

Enforcement Committee Minutes
June 5th, 2006 1-5pm
Best Western-Harbor Room
Kodiak, Alaska

Committee present: Captain Mike Cerne, Cathy Coon (staff), Ken Hansen, Mike Gonzalez, Roy Hyder (Chair), Bill Karp, Lt. Alan McCabe, and Sue Salveson.

Others present: Jane DiCosimo, Chaco Pearman, Sue Asplund, Lauren Smoker, Gregg Williams

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)

Sue Salveson provided the Committee with a brief update on the analysis of expanded VMS requirements being prepared by NMFS staff. The analysis is scheduled for initial review in October 2006.

The Committee reviewed public comment (letters) on the VMS requirement proposed under the EFH/HAPC protection amendments. The State of Alaska letter requested “that all State registered vessels that do not have a federal fishing permit be exempt from all VMS requirements when transiting federal waters”. The Committee noted that that the alternatives under consideration by the Council in the new VMS analysis would already exempt State registered vessels using troll, seine and set net gear. The Committee further noted that exempting other gear types may be contrary to the objectives. The existing motion already provides an exemption for other state permitted vessels operating in the EEZ who check in/out with NMFS and stow their gear during transits. Notwithstanding this, the Committee would encourage staff analysts to take note of the State’s request relative to the objectives of the proposed action. If the Council desired to add the State’s request as another alternative, it could do that in October

Maximum Retainable Allowance (MRA)

Ken Hansen and Sue Salveson provided the Committee with an overview of the analysis that would change the time interval for MRA compliance for the Head and Gut (H&G) fleet.

The Committee supports Alternative 2 as a preliminary preferred alternative in the analysis. This Alternative best addresses enforcement concerns while providing the benefits of utilizing a reporting week as the maximum time period for compliance with MRA percentages.

Overview of GHIL and 5 fish limit

Sue Salveson provided the Committee with an overview on the GHIL provision adopted by the Council in April that would limit anglers to 5 halibut annually. A June 1 letter from NMFS to the NPFMC reported that the agency has determined that the proposed five fish annual limit would require a Federal charter vessel halibut angler permit and a charter vessel halibut logbook based on the Northern Pacific Halibut Act and data sharing agreements between the State of Alaska and NMFS, rather than reliance on State

reporting vehicles (e.g., ADF&G sportfish license). NMFS plans to prepare an implementation plan for Federal reporting requirements and detailed costs information associated with those requirements. NMFS has recommended that the Council reconsider its preferred alternative in October or alternatively hold this action in abeyance until it has developed its long-term plan for this sector. Ongoing discussion is occurring between NMFS and ADF&G on this issue.

Overview of Trawl CV eligibility-species endorsements

Jim Richardson provided the Committee with a report of Trawl CV eligibility criteria, including species endorsements on LLP licenses. The Committee discussed the proposed amendment and found that the Council is not anticipating species endorsements at this time.

New business:

Lauren Smoker provided a brief overview to the Committee on the complaint filed in Federal court in regards to the Groundfish retention standard. Briefing by the parties will occur during the summer, and will a hearing is scheduled for October 24, 2006.

Suggested Agenda Items for the next meeting

VMS-
MRA final
State Department Report on international fisheries.
Halibut Charter