Streamline activities with recoverable costs, such as social science research and EM video review, to only what is absolutely necessary to fulfill program mandates." The GAP believes the Economic Data Collection (EDC) scope could be narrowed by collecting less detailed information and/or making EDC at longer intervals, such as every third year instead of annually. This could have some overlap with the catch shares review process.

The GAP generally agrees with the straw proposal steps and timeline described in <u>G.7</u>, <u>Attachment 2: Catch Share and Intersector Allocation Review Process</u>. The GAP notes that the catch share review process has the potential to be more complex than the process for review and follow-on actions of single species program reviews (e.g., limited entry fixed gear tier fishery) because of multiple species and mixed results of the catch shares program. The results of the scoping hearings may provide significant input for the Council to consider in shaping the review process.

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