

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON TRAWL  
RATIONALIZATION TRAILING ACTIONS

Mr. Jim Seger briefed the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) on trawl rationalization trailing actions. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations.

Widow Rockfish Quota Sharing (QS) Trading Moratorium

The GAP recommends suspending widow rockfish QS transfers to prevent confusion and administrative burden now that the Council has decided to move ahead with widow reallocation within the trawl Individual Fishing Quota sector. While there will likely be a QS moratorium through the end of 2013 for all species in response to the *Pacific Dawn* remand, the widow rockfish moratorium should be treated as a separate matter, and should remain in effect until NMFS has implemented widow reallocation.

Electronic Monitoring Timeline

Reducing program costs, including costs of monitoring, is a major priority for the GAP. Assuming electronic monitoring proves feasible, the GAP's basic stance regarding the question of when electronic monitoring (EM) should be implemented is simple – as soon as possible. Presently, target attainment remains low for many species which limits the ability of the fleet to fully cover all costs of the program. Ultimately, the goal of introducing EM is to avoid forced consolidation because of program costs, and increase flexibility, while maintaining 100 percent accountability.

Specifically, the GAP recommends that EM be implemented for all sectors of the trawl fishery (mothership [MS] coefficient of variation [CV], shoreside whiting, fixed gear, and bottom trawl) no later than January 1, 2015, when the transitional funding for observers is expected to phase out. The GAP further recommends that the Council phase in EM for sectors such as MS CV, shoreside whiting, and fixed gear more quickly if possible. Any savings from the reduced observer days in those sectors should be rolled into sectors that retain observers thereby extending the transitional funding.

PFMC  
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