

Enforcement Committee DRAFT Report
June 5, 2007 1-4 pm Totem Square
Sitka Alaska

Committee present: LT CMDR Lisa Ragone, Sue Salvesson, Garland Walker, Jeff Passer, Roy Hyder, Ken Hansen, Bill Karp, Herman Savikko, Cathy Coon

Other Attendees: LT Patrick Barelli, Chief Jody Hummer, Jonathan King, Jon Kurland, Doug-Vincent Lang, John Lepore, Jason Anderson, Chris Krenz.

Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Area (BSHC)

The Enforcement Committee received a report from Cathy Coon, NPFMC staff and Melanie Brown, NOAA Fisheries, on the final draft of the Bering Sea Habitat Conservation analysis.

The Committee addressed potential changes to the status quo in terms of enforceability. The Committee noted that the analysis adequately addressed enforcement and monitoring needs and issues as previously requested. The Committee supports the use of VMS as the monitoring tool for any of the proposed closure areas, as iterated during the last meeting.

The Committee additionally discussed the gear modification alternative which would apply to all non-pelagic trawl fisheries targeting flatfish species. The committee supports the continued development of this concept of industry supported gear modification to have reduced impacts on benthic habitat. The Committee refers that its previous comments from the April Committee meeting are still pertinent on this issue. Although specific details of the gear modification need further development in terms of procedures and policies the Committee notes that the concept is viable for adoption. The Committee acknowledges that the gear modification currently is not ready for adoption into regulations at this time.

Halibut Charter Moratorium

The Committee discussed information pertaining to the Halibut Charter Moratorium analysis. As NOAA Fisheries prepares the proposed rule on this item it will likely be pertinent for the Enforcement Committee to readdress this issue.

Halibut Charter GHL

The Committee received a status report from Jonathan King on the GHL analysis for Area 2c.

The Committee discussed the state of Alaska's HB 186 which allows the state to share information collected from the sport charter industry with NOAA Enforcement. This bill should will likely satisfy NMFS concern about access to the information and allow it to be used in Federal courts. Jeff Passer noted that access to the records is a good baseline; however utilizing the information in an efficient manner may be a challenge. Specifically the format of the data is important and whether the data remains in logbooks paper copies or in a database will define the ease at which enforcement can use the information to look for violations.

The Committee discussed that the complexity of the GHL program adopted will likely have an increased cost in management and enforcement and those costs will need to be provided for in the budget.

The Committee acknowledges that some of these measures are reliant on logbooks for client specific harvest levels. Continued cooperation between NMFS and ADF&G for information exchange will be the cornerstone in the development of this program.

Suggested agenda items for the October Meeting:

Western GOA Pollock trip limit.

Halibut GHL 3a

After the fact transfers of crab