

Motion on GOA Groundfish Rationalization

December 2005

The council directs staff to review the current Gulf Rationalization document and reformat the document so that each gear group is treated distinctively and each alternative is discussed as to whether or not it would apply to each gear type—a so called “roadmap” to help all involved better understand the elements and options.

(a) Community Measures

The Council recommends replacing the language in the first paragraph of the preamble to the Community Fisheries Quota (CFQ) program that reads “The CFQ program would allocate a percentage of the annual Federal TAC to an administrative entity that would subsequently determine how to use the annual harvest privileges according to criteria established in Federal regulation” with the following language:

The Community Fisheries Quota (CFQ) program would allocate groundfish quota (CFQ) to qualified applicants representing eligible Gulf communities, in order to use that allocation to provide benefits to communities.

Revise Section C1.7, Harvesting of Shares, as follows:

Harvesting of shares is limited to residents of any eligible community and an appeals process will be established to ensure that any allocation decisions comply with procedural due process concerns. The administrative entity may lease quota share to eligible community residents with vessels owned by, retained under a contractual arrangement with, or on which a community resident has an employment contract. However, residents of eligible communities located in a specific management area *WGM CGM WY) should receive priority over other qualified applicants in the leasing of community quota used in the specific management area.

The council recommends adding a section to the CPP program that is the same as the “Harvesting of Shares” section (C1.7) of the CFQ program that would read:

Harvesting of CPP shares is limited to residents of any eligible community. The administrative entity may lease quota share to eligible community residents with vessels owned by, retained under a contractual arrangement with, or on which a community resident has an employment contract. However, residents of eligible communities located in a specific management area (WG,CG, WY) should receive priority over other qualified applicants in the leasing of community quota used in that specific management area.

The council recommends that the words “Gulf (WG,CG, WY)” be inserted in the “Eligible Communities” sections of both the CFQ and CPP programs prior to use of the words “groundfish commercial permit and fishing activity.”

The council recommends that, under the “Qualification of Administrative Entity” (C2.3) section of the CPP program, that options 2-5 of the “Administrative Oversight” at C1.14) of the CFQ program be incorporated. Under C2.4 “Administrative Oversight” the word “may” is replaced with “at a minimum.”

The council also recommends that subsequent tables regarding community groundfish fishing history include the number of deliveries made by residents of the communities.

(b) Alternatives/Options

The council adopts the following language for Alternative 2 at 2.2.2.2 and Alternative 3 at 3.3.1:

A person who acquired an LLP license with GQP and EQP qualifications to remain in one or more GOA QS fisheries may obtain a distribution of QS for those fisheries based on the history of either (a) the vessel on which the replacement LLP is based prior to its transfer and any landings made on the vessel for which it was acquired subsequent to its transfer to that vessel, or (b) the vessel for which the LLP was acquired, NOT both. License transfers for the purposes of this provision must have occurred by June 1, 2005.

For purposes of analysis, the council recommends the inclusion of vessel use caps in Alternative 3 that are similar to the vessel use caps in Alternative 2:

Vessel use caps on harvest shares harvested on any given vessel shall be set at

- i. 100%
- ii. 150%
- iii. 200%

of the individual use cap for each species. Initial issues that exceed the individual or vessel use caps are grandfathered at their current level as of a control date of April 3, 2003, including transfers by contract entered into as of that date.

The council directs staff to explore options for limitation of leasing or transfer within a co-op for Alternative 3 that would be parallel to the Alternative 2 leasing options.

For purposes of analysis, the council recommends that under Alternative 2, 2.3.1.2:

- Delete the option of 1995-99
- Add the option of 1998-2003
- Add the option of 2000-2004
- Add the option of 1995-2003

Under Alternate 3, Alternative 3.3.5

- Add option c. (during the) last 4 years prior to 2004

(c) GOA Crab and Salmon Bycatch

The council recommends moving forward with analysis of additional bycatch controls for Tanner, red king crab, and salmon.

The council notes that the analysis would be more relevant to future discussions with the inclusion of updated bycatch data and requests that spatial data showing bycatch hotspots be presented in a form to exhibit bycatch rates more specifically than the current quartile data shown.