

NMFS REPORT ON MARCH 2009 ADOPTED MOTION ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT 22: OPEN ACCESS LICENSE LIMITATION

In March 2009 the Council took final action on Amendment 22: Open Access License Limitation. This report is provided to present the motion as it was approved.

Open Access motion adopted:

Alternative 2, with a slight modification, as listed on page 35 of agenda item G.5.a attachment 3, Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).

- Simple registration of vessel owners that intend to participate in the open access groundfish fishery
- Paragraph 2.2 Alternative 2, move to adopt the paragraph except that the last line of the paragraph should read as follows: “However a vessel owner may apply for an open access license for the following year at any time during the year.”
- Mr. Wolford assumed there should be a fee for the license, on the order of \$100-\$200 which would aid in deterring frivolous entrants.
- Mr. Wolford noted there is a Vessel Monitoring System requirement for this fishery.
-

Preliminary Draft EA from March 2009 Council Briefing Book, section 2.2 printed here includes clarifying language from the motion:

This alternative establishes an annual federal license requirement for vessel owners that intend to participate in the open access groundfish fishery. The purpose of this alternative is to identify all vessels and vessel owners that participate in the open access fishery and to aid managers in estimating fishery impacts to target and non-target species. This alternative would not limit fishery participation. To be eligible for an open access license, the vessel owner must have a valid commercial fishing license with Washington, Oregon, or California and the vessel must be currently documented by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) or state registered. As with A permits, NMFS would require that the applicant/vessel owner certify that he/she is eligible to own a U.S.-documented vessel. NMFS would issue a single open access license that would authorize the vessel to participate in both the directed and incidental components of the open access fishery. NMFS would mail open access license applications to vessel owners prior to the calendar year and would encourage submission of applications at least 30 days prior of the calendar year (and start of the open access fishery). However, a vessel owner may apply for an open access license for the following year at any time during the year.

Vote on substitute motion:

1 abstention

7 Yes

5 No

PFMC
06/01/09