

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
October 2007
C-4(b) – Fixed Gear Recency

The Council directed staff to begin the analytical process for an amendment to remove latent LLP licenses from the fixed gear sectors in the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska. The Council adopted the following draft purpose and need statement and elements and options for analysis:

Draft Statement of Purpose and Need

Western Gulf and Central Gulf groundfish fisheries are subject to intense competition, particularly in the A season, when fish are aggregated and of highest value. Competition among fixed gear participants in the Western Gulf and Central Gulf fisheries has increased for a variety of reasons, including increased market value of Pacific cod products and a declining ABC/TAC. The possible future entry of latent effort would have detrimental effects on LLP holders that have exhibited participation in, and dependence on, the fixed gear groundfish fisheries. Many fixed gear vessel owners have made significant investments, have long catch histories, and are dependant on WGOA and CGOA groundfish resources. These long-term participants need protection from those who have little or no recent history and who have the ability to increase their participation in the fisheries. The intent of the proposed amendment is to prevent latent fixed gear groundfish fishing capacity that has not been utilized in recent years, from future entry or re-entry into the fisheries. This requires prompt action to promote stability in the fixed gear sectors of the GOA groundfish fisheries, and is expected to be implemented concurrently with the division of GOA Pacific cod among sectors that is currently under consideration.

Component 1- Area

Western Gulf
Central Gulf (current endorsement includes West Yakutat)

Component 2 - Identify and define Sectors

H&L CP
Option: H&L CP =>125
H&L CP <125
H&L CV
Pot CP
Pot CV
Jig
Option: Exempt jig gear from this action (under Component 4 options below)

This option would

- a) exempt jig participants from any LLP requirement under Component 4, options 1 and 3, or
- b) exempt jig participants from any Pacific cod endorsement requirement under Component 4, options 2 and 4.

Component 3 – Qualifying years

00-05
00-06
02-05
02-06

Component 4 – Catch thresholds

Thresholds shall be based on legally retained catch in the aggregate during all of the qualifying years in the Federal and Parallel fisheries (excluding IFQ catches).

Option 1 – All groundfish 1,3,5 landings

- Option 2 – All directed Pacific Cod 1, 3, 5 landings (resulting in a Pcod endorsement)
- Option 3 – All groundfish 5, 10, 25, 100 mt
- Option 4 – All directed Pacific Cod 5, 10, 25, 100 mt (resulting in a Pcod endorsement)

Component 5 – Multiple endorsement provisions

Where there are multiple LLPs registered to a single vessel, also known as ‘stacking’ of LLPs, groundfish harvest history will be fully credited to all stacked licenses, each carrying it’s own qualifying endorsements and designations.

Option 1 – CV’s operating with a qualifying catch history in both the “trawl” and the “fixed gear” sectors shall elect annually sector participation.

Option 2 – CV’s operating with a qualifying catch history in both the “trawl” and the “fixed gear” sectors shall have a one time election of sector participation.

Option 3 – CV’s operating with a qualifying catch history in both the “trawl” and “fixed gear” sectors shall be able to elect to participate in both sectors in a single season.