

TRAWL CATCH SHARE – FINAL RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES (ROA) FOR FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS

At its November 2017 meeting, the Council completed work on the five-year review of the trawl catch share program and provided preliminary guidance on development of a range of alternatives to address actions following from the review (“Follow-on Actions”). Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to finalize a range of alternatives for analysis. For some issues, part of the finalization of the range and alternatives may also include guidance on purpose and need statements.

The Council selected its initial suite of potential follow-on action topics at its June 2017 meeting. The current status and Council guidance on each of the topics for which follow-on action was being considered, as of the November 2017 meeting, is provided in Table 1 of Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1. Some of the topics are being addressed under the biennial specifications and others were assigned to the omnibus processor for prioritization. Two were assigned to other specific agenda items: gear switching and trawl sablefish area management (Agenda Item H.2 at this meeting); and increasing quota pounds (QP) carryover amounts (part of the annual catch limit flexibility agenda item scheduled for the September 2018 Council meeting). It is for the remainder that the Council will be adopting a range of alternatives under this agenda item:

- At-Sea Whiting Fishery Bycatch Needs.
- Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Annual Vessel QP Limits and Daily QP Limits.
- Shorebased IFQ Sector Harvest Complex Needs (Post Season Trading, Post Season Relief from Annual Vessel QP Limits, and September 1st QP Transfer Deadline).
- Catcher-Processor Sector Accumulation Limits.
- New Data Collections for Quota Share (QS) Owners and Catcher Processors.

At its June 2017 meeting, the Council also requested a NMFS report on “options for reducing observer and catch monitoring costs.” This request was made in the context of Community Advisory Board (CAB) recommendations that consideration be given to reducing industry costs through changing educational and training requirements for catch monitors, providing cost recovery credit for payments for observers, and reducing electronic monitoring data storage costs. When the NMFS report becomes available, a determination will need to be made as to whether the topics warrant further Council action. Alternatively, the Council may want to postpone its request for this information in order to address other priorities and processes.

The ranges of alternatives for most topics were fairly well developed at the fall 2017 Council meetings. The following are in particular need of Council attention.

- The structure of the at-sea whiting fishery set-aside alternatives has been revised to take in to account the way that the issue was parsed between this process and the biennial specifications at the November Council meeting.
- The individual species annual vessel QP limit alternatives have yet to be developed.

- There are some additional details to review for Suboption B-2 (under Shorebased IFQ Sector Harvest Complex Needs).
- Specific purpose and need statements and language for the alternatives related to new data collections has been developed and should be reviewed.

Other topics and alternatives are adequately specified for analysis but may be revised, if desired. The CAB will be meeting on the first day of the Council meeting (March 9) and will provide a report that includes recommendations on the ranges of alternatives.

Depending on the scope of the alternatives developed for annual vessel QP limits and Council action under Agenda Item H.2, there may also be a need to set some priorities for the list of follow-on topics, in case analysis for all of them cannot be developed on time for the September 2018 Council meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Provide guidance on a range of alternatives to be used in analysis of follow-on actions, including guidance on the purpose and need statements, as necessary.**
- 2. Provide guidance on other matters related to the trawl catch share program.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.6, Attachment 1: Follow-On Actions – Issues, Alternatives, and Analysis
2. *Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental CAB Report 1: CAB Report on Trawl Catch Shares – Final Range of Alternatives (ROA) for Follow-On Actions.*

Agenda Order:

H.6 Trawl Catch Shares – Final Range of Alternatives (ROA) for Follow-On Actions

Jim Seger

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final ROA for Follow-On Actions Analysis and Provide Guidance on Other Trawl Catch Share Issues

PFMC
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