

## PERMIT TRANSFER REGULATORY AMENDMENT

**Situation:** At its June meeting, the Council stated its intention to reconsider its original recommendation regarding limits on the transfer of limited entry permits. The current regulations state permits may not be transferred more than once in any 12-month period, and transferred permits do not take effect until the beginning of the next cumulative limit period. The Council made its final recommendation on the current regulations in October 1996, adopting a proposal put forward by members of the commercial fishing industry. The restriction on frequency of transfers was intended as a step towards stabilizing and ultimately reducing capacity in the industry. The provision that delays the "effective date" of transfers was to avoid "double dipping" by two vessels taking the same trip limit. Both the frequency restriction and the effective date provisions may be modified. The northwest regional office of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has taken the lead in preparing the necessary analysis for the regulatory amendment to make the proposed changes; the analysis will be available at the Council meeting as a supplemental report.

The Council will need to consider how any transfer provisions interact with the management measures proposed for 2001. For example, the fixed gear fishery may transition to a longer primary season, or earlier season, which would affect vessels planning to participate. Also, any change from the current 2-month cumulative limits to longer cumulative periods would reduce the number of opportunities to transfer permits.

**Council Action:** *(Motion must be visible in writing prior to vote).*

- 1. Adopt final recommendations on regulatory amendment relating to how often limited entry permits may be transferred.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Analysis of proposed regulatory amendment (Exhibit C.10.b, Supplemental Impact Analysis).

PFMC  
10/17/00