

Groundfish Trawl Individual Quotas (TIQ)

Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Status Report

January 2006

Summary of Project Status

Most Recent Actions:

- Council (June 2005)
 - adopted a set of TIQ alternatives for analysis
 - authorized the initiation of scoping for an intersector allocation Environmental Impact Statement (*EIS*)
- Council (November 2005)
 - reviewed provisions and made recommendations for addressing community concerns
 - eliminated an alternative that would have required TIQ for overfished species only
- Allocation Committee (November 2005)
 - met to develop intersector allocation alternatives

Current Activities:

- Drafting of the TIQ analytical package (including EIS) is in progress under a contract with Northern Economics Incorporated (*NEI*).
- Public scoping for the intersector allocation is underway and historic harvest data is being summarized by sector.

Next Major Events:

Date	Event	Location
April 18-20, 2006	Public Workshop: Stage 1 of the Draft TIQ Analytical Package	Portland, OR
June 11-16, 2006	Council Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Stage 1 Draft TIQ Analytical Package• Review Results from Scoping of Intersector Allocation EIS	Foster City, CA (San Francisco Bay Area)

Funding Status (TIQ Program and Intersector Allocation)

The projected Council funding need for full development of a TIQ system includes both deliberations on the design of a TIQ program and the intersector allocations necessary to determine the share of the optimum yield to be allocated to the trawl fishery.

Total Council need: \$2,250,000 (updated December 2005)
Total received: \$555,000
Total remaining need: \$1,695,000

Status of Contract Work

Drafting the TIQ Analytical Package. The Council has entered into a contract with NEI to begin work on the TIQ analytical package. Drafting of the analytical package for the TIQ program has been divided into two stages because funding was not available to allow development of a complete package. The analytical package includes an EIS, regulatory impact review, regulatory flexibility analysis, and fishery impact statement, along with other required analyses. Funding for the full analysis will need to be secured prior to the end of the first stage in order for the analytical process to proceed to completion without further interruption.

Draft results from the first stage of the analysis will be presented at a public workshop April 18-20, 2006. The document will be revised in response to comments received at the workshop and presented to the Council for approval at its June 2006 meeting. The second stage of drafting will commence when the first stage is completed and needed funding has been secured.

Data summaries for Intersector Allocation. Summaries of historic harvest data for the commercial and recreational fisheries were compiled under contract with Dr. Edward Waters and presented to the Allocation Committee at its November 2005 meeting.

Committee Activity Status

TIQ Committee (TIQC)

The TIQC is the lead constituent committee advising the Council on development of the TIQ program. The TIQC has met six times, first in October 2003 and last in October 2005. Its first five meetings led to the development of the set of options adopted for analysis by the Council at its June 2005 meeting. At its October 2005 meeting, the TIQC reviewed alternatives developed by the TIQ Analytical Team to address community concerns.

In December 2005, TIQC members were given the opportunity to participate in an internal review of a preliminary draft of the analytical package under development by NEI. Upcoming for the TIQC is participation at the April 18-20, 2006 workshop.

TIQ Analytical Team (AT)

The AT has met four times, first in June 2004 and last in November 2004. At its November 2004 meeting, a work plan was developed for conducting additional analyses in support of TIQC policy deliberations to occur from January through May 2005. The work plan was only partially implemented due to a shortfall in the funding available for contractors working in support of the AT.

The last major work product of the AT was a set of community related options for Council consideration. The analytical basis for the options was presented to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) at its September 2005 meeting and the options were reviewed by the Council at its November 2005 meeting.

Establishment of a contract with NEI has resulted in a shift in the roll of the AT. Rather than taking the lead in developing analyses, the AT role is now to provide expert advice to NEI on development of the analyses and to review NEI work products.

Upcoming activities for the AT include internal review of preliminary draft documents developed by NEI prior to the April workshop and participation at the April 18-20, 2006 workshop.

TIQ Independent Experts Panel (IEP)

The IEP met two times, first in June 2004 and last in September 2004. Their first meeting was a joint meeting with the TIQ AT. At their September 2004 meeting, they recommended revisions to the goals and objectives, which were later adopted by the Council. The IEP also specified a process for its review of the draft analysis to be developed by the TIQ AT once the Council adopted alternatives for analysis. Since that time, workload and funding considerations have led to the transfer of the main responsibility for drafting analyses to the outside contractor (NEI).

Upcoming activities for the IEP include internal review of preliminary drafts developed by NEI prior to the April 18-20, 2006 workshop. IEP members will not be available for the April workshop. The possibility of a special meeting of the IEP, NEI, and AT is being investigated for the week of March 13, 2006.

TIQ Enforcement Group (EG)

The TIQ EG met two times, first in May 2004 and last in September 2004. The TIQ EG developed enforcement alternatives and estimates of enforcement costs for status quo and management under a generic, catch-based individual quota program.

In December 2005, TIQ EG members were given the opportunity to participate in an internal review of a preliminary draft document developed by NEI. Upcoming for the TIQ EG is participation at the April 18-20, 2006 workshop.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)

The SSC has been involved in review of the TIQ program only when it has come before the Council for major actions. The SSC reviewed the TIQ program alternatives at its November 2004 meeting and provided comments to the Council. It reiterated those comments at the June 2005 Council meeting. In June 2005, the Council charged the AT to work with the SSC to draft options to address community concerns. The SSC reviewed the technical basis for the options developed by the AT at the September 2005 SSC meeting and provided comments at the November 2005 Council meeting.

SSC members Mike Dalton, Tom Jagielo, Hans Radtke, and David Sampson have agreed to take the lead for the SSC in tracking and reviewing development of the TIQ program. The SSC has been asked to participate in the internal review of preliminary drafts of the analysis developed by NEI. Upcoming for the SSC is participation by interested members at the April 18-20, 2006 workshop.

Groundfish Management Team (GMT)

The GMT last reviewed and commented to the Council on the TIQ program at the June 2005 Council meeting. Merrick Burden is the GMT lead on the TIQ process.

The GMT is being given the opportunity to participate in internal review of preliminary drafts of the analysis developed by NEI. Upcoming for the GMT is possible drop-in participation at the April 18-20, 2006 workshop. Because of a conflict between the GMT meeting and the workshop, GMT members may be given the opportunity to participate in a special meeting with NEI the week of March 13.

Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP)

The GAP reviews TIQ issues as they arise on the Council agenda. The GAP last advised the Council on the TIQ program at the November 2005 Council meeting, at which time, options to address community concerns were considered.

In December 2005, GAP members were given the opportunity to participate in an internal review of a preliminary draft of the analytical package under development by NEI. Upcoming for the GAP is participation at the April 18-20, 2006 workshop.

Allocation Committee

The Allocation Committee role is to address aspects of the TIQ system directly impacting other sectors. The main direct impact is the development of the intersector allocations necessary to determine the share of fish that will be available for the TIQ program. The Allocation Committee has requested data summaries and begun development of some approaches for determining the priorities and methods for resolving intersector allocation issues. An initial summary of historic harvest data was presented at the November 2005 Allocation Committee meeting. Data issues need to be resolved pertaining to (1) the source from which the recreational data was drawn and (2) commercial landings that could not be assigned to a sector of the fleet. The next Allocation Committee meeting focusing on the long-term intersector allocation issue will occur in May 2006.