

Amendment 24 Workgroup Recommendations

Improvements to the Groundfish
Biennial Harvest Specifications and
Management Measures Process

Major Recommendations

❖ **Programmatic or “Tier 1” NEPA document**

- Covers biennial actions over about 10 years
- Incorporates information from other groundfish NEPA documents to **summarize** conditions and likely effects of groundfish harvest specifications
- Uses “default” policies and methods for determining ACLs and adopting and revising OFS rebuilding plans to assess impacts
- Subsequent biennial adjustments evaluated with focused NEPA analyses

❖ **Separate Processes for Different Regulatory Objectives**

- Measures necessary for achieving ACLs (catch control)
- Measures for long-term program improvement

Classifying Management Measures and Regulations

Practical Classification of Management Measures

- ❖ “Catch Control ” — Measures necessary to achieve but not exceed ACLs in the next two years: E.g., Trip limits, RCA boundaries, recreational bag limits, recreational seasons, size limits
- ❖ “Program Improvement ” — Measures with longer-term objectives for fishery performance, information flow, etc.: E.g., long-term allocations (e.g. widow rockfish), logbooks for CPFVs, ownership & control rules for LE sablefish tier limit fishery

Groundfish FMP Classification of Regulatory Actions

- “New” measures: Not previously analyzed, permanent effect, directly allocate the resource or otherwise controversial
- “Routine” measures: Previously analyzed, adjusted frequently (“routine” measures are “new” when first proposed)

Proposed Biennial Council Process

Harvest Specifications

Odd Years (2013, 2015, etc.)

Sept./Nov. meetings: Adopt new stock assessments for management

September meeting: Provide guidance on the use of "default policies" for calculating ABCs/ACLs

November meeting: Adopt preliminary preferred ACLs, set asides, and allocations; if needed, preliminary action on new OFS rebuilding plans and/or existing plan revisions

Even Years (2014, 2016, etc.)

April meeting: Adopt final preferred ACLs, set asides, allocations, and rebuilding plan changes

*Note that the biennial management period (new specifications and management measures) starts on **January 1** of each **odd year**.*

Management Measures

Odd Years (2013, 2015, etc.)

November meeting: Scope new management measures necessary to achieve but not exceed ACLs (new catch control measures)

Even Years (2014, 2016, etc.)

April meeting: new catch control measures (to be classified as routine)

June meeting: 1) Adjust (routine) catch control measures including recreational measures for state conforming regulations 2) Identify new "program improvement" measures for Council action in the next year;

November meeting: Adjust routine catch control measures for first part of next year as needed based on new data (e.g., WCGOP total mortality report)

Odd Years (2015, 2017, etc.)

March/June meetings: Analysis and Council action for new "program improvement" management measures

Council Decisions under this Agenda Item

- FMP amendment?
- Preliminary preferred alternative:
 - Default procedures for deciding harvest specifications and OFS rebuilding plans
 - Biennial Council process
- Final action in March 2013?

Proposed Biennial Council Process

Odd year (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, etc.)

- January 1: Biennial management period starts (new harvest specifications and management measures in place)
- March/June meetings: *Analysis and Council action for new "program improvement" management measures*
- Sept./Nov. meetings: Adopt new stock assessments for management
- September meeting: Provide guidance on the use of "default policies" for calculating ABCs/ACLs
- November meeting: Adopt preliminary preferred ACLs, set asides, and allocations; scope new management measures necessary to achieve but not exceed ACLs (new catch control measures); if needed, preliminary action on new OFS rebuilding plans and/or existing plan revisions

Even year (2014, 2016, 2018, etc.)

- Stock assessments conducted
- April meeting: Adopt final preferred ACLs, set asides and allocations, and new catch control measures (to be classified as routine); adopt rebuilding plan changes
- June meeting: Identify new "program improvement" management measures for Council action in the even year (see above); adjust (routine) catch control measures including recreational measures for state conforming regulations
- November meeting: Adjust routine catch control measures as needed based on new data (e.g., WCGOP total mortality report)