

TRAWL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW

The Magnuson-Stevens Act indicates that catch share programs should be reviewed five years after their implementation, and at least once every seven years thereafter (Section 303A(c)(i)(G)). Time between catch share reviews is counted from the start of the previous review. The previous trawl catch share program review was initiated in June 2016 and completed in November 2017.

To avoid overlap with heavy workload on biennial groundfish specifications, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) previously indicated its desire for a six-year review cycle, with reviews to start in even-numbered years. The Council began discussing the second catch share review in September 2022. Work on the review and the hosting of hearings was put on hold due to the Council's ongoing consideration of a gear switching limitation. The Council took action on gear switching at its March 2024 Council meeting and the Council provided guidance on the scope and focus of the trawl catch share review in September 2024. Specifically, the Council requested the review document examine trawl catch share program performance and provide a diagnosis of why the program does not appear to be meeting its economic goals and objectives. This could include factors related to program design, as well as factors that fall outside of the Council's purview, and should have a priority focus on the non-whiting sector.

The Council and its advisory bodies reviewed a preliminary draft of the trawl catch share program review in September 2025 and provided recommendations to the project team. The project team has incorporated the applicable into Attachment 1 and responses to the recommendations can be found in Attachment 2. Additionally, the preliminary diagnosis can be found in Section 4 of Attachment 1.

The Council should provide feedback on the trawl catch share review document, including the diagnosis. Additionally, the Council should identify any research and data needs and identify any conclusions about the program's performance. The conclusions could then shape future program changes through follow-on actions to address problems identified. Currently, consideration of the follow-on actions is noted during the standing Workload and New Management Measures agenda item in March with proposed scoping in June 2026.

Council Action:

- 1. Provide any guidance or recommendations for finalizing the trawl catch share review document.**
- 2. Identify any research and data needs.**
- 3. Identify any conclusions about the program's performance to shape future follow-on actions.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 1: Trawl Catch Share Program Review (*Electronic Only*).
2. Agenda Item F.7, Attachment 2: Project Team Responses to September 2025 Council Meeting Recommendations.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

F.7 Trawl Catch Share Program Review

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- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt the Final Trawl Catch Share Program Review Document

PFMC

10/22/25