

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 20 – TRAWL RATIONALIZATION – ACCUMULATION LIMITS

Additional specifications for accumulation limits is one of the three trailing actions identified in the Council's final trawl rationalization action in November 2008 (see Agenda Item G.3). The following aspects of accumulation limit provisions were decided at that time.

- There will be accumulation limits. Limits on the accumulation of quota share (QS) and quota pound (QP) are envisioned for individual species (including overfished species) as well as for all species combined; such limits would be set for ownership and control (control limits) by any entity as well as use by a vessel.
- There will not be a grandfather clause. At the time of initial quota share (QS) allocation, the QS that would otherwise go to those who would qualify for an allocation greater than the accumulation limits will instead be redistributed to those who are under the limits.
- Control limits on the accumulation of QS will be measured by direct ownership by any entity as well as indirect control by such entity.

Completion of action on this element of the individual fishing quota (IFQ) program requires determination of the accumulation limit percentages. In determining the accumulation limit percentages, there are a number of factors the Council indicated it may want to consider. These are provided in the staff summary (Agenda Item G.4.a, Staff Report).

Additionally, the current options all specify that QPs will count against both the control limit and the vessel use limits and that the vessel use limits will be greater than the control limits. This creates an inconsistency that will need to be resolved either by making the control limits equal to or greater than the vessel use limits or changing the rules that counts QP against the control limits (see Agenda Item G.4.a, Staff Report for more information and Agenda Item G.4.b, GAC Report for the GAC recommendations).

The Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) met in January 2009 and has provided a report which addresses the issues which need to be resolved to complete action, with the exception of accumulation limits for overfished species (Agenda Item G.4.b, GAC Report). The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) was asked to analyze the GAC recommendations and has provided a report for the briefing book (Agenda Item G.4.b, GMT Report). During the GAC meeting, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) volunteered to develop a paper on the accumulation limit issue (Agenda Item G.4.b, NMFS Report) as it relates to the possibility of developing higher limit levels for community associations through a trailing amendment, rather than a trailing action (trailing actions are to be completed prior to submission of the program adopted at the November Council meeting for Secretarial approval, while a trailing amendment would occur later under a separate Fishery Management Plan amendment process).

The Council is scheduled to reach finality on accumulation limits at this meeting.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt a set of accumulation limit percentages.**
2. **Address other issues of concern, as needed.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.4.a, Staff Report: Summary of Accumulation Limit Issues and Analysis.
2. Agenda Item G.4.b, GAC Report: Groundfish Allocation Committee Report On Amendment 20 – Trawl Rationalization – Accumulation Limits
3. Agenda Item G.4.b, GMT Report: Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Council Staff Report On Amendment 20 – A Framework Approach For Setting Control and Vessel Usage Limits For Non-Whiting Target Species
4. Agenda Item G.4.b, Supplemental NMFS Report: Trailing Amendment Considerations for Regional Fishery Associations
5. Agenda Item G.4.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Agencies and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Accumulation Limits

Jim Seger

PFMC
02/24/09