

# Groundfish Workload and New Management Measures

Agenda Item C.5



# Process Overview

1. Consider prioritizing development of new management measures in respect to 2026 groundfish workload under this agenda item.
2. Dedicated time for constituents to propose new groundfish management measures for the Council to consider.
3. Review and revise the existing list (Attachment 1) of proposed groundfish management measures and/or incorporate new proposals, as appropriate.
4. A [best practices document](#) was adopted by the Council for this process in March 2025.
5. A [webpage](#) on the Council's website details this process for public awareness and reference.

# Workload List (Attachment 1)



**Table A: Current Priorities**

Phase 2- DONE!  
Spex Flex- Nov (FPA)  
Trawl Gear EFPs- June (ROA/PPA),  
Sept (FPA)  
Comm Sale of Rec Fish Waste  
Stock Complexes- March 2027  
(Scoping)



**Table B: Not yet prioritized**



**Table C: Prioritized outside of this process**

Trawl Follow On- Scoping this meeting, Nov 2026 (ROA/PPA, shaded)  
Risk Management- Nov 2026 (shaded)  
\*Special Project 1- If/Thens (H.1)

# Workload Considerations

- Council efficiencies- no GF in Sept of even years (except inseason) and no GF in April of odd years
  - Note- 3 agenda items currently planned for Sept 2026
- Assessing Phase 2 workload and timelines given staggered implementation and relation to stock complexes
- Based on staff capacity, will likely need to postpone risk management to March 2027
- Due to staffing capacity and widow-related items, have already delayed Spex Flex final action to Nov 2026



# Trawl Follow On Actions

Supplemental Attachment 2

# Trawl Follow On Items

- Observer/Electronic Monitoring (EM) Coverage
- Shorebased Monitoring Coverage
- Economic Data Collection (EDC)
- Adaptive Management Program (AMP)
- Mothership Whiting Utilization
- Accumulation Limits
- Set-Aside Management
- Regulatory Actions
- IFQ Quota Species
- Cost Recovery

## **Observer/EM Coverage**

- Shift from 100% to something less
- Monitoring costs are high, observer availability declining, EM challenges
- Tradeoffs to consider include loss of full accountability, potential changes in admin costs, implications to future actions

## **Shorebased Monitoring**

- Shift from 100% to something less
- Monitoring costs are high, issues with getting catch monitors to certain ports for EM trips
- Tradeoffs to consider include how to collect biological sampling (e.g., salmon genetics), overall cost savings

## **Economic Data Collection (EDC)**

- Current- annual surveys required of participants, but item would consider reducing or elimination
- Tradeoffs would need to consider reduction of burden versus potential data loss
- Change frequency, participant, and data collected through EDC

## **Adaptive Management Program**

- Currently- passed through to non-whiting QS holders
- Designed to address goals including community and processor stability, conservation, unforeseen consequences, and facilitating new entrants
- Consider changes including permanent issuance, issuing to active stakeholders or processors, auction, or deemed value

## **Mothership Whiting Utilization**

- Aimed at improving the economic performance and utilization of the MS whiting allocation
- Allow MSCVs to deliver whiting quota shoreside
- Other measures to increase economic performance and attainment

## **Accumulation Limits**

- Two limits: QS and Vessel Limits
- Few entities approach the limits
- Consider if limits are serving purpose, constraining efficiency or consolidation and consider changing
- Relation to Item B3

## **At-Sea Bycatch**

- Currently, non-whiting groundfish managed by set asides
- Clarify intent and potentially adjust measures to promote flexibility

## **Regulatory Changes**

- NMFS Report 1 items
- Change declaration at sea (midwater RF to SS whiting)
- Change fishing year from Jan 1 start date to May 1

## **IFQ Quota Species**

- Consider changing some species to trip limit management
- Requiring IFQ for every species can create significant risk for trawl harvesters if there are small amounts of quota available and/or that quota is very expensive to attain can occur without offering much conservation benefit.
- Need to consider with monitoring/accumulation limit changes

## **Cost Recovery**

- Required by MSA, up to 3% of total gross ex-vessel value by sector
- Only paid by vessels landing IFQ quota
- Consider expanding cost recovery to QS owners
- Consider changing how cost recovery is collected



# Packaging

- Follow on actions from the first catch share review were an omnibus package- multiple items to achieve various goals
- Council could elect to move everything or only some things forward, in one or multiple packages
- EX: Trawl gear EFP could incorporate changes in at-sea declaration for SS whiting to midwater rockfish (and vice versa)
- Consider B2 (increasing shorebased IFQ carryover from 10%) and B3 (aggregate non-whiting QS limit and individual weighting)
- Council staff could bring back considerations for packaging at next item



# Council Tasks

1. Review, revise, and update the current list of groundfish management measures, as appropriate
2. Review and provide initial guidance on the proposed scope of trawl follow on actions in Attachment 2 and provide guidance on packaging
3. Prioritize management measures for development, as appropriate
4. Consider other groundfish workload and provide guidance on priorities and schedules