

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

June 11, 2007

C-4(e)

Motion on post-delivery transfers for the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot Program

The Council adopts the following purpose and needs statement:

Participants in the Central Gulf of Alaska rockfish fishery pilot program are permitted to join cooperatives, which receive annual allocations of cooperative quota, which provide exclusive privileges to catch specific numbers of pounds of Pacific ocean perch, northern rockfish, pelagic shelf rockfish, Pacific cod, sablefish, thornyhead rockfish, shortraker rockfish, rougheye rockfish, and halibut prohibited species catch. Any harvest in excess of a cooperative quota allocation is a regulatory violation punishable by confiscation of catch and other penalties. Since all catch is counted against cooperative quota, the uncertainty of catch quantities and composition creates potential for unintended overages. A provision allowing for post-delivery transfer of cooperative quota to cover overages could reduce the number of inadvertent violations, allowing for more complete harvest of allocations, and reduce enforcement costs without increasing the risk of overharvest of allocations.

Further, the Council adopts the following alternatives and options:

Alternative 1 – Status Quo (no post-delivery transfers)

Alternative 2 – Unlimited post-delivery transfers

Purpose of post-delivery transfers

Post-delivery transfers would be allowed exclusively to cover an overages.

Shares used for post-delivery transfers

Post-delivery transfers of the following shares are permitted:

catcher vessel CQ

catcher processor CQ

Limits on the magnitude of a post-delivery transfer

None

Limits on the number of post-delivery transfers

None

No cooperative shall be permitted to begin a fishing trip, unless the cooperative holds unused CQ (not an option).

Limits on the time to undertake a post-delivery transfer

A post-delivery transfer will be permitted after a landing for a catcher vessel (or weekending date for a catcher processor) for a period of 30 days.

Suboption: All post-delivery transfers must be completed by the end of the rockfish season (December 31st).

Alternative 3 – Moderate limited post-delivery transfers

Purpose of post-delivery transfers

Post-delivery transfers would be allowed exclusively to cover overages.

Shares used for post-delivery transfers

Post-delivery transfers of the following shares are permitted:
catcher vessel CQ
catcher processor CQ

Limits on the magnitude of a post-delivery transfer

A post-delivery transfer of primary and secondary species shall be limited to 25 metric tons of CQ on a species basis.

A post-delivery transfer of halibut PSC shall be limited to 5,000 pounds.

Limits on the number of post-delivery transfers

For each species, a cooperative is limited to covering five overages with post-delivery transfer.

No cooperative shall be permitted to begin a fishing trip, unless the cooperative holds unused CQ for all allocated species (not an option).

Limits on the time to undertake a post-delivery transfer

Post-delivery transfers will be permitted after a landing for a catcher vessel (or weekend date for a catcher processor) for a period of 30 days.

Suboption: All post-delivery transfers must be completed by the end of the rockfish season (December 31st).