

Agenda Item H.2
Supplemental Presentation 1
September 2026

Trawl Gear EFP Into Regulations; Updating Declaration Requirements; and Removing Duplicative Recreational Regulations

Agenda Item H.2
Pacific Fishery Management Council
June 2026

COUNCIL TASKS

Adopt Final Preferred Alternative for the Action Items

- ❖ Three Action Items
- ❖ Council adopted Alternative 1 as PPA for each

Consider and Adopt Amendment Language to the FMP

- ❖ Actions require revisions to FMP
- ❖ Updates to scientific names

ACTION CONSIDERED



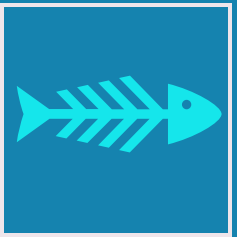
Trawl Gear EFP into Regulations

Revise trawl regulations to reflect the two trawl EFP exemptions



Updating At-sea Declaration Requirements

Removes certain restrictions for midwater trawl fishing declarations while at sea



Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste

Amend Federal to remove regulations prohibiting sale of recreational fish waste.

Action Item 1

Moving the Trawl Gear EFP Into Regulation

EFP OVERVIEW TRAWL

- **Trawl EFP has three components**

- Midwater non-whiting trawl north of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat.
- Midwater trawl south of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat.
- Bottom trawl between $40^{\circ}10'$ to 42° N. lat. shoreward of 100fm

- **Action is only for:**

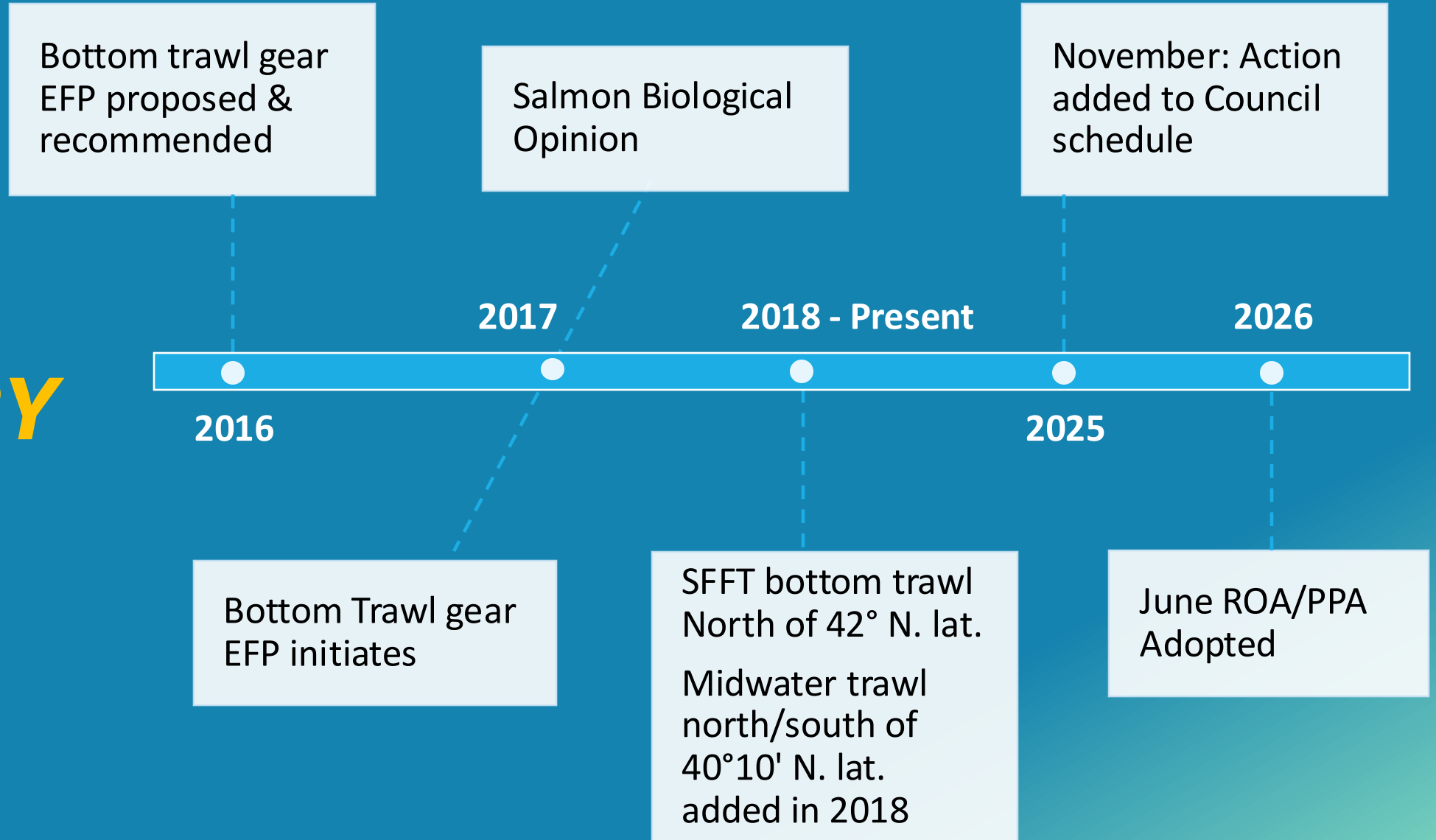
- Midwater non-whiting trawl north of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat. EFP
- Bottom trawl EFP

Need at least two more years of EFP for South of $40^{\circ}10'$ N. lat.

EFP OBJECTIVES

- Increase operational flexibility and increase opportunity
- Designed to understand time/area/gear impacts on protected and prohibited species
 - Chinook and coho salmon*
 - Eulachon
 - Green Sturgeon
- Salmon Biological Opinion (BiOp)
 - Requires at least 3 yrs of an EFP to evaluate impacts on Chinook and coho salmon

BRIEF HISTORY OF EFP



NO ACTION

- Midwater trawl north of 40°10' N. lat. could only occur after primary Pacific whiting season began
- Vessels fishing with bottom trawl gear between 40°10' N. lat. and 42° N. lat. would be required to use of Selective Flatfish Trawl gear (SFFT) shoreward of the 100 fathom depth contour.
- The current EFPs would no longer be in effect

PPA: ALTERNATIVE 1

PPA would transition EFP exemptions into regulation

Option 1: Midwater Trawl Gear

- Vessels would be allowed to use midwater trawl gear north of 40°10' N. lat. outside of primary Pacific whiting season

Option 2: Bottom Trawl Gear

- Vessels would be allowed to fish shoreward of the 100 fathoms depth contour between 42° N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat. with any legal small footrope gear, including SFFT, to harvest groundfish

IMPACTS:

■ No Action

- Reduces operational flexibility:
 - Reduction of season for fishery
 - Gear selection and area of fishing
- Revenues likely to be reduced

■ PPA: Alternative 1, Options 1 and 2

- Participants would have increased flexibility/opportunity to harvest quotas throughout year
- Revenues expected higher than No Action
- Efficiency to harvest quota improved over No Action

SPECIES OF CONCERN BYCATCH

■ Salmon

- Midwater Trawl EFP average 41 Chinook and 0.6 coho per year
- Bottom Trawl EFP average 9 Chinook and 0 coho per year
- Approx. 6% of MW/BT trawl salmon bycatch is from EFP on average
- Non-whiting fishery thresholds not exceeded

■ Eulachon

- Fishery not exceeding thresholds

■ Green Sturgeon

- Midwater & Bottom Trawl EFP totals = 0 and 2, respectively
- Fishery not exceeding thresholds

Chinook Bycatch

Year	NW Total a/	% Threshold (5,500)	Midwater Rockfish	Bottom Trawl	Midwater EFP	Bottom Trawl EFP*
2018	713	13.0%	93	350	3	22.3
2019	1,093	19.9%	159	434	36	7.1
2020	1,090	19.8%	74	516	9	1.3
2021	1,133	20.6%	197	436	26	5.0
2022	1,307	23.8%	182	625	53	1.6
2023	1,498	27.2%	204	794	54	14.6
2024	1,785	32.5%	244	1041	67	Not Available
2025	1,139	20.7%	433	206	76	
Ave.	1,220	22.2%	198	550	41	~8.7

*2024-25 bottom trawl estimates not available

ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS

The PPA

- Offer improved flexibility for participants over No Action
- Removes regulation and improves regulatory simplicity.
- Impacts on protected spp are likely to be similar to the EFP
- Likely results in increased revenues when compared to No Action
- Unlikely to disrupt participation/processors/markets

Administrative Items

Updating Declaration Requirements

Removing Duplicative Recreational Regulations

Action Item 2: Updating Declarations Requirements

ALTERNATIVES

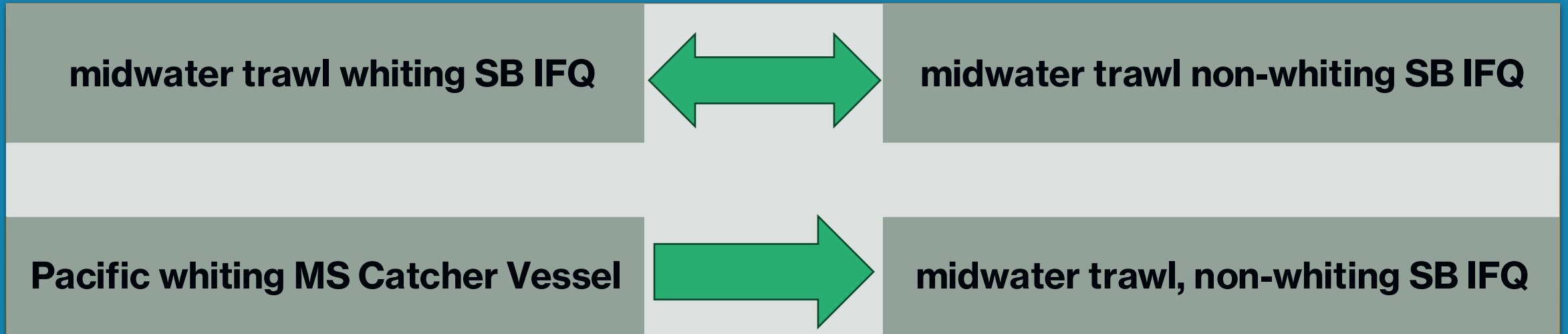
No Action:

- Vessels could only switch declarations at sea between fishing bottom trawl and midwater rockfish in the shorebased IFQ fishery or between the mothership and shoreside whiting fisheries

PPA: Alternative 1

- Vessels could change declarations while at sea from shoreside whiting to midwater rockfish (and vice versa) or from mothership sector (catcher vessel) to midwater rockfish. Monitoring type declarations (i.e., electronic monitoring or observer) cannot be changed while at sea. Vessels will need to sort catch by sector and report catch on separate fish tickets (as applicable).

PPA: SIMPLIFIED



ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS

The PPA

- Offer improved operational flexibility for participants over No Action
- Removes regulation and improves regulatory simplicity.
- May improve attainments
- May improve efficiency and utilization

Action Item 3: Commercial Sale of Recreational Groundfish Waste

ALTERNATIVES

No Action:

- Federal regulations would continue to prohibit any person from selling, offering to sell, or purchase any groundfish (including recreational fish waste) taken in the course of recreational groundfish fishing.

PPA: Alternative 1

- Regulations would be amended to allow the sale of fish waste (i.e., entrails, skeletal remains, or other parts of the fish not used for human consumption) of recreationally-caught groundfish and defer to state regulations for any rules that may be more restrictive.

ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS

The PPA

- Removes regulation and improves regulatory simplicity.
- Defer to each state regarding commercial sale of recreational fish waste
- May allow ports/landings to recoup costs from disposing of recreational fish waste if sale is allowed by state

FMP Revisions and Updates

FMP AMENDMENT

Revisions and Updates

- Text at 6.6.1 and 6.6.2 revisions to reflect Action 1 and Action 3
- Chapter 3
 - One misspelling
 - Return of shortbelly rockfish to Table 3-3
 - AFS genera updates for two skates

COUNCIL TASKS



Adopt the Final Preferred Alternative(s) for each Action, as Appropriate

Consider and adopt FMP Amendment language, as appropriate



KUDO



Big Thanks to Jessi Waller, Alyssa Seibt, & Abbie Moyer
for their hard work on the analysis of this action