

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
TRAWL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM AND INTERSECTOR ALLOCATION REVIEW –
SCOPING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) discussed the trawl catch share program and intersector allocation review and provides the following for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) consideration.

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel expressed concerns during the development of the 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures process that allocation attainment does not provide the full story for individual fishing quota (IFQ) fisheries as there are additional nuances and vessel-level constraints as to why full attainment is not realistic for many IFQ stocks. **Therefore, the GMT recommends vessel-level impacts and accumulation limits be evaluated in the catch share program review.**

The GMT recommends that the analysis include an evaluation of whether or not at-sea set-asides are functioning as intended and the impacts of at-sea set-asides to the trawl sector overall. Although set-asides are intended to be an estimate of incidental mortality, they are typically set higher than expected mortality. At-sea set-asides are subtracted from the trawl allocation, which decreases the overall IFQ allocation and potentially reduces overall fishery yield. Therefore, the evaluation should consider how the current management structure of set-asides is affecting trawl sector program performance and whether it is meeting the goals and objectives of the program.

The GMT recommends sending out for public review the Council Operating Procedure (COP) 27 edits provided in [Agenda Item I.7, Attachment 4](#). These edits would update the list of species in COP 27 with allocation structures established via Amendment 21 and those species with biennial allocations established through the harvest specifications and management measures process.

PFMC
09/20/24