



D2 MRA Adjustments

April 2024 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Dr. Nicole Watson
Presenters: Krista Milani (NMFS)
Action Required: 1. Review discussion paper provided by staff.
2. Recommend action as necessary.

BACKGROUND

In October 2023, the Council passed a [motion](#) to support NMFS in their preparation of a discussion paper to inform potential adjustments to the maximum retainable amount (MRA) of species closed to directed fishing (incidental catch species) while a vessel operator is engaged in fishing for species or species groups that are open to directed fishing. This discussion paper includes a description of the complexities resulting from current regulations for vessels participating in multiple fisheries and/or in multiple management areas; potential regulatory changes that could be made to modify trip triggers for the purpose of calculating and determining MRA calculations; potential changes to applying MRAs at offload instead of instantaneously; how those changes could reduce regulatory discards; and compliance considerations for vessels that are subject to unforeseen medical or mechanical issues during a trip.

The intent of this discussion paper was to provide the Council with information about how the MRA regulations could be modified to reflect current practices, to give an overview of industry proposed regulatory changes, and to provide possible regulatory changes that could be assessed. After reviewing the discussion paper and listening to public testimony, the Council's task is to determine whether to move forward by developing a purpose and need statement and alternatives for analysis regarding MRAs.