

Council Motion, Trawl LLP June 2007:

Trawl Recency Amendment - Description of Alternatives, Components and Options

Alternative 1 – No Action: Under this alternative the existing situation will continue. All LLPs currently issued will continue to be valid for the BSAI and GOA trawl groundfish fisheries. There would also be no change in the number of non-AFA trawl CV LLPs for the Aleutian Islands area, which could occur under Component 5.

Alternatives 2 and 3 are differentiated by whether or not the program is implemented at the management area or subarea designation.

Alternative 2 would implement trawl CV LLP threshold criteria in the BSAI and trawl LLP threshold criteria in the GOA management areas. It would specify application of all trawl groundfish harvests within these areas for the respective qualification period. This threshold assessment only applies to trawl harvests and will not change non-trawl area endorsements on LLPs.

Alternative 3 would implement trawl CV LLP threshold criteria in the BS and AI submanagement areas and trawl LLP threshold criteria in the WG and CG submanagement areas. It would specify application of trawl groundfish harvests within these areas for the respective qualification period. This threshold assessment only applies to trawl harvests and will not change non-trawl area endorsements on LLPs.

Exemption and Inclusion Statements

AFA exemption: Exclude BSAI LLP endorsements originally issued to vessels qualified under the AFA and any non-AFA LLPs assigned to AFA vessels not having any other license from LLP qualification in the BSAI.

Central Gulf Rockfish Demonstration Project exemption: Exclude Central Gulf of Alaska area endorsements of the LLPs qualified for the rockfish demonstration program from LLP qualification under the amendment.

BSAI CP inclusion: Include application of the harvest thresholds for BSAI CP LLPs that are non-AFA licenses and also are not LLPs qualified for Amendment 80 (LLPs assigned to vessels eligible for Amendment 80). When applying catch threshold criteria to CP LLPs, CP activity and/or CV activity shall be considered.

Component/Option Choices Common to Alternatives 2 and 3

Alternatives 2 and 3 have a common set of five components that form the remainder of choices for this amendment. The Council can choose to include and apply any combination from these components to either Alternative 2 or Alternative 3. The respective components address the issues of qualification period; landing criterion applied to determine qualified LLPs; multiple LLPs registered to a single vessel; potential exclusion of AFA qualified vessels; potential exclusion of Amendment 80 vessels; and options for separately addressing LLPs in the Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery.

Component 1 includes a number of possible choices for landings criteria to be applied to the current LLP holders for existing trawl LLPs in the respective areas. The varying factors under Component 1 are the choice of qualification period (2000-2005 or 1995-2005); choice of threshold criteria to be applied (at least one landing for the qualification period or at least two landings for the qualification period); and a final choice to exempt vessels with an overall length less than 60 feet from application of the threshold criteria. The choices for Component 1 are as follows:

Component 1 – Option 1 requires at least one landing of groundfish during the qualification period of 2000-2005.

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Component 1 – Option 2 requires at least two landings of groundfish during the qualification period of 2000-2005.

Component 1 – Option 3 provides a choice to exempt trawl LLPs with a maximum mean length overall (MLOA) designation of less than or equal to 60 feet in the BSAI with trawl or non-trawl minimum participation of:

*Component 1 – Option 3, suboption 1 – one landing
Component 1 – Option 3, suboption 2 – two landings, or
Component 1 – Option 3, suboption 3 – 200 metric tons directed Pacific cod harvest from the BSAI in any one year (2000-2005)*

from the trawl landing threshold requirement.

Component 1 – Option 4 provides a choice of whether to include non-AFA & non-Amendment 80 BSAI CPs in application of the groundfish threshold landings criteria.

Component 1 – Option 5 extends the qualification period one year to include landings in 2006.

Component 2 - where there are multiple LLPs registered to a single vessel, also known as 'stacking' of LLPs, the Council has specified a provision to deal with this situation as follows:

Component 2 – will fully credit groundfish harvest history to all stacked licenses, each carrying its own qualifying endorsements and designations.

Component 3 addresses consideration of excluding Amendment 80-qualified vessels from LLP qualification under the amendment. The Council identified a single option as follows:

Component 3 – Option 1 will exclude LLPs originally issued to vessels qualified under Amendment 80 and LLPs used for eligibility in Amendment 80.

Component 4 is different from other parts of the proposed amendment. It evaluates the effect of adding new LLPs to the Aleutian Islands non-AFA trawl groundfish CV fishery based on harvests during the respective qualification periods. Harvests for the parallel waters fishery in the Aleutian Islands and also the 2006 State waters fishery are included in the basis for qualification. In February 2007, the Council directed the following specifications for Component 4:

A – Component 5 to be retained within the trawl recency analysis

B – The options within Component 4 are as follows:

- 1) For non-AFA vessels < 60 feet in length to receive an AI trawl endorsement, consider landing thresholds in the AI parallel cod fishery between 2000-2005 of at least:
 - a. 50 metric tons*
 - b. 250 metric tons*
 - c. 500 metric tons**
- 2) For non-AFA vessels > 60 feet in length to receive an AI trawl endorsement, consider landing thresholds of at least one landing in the AI parallel (groundfish fishery) or State water cod fishery between 2000 and 2006 **plus** landings in the BSAI cod fishery between 2000 and 2006 of at least: (a) 500 metric tons, or (b) 1,000 metric tons*