

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON WORKLOAD AND NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES PRIORITIZATION

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed and discussed the items in the tables in GMT Report 1, Council actions since March 2021, and received input from the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel and public comment. We provide updates on several of the items below, as well as updated Appendix 2 Tables A and B.

Updates to Appendix 2, Table A

Based on Council action under Agenda Item E.3. at this meeting, the GMT added “Stock Definitions/Stock Complexes” to Table A (Item A5). The GMT has also combined the Non-Trawl RCA Adjustments and Emley/Platt exempted fishing permit (EFP) (along with Removal of the Cowcod Conservation Area [CCA] from Table B) into one item (Item A2) in the updated table attached to this report.

Updates to Appendix 2, Table B

This item last came before the Council in March 2021 ([Agenda Item G.2.](#)). Since then, the GMT has re-examined the items in Appendix 2, Table B in GMT Report 1. **The GMT recommends the following changes:**

- Item B.2. Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl (SFFT) requirement between 40° 10' and 42° N. lat. The EFP is starting its 4th year. The Salmon Incidental Take Statement required three years of EFP. Therefore, the Council may wish to discuss if there is enough information from the EFP to start moving forward into regulation.
- Item B.6. Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Non-whiting: The EFP is in its fifth year. Therefore, similar to B.2. above, the Council may wish to discuss if there is enough information from the EFP to start moving forward into regulation.
- Item B.8. Discard Mortality Rates for the Recreational Fisheries: Based on the outcome of several of the 2021 rockfish stock assessments, the low resulting annual catch limits, and likely need to reduce mortality, a subgroup of the GMT has started working with Dr. John Budrick to develop rates for additional species when descending devices are used. The subgroup hopes to present the analysis to the rest of the GMT, SSC, and Council later in 2022. The methods being proposed have already been reviewed by the SSC and approved by the Council. Therefore, since this is updating catch accounting, the GMT does not believe this would need a stand-alone action item, it could be provided as part of a regularly scheduled inseason agenda item.
- Remove the Cowcod Conservation Area; This has been combined with Item A2, and can therefore be removed from this table.
- Add new Item B.16. At-Sea Processing South of 42° N. lat.: This item was initially part of the Pacific Whiting Utilization agenda item (formerly called “Mothership Sector Utilization”), which is scheduled for FPA at this meeting, but in September 2020 the Council chose to delay further consideration of allowing at-sea vessels to process Pacific whiting south of 42° N. lat. due to potential impacts on salmonids and other managed

species ([Council Decision Summary Document, September 2020](#)). At that time, the Council considered an Exempted Fishing Permit the potentially most appropriate avenue for exploring the ability to process south of 42° N. lat.

Based on the Council motion and discussions under Agenda Item E.4 on the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Program Review, the GMT has added the three items below into the non-prioritized list. If we misinterpreted anything, we would appreciate clarification and/or confirmation that we have these items expressed correctly and in the correct table.

- Add new Item B.17. LEFG Catch Share Cost Recovery. Based on information in [Agenda Item E.4.a NMFS Report 1, March 2022](#).
- Add new Item B.18. Removal of Base Permit Designation. As noted in [Agenda Item E.4.a, NMFS Report 2, March 2022](#).
- Add new Item B.19. LEFG Catch Share Review Follow-on Actions based on council action and the GAP recommendations ([Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2022](#)) under Agenda Item E.4.

Appendix 1. GMT workload matrix, with progress of ongoing and scheduled projects.

Action	Category	Mandated vs. Council's Discretion	Likely GMT Lead Analyst(s)	2022										2023							
				Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Biennial Groundfish Harvest Specifications	Biennial Process	M	All										***								
Biennial Groundfish Management Measures		M	All										***								
Exempted Fishing Permit Applications		M	Joe, Lynn										***								
Stock Assessment Updates and Panels		M	All																		
Inseason Monitoring & Management	Inseason	M	Mel, Whitney, Katie																		
ESA Humpback Whale BiOp Measures	ESA	M	Lynn/TBD																		
Non-Salmon ESA workgroup		M	Lynn/TBD																		
Fixed Gear Catch Share Review	Program Review	M	Katie, Whitney																		
Sablefish Gear Switching	Council Identified Priorities	CD	Whitney, Katie																		
Non-Trawl RCA Adjustments, Emley/Platt EFP, CCA repeal		CD	Mel, Whitney, TBD																		
Whiting Utilization		CD	Whitney, Katie, Lynn													***					
Stock Definitions		M	TBD																		
Ecosystem Items	Ecosystem	M	Daniel, Lynn																		
Halibut CSP Process	Halibut	M	Lynn, James, Lorna		***												***				
Marine Spatial Planning	Marine Planning	CD	TBD	As needed										As needed							

Appendix 2. The most recent groundfish workload prioritization list

Table A. Groundfish management measure items prioritized by Council. (updated March 11, 2022)

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Mandated or Requested Improvement	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date	Scheduled on YAAG a/
A1	MS	Pacific Whiting Utilization	Accumulation Limits	Fishery performance	M/H	Council staff/ Whitney/Katie	Final Action taken March 2022	FPA March 2022
A2	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Non-Trawl RCA Modifications, Emley Platt EFP/ CCA Removal	Area Management	Spatial access	H	Mel/ Whitney/ Todd	analysis and background	ROA/PPA April 2022
A3	IFQ	Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management	Allocation/ Area Management	Fishery performance	Very H	Council staff/ Whitney/Katie	Ongoing	PPA Nov 2022
A4	Fixed Gear	Fixed Gear Catch Share Review	Program Review	MSA Mandated	M	TBD	preliminary analysis and background	Scoping March 2022; Final June 2022
A5	All	Stock Definitions/Stock Complexes	FMP Amendment	Mandated	H	TBD	NMFS paper describing the issue	TBD

a/ as show in Agenda Item C.7 Attachment 1, March 2022

Table B. All other potential groundfish management measure items (not in priority order nor scheduled on YAAG). Items bolded are updated or new. (Updated March 11, 2022)

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Mandated or Requested Improvement	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date
B1	Trawl, Non-Trawl	Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21	Catch Accounting	Fishery function	L	Council staff	None
B2	Trawl IFQ	Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl (SFFT) requirement between 40° 10' and 42° N. lat.	Gear	Fishery performance	Unknown	Council staff	Ongoing EFP (Year 4 of 3 needed per Salmon ITS)
B3	LE FG	LEFG Permit Price Reporting	Permitting	Fishery function	L (if any)	NWFSC	None
B4	Trawl, Non-Trawl, Rec	Create 60-Mile Bank RCA Lines	Area Management	Spatial access	M	CDFW staff	None
B5	Trawl, Non-Trawl	New Dressed to Round Conversion Factors for Sablefish	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	L	TBD	Preliminary discussions held at PacFIN meeting
B6	Trawl IFQ	Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Non-whiting	Area Management	Spatial & Temporal Access	H	Council staff/TBD	starting year 5 of EFP
B7	Trawl IFQ	Carryover when Management Units Change	Catch Accounting	Fishery function	M	Council staff	None
B8	Rec	Discard Mortality Rates for the Recreational Fisheries	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	M	Lynn, Chantel, Daniel	GMT subgroup working on developing rates for additional species, hope to present sometime in 2022

Item #	Sector	Short Title	Category	Mandated or Requested Improvement	Analytical Workload (H, M, L)	Primary Analysts	Progress to Date
B9	IFQ	Increasing IFQ Carryover from 10 Percent	Harvest Specifications	Fishery performance	No change from current	TBD	None
B10	IFQ	Aggregate Non-whiting QS Control Limits and Individual Species Weighting	Accumulation Limits	Fishery function	M	NWFSC / Council Staff	Pending research
B11	Rec	Permitting Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste	Permitting	Fishery performance	None	NMFS WCR/EC staff	None
B12	Trawl IFQ	Petrals; Guttled/ Head-on conversion factor	Catch Accounting	Fishery performance	L	Katie	None
B13	OA FG	Salmon VMS Ping Rate	Enforcement	Enforcement	L	EC Staff	Preliminary scoping
B14	Rec & Comm.	Cowcod Conservation Area removal	Area Management	Spatial access	H	Mel, James	Combined with A2 above
B14	Trawl	prohibition of directed shortbelly rockfish fishery	Catch prohibition	Fishery prohibition	M/H	TBD	None
B15	Salmon troll	lingcod trip limit adjustments north of 40° 10' N lat.	Species Access	Fishery performance	M?	Corey Niles/Whitney	None
B16	At-sea	At-sea processing south of 42° N lat.	Area Management	Fishery performance	M/H	TBD	None
B17	LEFG	LEFG program cost recovery	Program requirement	MSA Mandated	TBD	TBD	NMFS Paper describing issue
B18	LEFG	Removal of base permit	Program enhancement	Fishery performance	TBD	TBD	None
B19	LEFG	LEFG follow on-GAP recommendations	Program enhancement	Fishery performance	TBD	TBD	None