

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FINAL TRAWL COST PROJECT PHASE 1 REPORT AND
NEXT STEPS FOR THE TRAWL CATCH SHARE AND ALLOCATION REVIEWS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a presentation by Darrell Brannan of Brannan & Associates, LLC, on “A Comparative Case Study for the West Coast Groundfish Trawl Catch Share Program.” The report evaluates how the program’s design elements affect program objectives and costs. The information in the report will be used to inform the upcoming trawl catch share program and intersectoral allocation reviews.

The SSC appreciates the analyst's effort in addressing the SSC Economics Subcommittee comments from the May 11, 2023 meeting. The report is sufficient as a preliminary analysis of program costs and preparation for future work. The SSC notes that the Economic Data Collection program was essential to this analysis and will be similarly important to future evaluations of potential cost savings and program modifications for the trawl catch share program.

The SSC has the following recommendations:

- The comments from individual stakeholders are not appropriate for drawing conclusions. The sample size is too small, and industry outreach was open-ended and not structured to elicit the information needed to inform the specifics of this analysis. Phase 2 of the study should aim to improve industry participation.
- The focus of Phase 2 should not be limited to only those program elements that could reduce costs. Instead, it should consider any program elements that could be adjusted to improve the program’s economic benefits.