

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON TRAWL CATCH SHARE— FINAL RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) was briefed by Dr. Jim Seger (Pacific Fishery Management Council [Council] staff). In addition to reviewing the materials in the briefing book under this agenda item, members of the GMT also participated in the Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting, and offer the following thoughts for consideration.

At-sea Set-asides

The GMT recommends the Council adopt the range of alternatives listed in [Agenda Item H.6.a, Attachment 1, March 2018](#) for analysis.

Vessel Quota Pound (QP) Limits

While changes to vessel caps may incentivize specialization and other changes in fishing behavior currently restricted by caps, the analysis presented to the GMT indicated that vessel caps may not be constraining to the majority of vessels (see Table 12, [Agenda Item H.6, Attachment 1](#)). Annual catch limits (ACLs) for several stocks will be increasing in 2019, resulting in greater corresponding QP limits for those species. Bocaccio provides a clear example of this: as the ACL will increase 185 percent, the vessel limit will increase from the current 96,184 pounds to 274,253 pounds. The GMT expresses concerns about adjusting these caps before data on how the fishery will respond to upcoming changes, such as alterations to the trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and modifications to trawl gear regulations, are available. **Therefore, the GMT does not recommend the Council consider changes to vessel QP annual limits at this time.**

Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota Sector Harvest Complex Needs

The GMT recommends the Council adopt the CAB's range of alternatives listed in [Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental CAB Report, March 2018](#) (i.e. elimination of the more complex Sub-Option B) for analysis.

Catcher Processor Sector Accumulation Limits

The GMT recommends the Council adopt the range of alternatives listed in [Agenda Item H.6.a, Attachment 1, March 2018](#) for analysis.

New Data Collections

Catcher processor ownership interest

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) currently collects ownership interest information from the mothership catcher vessel and shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) fisheries, in order to track and prevent accumulation of excessive privilege (per Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act [MSA] requirements at 16 U.S.C. § 1853a). This provision would expand the requirements for ownership interest information to the catcher processor sector to inform monitoring and subsequent management of limited access privilege accumulation in that sector. **The GMT recommends the Council include the catcher processor ownership interest data collection in the Five-Year Review rulemaking package.**

Quota Share (QS) owners

As stated in [Agenda Item H.6., Attachment 1](#):

“Evaluation of the economic performance of [individual fishing and processing] businesses requires holistic information on costs and revenue, a portion of which are associated with the purchase and sale of quota shares and quota pounds....To accurately evaluate the program performance and make adaptive adjustments there is a need for information on quota purchases/sales from all QS owners, including those that do not own vessels or first receivers.”

During the review process, fishery participants (via the CAB and public comment) expressed concern about growing expenses on QP leasing and the increasing portion of QS that is owned by individuals not actively harvesting in the fishery. The value of a resource to coastal communities could be diminished if QS ownership shifts away from the coast. The Five-Year Review process identified two missing pieces of data critical for future analyses that would help to understand and quantify these issues ([Agenda Item F.2, Attachment November 2017](#)). Specifically, the review suggested additional data be collected to describe:

- 1) Revenue from QS lease/QP sales from each QS owner, and
- 2) Characterization of the QS permit owner and relationship to active vessels in the fishery.

This proposed data collection is not currently included in the Economic Data Collection surveys required from vessel owners but is essential to understanding the dynamics of QS ownership. Without these data sources, analysts cannot provide an accurate picture of the continued economic performance of the fishery, particularly as QS are increasingly owned by participants who are not covered by current data collections. **The GMT recommends the Council include a collection of QS owner economic data in the Five-Year Review rulemaking package, so that critical information can begin to be integrated into ongoing program monitoring and management decisions.**

Process

The GMT understands that the following items could be accomplished in the proposed follow-on actions schedule identified Preliminary Preferred Alternative in September 2018 ([September 2017 Decision Document](#)):

- At-sea bycatch needs
- Shorebased individual fishing quota sector harvest complex needs
- Catcher processor accumulation limits
- Catcher processor ownership interest data collection and QS owner economic data collection

However, the Council may need to consider the prioritization of these items with any additional items (e.g. gear switching/sablefish area management) under workload planning between now and September.

Recommendations:

The GMT recommends the Council:

- **Adopt the range of alternatives listed in [Agenda Item H.6.a, Attachment 1, March 2018](#) for analysis of the at-sea sector bycatch needs.**
- **Not consider changes to vessel QP annual limits at this time.**
- **For “Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota Sector Harvest Complex Needs”, adopt the CAB’s range of alternatives listed in [Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental CAB Report, March 2018](#) (i.e. elimination of the more complex Sub-Option B) for analysis.**
- **For catcher processor accumulation limits, adopt the range of alternatives listed in [Agenda Item H.6.a, Attachment 1, March 2018](#) for analysis.**
- **Include the catcher processor ownership interest data collection in the Five-Year Review rulemaking package.**
- **Include a collection of QS owner economic data in the Five-Year Review rulemaking package.**

PFMC
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