

LIMITED ENTRY FISHERY – CAPACITY GOAL AND OTHER ISSUES

Situation: After December 31, 2000, limited entry permits in the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery may not be transferred to a different owner, a permit owner may transfer the permit to another vessel only if the permit's original vessel is totally lost and the replacement vessel is of equal or less tonnage. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the public have expressed concern about these restrictions and whether the number of permits initially issued reflects optimal capacity in the fishery. To address these concerns, the Council directed the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) to analyze several issues related to capacity in the limited entry fishery and permit transferability:

1. Establish a goal for the CPS finfish fishery (i.e., what should the fishery "look like" in terms of the number of vessels and the amount of capacity).
2. Establish a procedure (with criteria) for issuing new permits after the goal is attained and if the fishery becomes under-utilized.
3. Evaluate the pros and cons of extending the current permit transfer window to allow consideration of the non-transferability of California's market squid permits; under two scenarios, (1) basic extension of the transferability deadline, or (2) extension of transferability contingent on holding a California market squid permit.
4. Develop mechanisms for achieving the goal.
5. Transferability of permits after the goal is achieved; under two scenarios – on achieving goal, (1) all permits (including new permits) are freely transferable, or (2) new permits (i.e., those issued after goal is achieved) would have restricted transferability.

The CPSMT discussed these issues at their October 17-18, 2000 meeting; the CPSMT also discussed their findings with the CPSAS on October 18, 2000. The CPSMT and CPSAS will provide reports to the Council addressing the five issues outlined above.

Council Action: Discussion on Capacity Goals and Other Issues.

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit E.1.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report.
2. Exhibit E.1.b, Supplemental CPSAS Report.

PFMC
10/16/00