

Adjustment of the MLOA on BSAI Freezer Longline LLP Licenses (previously referred to as a Vessel Replacement action)

Revised problem statement and alternatives, June 10, 2012

Problem Statement

Vessel length restrictions, included with LLP licenses and the AFA, established to maintain fleet capacity, inhibit the BSAI freezer longline fleet from replacing or rebuilding their vessels. Modifying or removing vessel length restrictions for BSAI freezer longline vessels to allow owners to rebuild or replace their vessels with larger vessels would allow for improved vessel safety, meet international class and loadline requirements that would allow a broader range of onboard processing options, and improve the economic efficiency of their vessels.

Description of the Alternatives

Alternative 1: No Action. Under this alternative, the BSAI Pacific cod hook and line catcher processor vessel length, horsepower, and tonnage restrictions currently in place would continue to apply.

Alternative 2: For those LLP licenses with catcher processor and hook-and-line Pacific cod endorsements for the BS or AI, with an MLOA of less than 150', increase the MLOA of the LLP license 20 percent, not to exceed a MLOA of 150'.

Option 2.1: Any vessel replaced under this program would not be eligible to be designated on an FFP or an LLP.

Option 2.2: Replaced vessels may not be used to replace other BSAI hook and line catcher processor vessels.

Alternative 3: The MLOA requirements on LLP licenses with catch processor and hook-and-line Pacific cod endorsements for the BS or AI would not apply and the Council recommends that vessels named on these LLP licenses be authorized for use in the EEZ under the jurisdiction of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, which is intended to clarify that these vessels are eligible to receive a certificate of documentation consistent with 46 U.S.C. 12102(c) and MARAD regulations at 46 C.F.R. 356.47.

Option 3.1: Any vessel replaced under this program would not be eligible to be designated on an LLP, except on LLP licenses with catcher processor and hook-and-line Pacific cod endorsements for the BS or AI.

Option 3.2: Replaced vessels may not be used to replace other BSAI hook and line catcher processor vessels.

Option 3.3: The MLOA on LLP licenses with catcher processor and hook-and-line Pacific cod endorsements for the BS or AI would be modified to 220' MLOA.

Option 3.4: Owners of LLP licenses with catcher processor and pot cod endorsements will have 36 months from the implementation of this action to either surrender the pot cod endorsements and receive an LLP license at 220' LOA or the current LLP length restriction would continue to apply.

Preliminary Preferred Alternative

The Council adopts Alternative 3, with revised Options 3.3 and 3.4, as a preliminary preferred alternative.