

F.6 Fixed Gear Marking and Entanglement Risk Reduction– Preliminary Preferred Alternative

Council Action:

Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative

F.6 WDFW Motion 1 – Groundfish Fixed Gear Marking and Entanglement Risk Reduction Measures

I move that the Council revise the range of alternatives for temporary line marking as described in Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental REVISED NMFS Report 1, March 2024, and adopt the alternatives below as the preliminary preferred alternatives for fixed gear marking and entanglement risk reduction measures.

Gear Marking

Buoy Marking

Alternative 1, suboption b, gear specific mark with cattle-ear tags as modified by the GAP in Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1

Line Marking

Alternative 1, gear specific marking

Portion of line marked: A.1, vertical line

Distance of mark: B.2 At least top 20 fm

Method of marking: C.1 Manufactured line

Transition period: D.1, No transition, manufactured line required upon implementation

Entanglement Risk Reduction

Surface Gear Requirements

Alternative 1, surface gear required only at one end.

Surface Line Length Restrictions

Alternative 1.b, limit the amount of surface line length to 10 fm

Administrative/Other Items

Alternative 1: clarify regulations to prohibit panel placement of the bottom of the pot, except slinky pots

Guidance

Request Council staff revise the Purpose and Need to clarify that line marking can contribute to both positive and negative fishery attribution.

Request NMFS develop a Best Practices Guide and coordinate with GAP and EC.

Coordinate with West Coast Dungeness crab fishery managers to identify line and buoy **tag colors and shapes** that are unique to the federal fixed gear groundfish fishery.

Moved by Heather Hall

Seconded by Lynn Mattes

Amendment by Maggie Sommer

Add the words "**tag colors and shapes**" after the word bouy in the motion in able to clarify what the motion is seeking clarification on.

Seconded by Sharon Kiefer

Amendment of the original motion passed unanimously

Motion as amended passes unanimously