

Council Motion
C-3 CV Trawl Eligibility
June 11, 2006

The Council adopts the following problem statement:

Trawl catcher vessel eligibility is a conflicting problem among the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands. In the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, there are too many latent licenses and in the Aleutian Islands there are not enough licenses for trawl catcher vessels.

In the Bering Sea and GOA, the trawl catcher vessel groundfish fisheries in the BSAI and trawl vessel groundfish fisheries in the GOA are fully utilized. In addition, the existence of latent licenses may exacerbate the disadvantages to GOA dependant CVs resulting from a lack of comprehensive rationalization in the GOA. Competition for these resources is likely to increase as a result of a number of factors, including Council actions to rationalize other fisheries, favorable current market prices and a potential for TAC changes in future years. Trawl vessel owners who have made significant investments, have long catch histories, and are dependent upon BSAI and GOA groundfish resources need protection from others who have little or no recent history and with the ability to increase their participation in the fisheries. This requires prompt action to promote stability in the trawl catcher vessel sector in the BSAI and trawl vessel sector in the GOA until comprehensive rationalization is completed.

In the Aleutian Islands, previous Congressional and Council actions reflect a policy encouraging economic development of Adak. The opportunity for non-AFA CVs to build catch history in the AI was limited until markets developed in Adak. The analysis indicates that there are only six non-AFA CV trawl AI endorsed LLPs. The Congressional action to allocate AI pollock to the Aleut Corporation for the purpose of economic development of Adak requires that 50% of the AI pollock eventually be harvested by <60' vessels. The Council action under Am. 80 to allocate a portion of AI POP and Atka mackerel to the limited access fleet does not modify AFA CV sideboard restrictions, thus participation is effectively limited to non-AFA vessels with AI CV trawl LLP endorsements. A mechanism is needed to help facilitate the development of a resident fishing fleet that can fish in both state and federal waters. The Council will consider different criteria for the CV Eligibility in the AI.

Alternatives

The Council intends to a license basis for action.

Catch considered in determining whether a license meets the minimum catch criteria:

All catch from the vessel from which a license arose, prior to issuance of the license, and all catch using the license, after issuance of the license.

Component 1 – Area / subarea endorsements

Option 1: Catch thresholds will be applied at the management area level in the BSAI/GOA. Failure to meet the management area threshold will result in the removal of all subarea endorsements in the management area.

Option 2: Catch thresholds will be applied at the endorsement subarea level in the BSAI/GOA. Failure to meet the threshold for an endorsement subarea will result in the removal of that subarea endorsement.

Component 2 In addition to the threshold information already provided in the analysis, the AP recommends inclusion of the following additional landing requirements:

Option 1. Trawl LLPS (BSAI CV and GOA CV and CP) – trawl landing requirement (except sablefish)

1. No action
2. at least one landing of groundfish from 2000-2005
 Suboption: at least one landing of groundfish from 1995-2005
3. at least two landings of groundfish from 2000-2005
 Suboption: at least two landings of groundfish from 1995-2005

Option 2: Trawl LLPS (BSAI CV and GOA CV and CP) –groundfish landing requirement (except sablefish)

1. No action
2. at least one landing of groundfish from 2000-2005
 Suboption: at least one landing of groundfish from 1995-2005
3. at least two landings of groundfish from 2000-2005
 Suboption: at least two landings of groundfish from 1995-2005

Catch history of a vessel accumulated while licenses are stacked on the vessel will be:

Option 1. Fully credited to all stacked licenses (with qualifying endorsements and designations)

Option 2. Apportioned equally among all stacked licenses (with qualifying endorsements and designations)

Option 3. Apportioned as agreed by the holders of those licenses (with qualifying endorsements and designations), unless no such agreement exists, in which case the history would be apportioned equally.

Option for AFA vessels: Exclude LLPs originally issued to vessels qualified under the AFA and LLPs used for eligibility in the AFA.

Option for Amendment 80 vessels: Exclude LLPs originally issued to vessels qualified under Amendment 80 and LLPs used for eligibility in Amendment 80.

The Council requests that staff provide the number of stacked licenses with identical endorsements within the trawl sector and to provide the number of <60 ft licenses that would be eliminated under component 1 and 2.

Option for Aleutian Islands Fisheries

Non-AFA vessels with a general CV trawl LLP, but which lack an AI endorsement may qualify for an endorsement based on deliveries in a parallel or statewater fishery in the AI. (using the same range of landing thresholds as the existing alternatives.)