

FINAL TRAWL COST PROJECT REPORT

In September 2023, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) approved the Trawl Cost Project Phase 1 Report and provided guidance on Phase 2. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provided the Council with funds for a contract to look more closely at catch share fishery costs that are borne by industry and NMFS. Phase 1 focused on developing a common understanding of how the catch share program design elements affect program objectives and costs. Phase 2 is intended to focus on the policy decisions and tradeoffs that would be required to further reduce program costs. Additionally, it was recommended that it focus on other ways to improve fishery performance and economic benefits under the program. Council staff engaged Mr. Darrell Brannan and Ms. Melissa Errand to conduct the work.

An informational report on the proposed scope of Phase 2 was provided in March 2024 ([Informational Report 4](#)). The project covers three broad objectives:

1. Expand the discussion of costs borne by stakeholders and agencies associated with specific program elements that were identified as being of primary interest by the Council,
2. Describe tradeoffs associated with possible management changes. In addition to potential cost savings, such tradeoffs may describe potential impacts to data quality and uncertainty, enforceability of regulations, harvest and sustainability of fish stocks, and other potential direct or indirect effects.
3. Organize and present the information to inform any potential future amendments that may consider modifications to the program elements.

Attachment 1 presents the draft of the final trawl cost project report for the advisory bodies and the Council to consider.

Both phases of the trawl cost project have collected substantial information that is now available to inform the trawl catch share program review and the related intersector allocation review. The Council will be undertaking scoping of the trawl catch share and intersector allocation review under Agenda Item I.7 and could include that aspects of the cost project be investigated as a part of the catch share program review or subsequent follow-on actions.

Council Action:

1. Review and adopt the final report for Phase 2 of the trawl cost project

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1: Trawl Costs of Management-Phase Two (**Electronic Only**).
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

I.3 Final Trawl Cost Project Report

Jessi Doerpinghaus

a. Final Trawl Cost Project Report

Darrell Brannan/Melissa Errand

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

c. Public Comment

d. Council Action: Adopt the Final Report

PFMC

08/21/24