

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON MOVING TRAWL GEAR EFP INTO
REGULATIONS; UPDATING DECLARATION REQUIREMENTS; REMOVING
DUPLICATIVE RECREATIONAL REGULATIONS

Action 1: Trawl Gear Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommends Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) as Final Preferred Alternative (FPA) for both Options 1 and 2. As stated in [Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental Revised GMT Report 1, June 2026](#), Options 1 and 2 would provide operational flexibility for trawl participants and improve quota utilization. Option 1 also benefits shoreside processors by allowing for year-round midwater rockfish landings.

Action 2: At-Sea Declarations

The GMT recommends PPA as FPA, which provides the operational flexibility to change target species and fishery sector while at sea with the benefits mentioned in [Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental Revised GMT Report 1, June 2026](#).

Action 3: Recreational Sale of Fish Waste

The GMT supports the intent of the action to allow for the disposal of recreational fish waste in ways that do not create problems for ports and marinas or extra costs for recreational anglers and charter operators. The GMT understands that concerns have arisen with the language of the current PPA and that the National Marine Fisheries Service, in collaboration with States, has stated it plans to clarify the scope and associated problem statement for this action. Given this, the GMT does not recommend PPA as FPA and will continue to work on this action at a later time, as directed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). Additionally, the GMT raised concerns about implementation of this action in [Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Report 1, March 2025](#) under section B.8. Permitting Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste. The Draft Impact Analysis ([Revised Attachment 1](#)) does not completely address the nuances outlined in that report.

FMP Amendment Language

Given the discussions surrounding Action 3 under this agenda item, the GMT recommends the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) language amendments specific to recreational fisheries (Section 6.6.2) be removed from the rest of the FMP language amendments proposed by Council staff. The GMT recommends the Council adopt the rest of the proposed FMP amendment language, specifically implementing Actions 1 and 2, under this Agenda Item.