

**TRAWL RATIONALIZATION TRAILING ACTIONS AND ALLOCATION AMENDMENTS
 AND ACTIONS**

There are currently a number of trailing action rules planned and in process. In the immediate timeframe, the Council took final action on some trailing actions at the September, 2011 Council meeting, but final post-meeting processing has yet to occur; for others, preliminary and final action are scheduled for the March and April, 2012 Council meetings. In the intermediate timeframe, some trailing actions are currently on track for final Council action at the June Council meeting. In a longer-term timeframe, the Council has prioritized several trailing actions for next consideration and will consider emerging issues at the September, 2012 Council meeting. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has provided a tentative schedule for the post-Council meeting regulation adoption process for trawl rationalization-related rules in Agenda Item F.8.b, NMFS Report 1.

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to select preliminary preferred alternatives for those issues which it set as a priority for Program Improvements and Enhancements (PIE) Rule 2 (including NMFS-identified items), and to provide further guidance on the development of the gear rule. The Council may also wish to provide guidance on priorities to complete these matters, depending on interactions with other ongoing groundfish workload matters.

Immediate Timeframe

| Rule | Expected Implementation |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Cost Recovery (<i>Council action completed</i>) | January 1, 2013 |
| Program Improvement and Enhancement Rule 2 (PIE 2) (<i>Council action completed for Risk Pools; PPA and FPA action needed on the remaining components</i>) | January 1, 2013 |
| Whiting Season Rule – Move Season Opening Date to May 15 and Southern Allocation (may be part of PIE 2, be separated from PIE 2 as its own rule, or be combined with Gear Rule) | January 1, 2013 or Mid-2013 |

The following are the issues to be covered in PIE Rule 2 and their current status.

| Issues for PIE 2 (Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 1 and F.8.b, NMFS Reports 2 & 3) | |
|---|---|
| Issue | Status/Action |
| QS Control Rule Safe Harbor for Risk Pools | <i>Council Action Completed</i> (September 2011) |
| QS Control Rule Safe Harbor for Lenders (Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 2) | Select Preliminary Preferred Alternative |
| Lender Registration of QS Interest | “ “ “ “ |
| Develop a process to certify new observer providers | Review materials from NMFS (see Agenda Item F.8.b, NMFS Report 2 for needed action) |
| Allow a fixed gear permit and a trawl permit to be registered to the same vessel at the same time | Select Preliminary Preferred Alternative |
| Change the opt-out requirement for QP deficits | “ “ “ “ |
| Eliminate double filing of co-op reports (Nov and March) | “ “ “ “ |
| Move the whiting season opening date and eliminate southern allocation (may become a standalone item or combined with the gear rule) (Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 3) | “ “ “ “ |
| Other Issues Identified by NMFS | Review materials from NMFS (NMFS Reports 2 & 3) |

Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 1 is a document that contains more detail on each of the above Council priority issues, including issue description, analysis, and status of further action and process needed to achieve the target implementation dates. The NMFS PIE 2 priority lists are provided in NMFS Reports 2 and 3.

Intermediate Timeframe

At its November, 2011 meeting the Council indicated its intent to move ahead on gear issues, but that these issues would generally be taken up as a secondary priority to the above matters. At the same time, some urgency has been expressed with respect to resolution of the chafing gear issue as soon as possible. Over the winter, Council staff worked with a contractor to develop alternatives for consideration (Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 4). The alternatives and analysis for the chafing gear issue is more developed than for the other gear issues and final Council action might be possible as part of the March and April, 2012 Council meeting process for trawl trailing actions.

| Gear Rule (Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 4) | |
|--|--|
| Issue | Status/Action |
| Carrying Multiple Gears on a Trip | Review options, provide guidance on final action strategy. |
| Chafing Gear | Review options, possibly combine with PIE 2 schedule. |
| Gear Efficiencies | Review options, provide guidance on final action strategy. |

Longer-Term Timeframe

The Council has identified the following for its longer-term schedule for trawl rationalization trailing actions:

- Reduce observer costs (2014-2015 Implementation)
- Adaptive Management Program quota pound allocation (2015 Implementation)
- Revise the widow rockfish QS allocation (2015 Implementation)

The Council has placed a high priority on identifying program cost efficiencies, particularly in relation to observer costs. The use of cameras or other electronic monitoring technology has been a subject of focus in various forums in addition to the Council. The Cost Recovery Committee (CRC) has been charged with meeting to look at ways to reduce program costs, however, no meetings of the CRC have been yet scheduled, due to workload priorities. An evening presentation including actual video recordings of electronic monitoring is currently scheduled for the April 2012 Council meeting. During the April trawl rationalization trailing action agenda item there may also be discussion of electronic monitoring initiatives underway in other forums.

Last September, the Council recommended full implementation of the surplus quota pounds (QP) carryover provision for the 2011 fishery (carrying QP over to 2012). NMFS is in the process of reviewing and determining its carryover action for carrying over 2011 QP into 2012. The biennial specifications analyzed ability to carryover surplus QP while meeting the conservation requirements of the MSA, as implemented in the FMP. At this time, it is the Council staff's understanding that there will be ongoing uncertainty regarding the annual issuance of carryover QP. The challenge in implementing the carryover provision pertains to potential annual catch limit overages and the annual basis on which management criteria are evaluated. There are

several long-term approaches to the carryover issue that could be explored, and which may require an FMP amendment.

Lastly, in September 2011, discard mortality survival credits were discussed as a possible issue for the biennial specifications and were included in Council discussion on trawl rationalization at the November, 2011 Council meeting. At that time, NMFS reported that given current workloads it would not be feasible to develop anything other than a flat average rate survival credit for discards, regardless of their condition at time of discard. At this time that issue has been included in neither the biennial specifications nor trawl trailing actions processes. A related issue, removal of the lingcod minimum size limit, is being considered as part of the biennial specifications.

Council Action:

1. Select preliminary preferred alternatives for trailing action (Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 1).
2. Take action as necessary on the NMFS identified trailing actions (Agenda Items F.8.b, NMFS Reports 2 and 3).
3. Provide guidance as needed on moving forward on gear rule, including placement of the chafing gear issue (Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 4).

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 1: Immediate Time Frame Council Priority Trawl Trailing Actions: Descriptions And Next Steps.
2. Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 2: Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions: Lenders, Draft Council Decision Analysis Document.
3. Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 3: Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions: Whiting Season Opening Date and Southern Allocation, Draft Council Decision Analysis Document.
4. Agenda Item F.8.a, Attachment 4: Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions: Gear Issues, Draft Council Decision Analysis Document.
5. Agenda Item F.8.b, NMFS Report 1: Draft Rulemaking Plan.
6. Agenda Item F.8.b, NMFS Report 2: NMFS Items for PIE 2.
7. Agenda Item F.8.b, NMFS Report 3: NMFS Items for Correction.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Refine and Adopt Appropriate Actions and Preliminary Preferred Alternatives as needed

Jim Seger

PFMC

02/10/12

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