

The Committee approved (2//7/2013) the following proposals from AP members for consideration in Amendment 6. Both proposals address certain elements of a leasing program (qualification and usage restrictions), but neither is a complete, stand-alone DAS leasing alternative. The staff seeks Committee guidance on how these should be further developed - into two separate, complete alternatives to be presented in the document, or components in a list of options addressing all of the DAS leasing program options.

AP Proposed DAS Leasing Program Option 1

Baseline Calculation of Leasable DAS

The period for determining leasable DAS would be the 10 years during which the monkfish stocks were rebuilding, 1999-2008. The total number of monkfish DAS used by each vessel during that period would be divided by 10 to establish the number of DAS each vessel could lease out.

DAS usage restriction on vessels leasing out DAS

Each year, a vessel that elects to lease out its DAS would relinquish its ability to use any DAS remaining in its allocation. For example, if a vessel is allocated 40 DAS, and is qualified to lease out 20 DAS, and does so, it would not be able to fish the remaining DAS.

Discussion: The primary purpose of this approach is to facilitate operational efficiency while preventing an increase in overall effort that would result from the activation of previously unused DAS. Vessels that used monkfish DAS after the start of the fishing year but prior to engaging in a leasing arrangement would be prohibited from leasing out DAS. Questions: If a vessel in that situation could find a better deal, could it lease out its DAS, and lease in the less expensive ones? If a vessel is awarded monkfish RSA DAS (if RSA remains on a DAS basis) would it be able to fish those DAS even if it had leased out its regular allocation? What other of the listed leasing restrictions outlined in this section would apply (e.g., area, vessel size and permit restrictions)?

AP Proposed DAS Leasing Program Option 2

Tiered Baseline Calculation of Leasable DAS

The method for calculating the percentage of allocated DAS that a vessel can lease out is based on the vessel's DAS usage rate during the 2007-2012 fishing years. Vessels would be categorized into one of three tiers as follows:

- Tier 1 - vessels that used 90 - 100% of their DAS allocation from 2007- 2012
- Tier 2 - vessels that used 75 - 89% of their DAS allocation from 2007 - 2012
- Tier 3 - vessels that used 50 - 74% of their DAS allocation from 2007- 2012

DAS usage restriction on vessels leasing out DAS

Vessels would be able to lease out their DAS up to the following percentage of allocated DAS:

- Tier 1 vessels could lease out up to 100% of their allocated DAS
- Tier 2 vessels could lease out up to 89% of their allocated DAS
- Tier 3 vessels could lease out up to 74% of their allocated DAS
- Vessels that used less than 50% of their allocated DAS from 2007-2012 would be ineligible to lease out DAS, even to another vessel owned by the same person or company.

Discussion: The goal of this alternative is to insure that latent permits will not be leased resulting in an activation of latent effort, which could result in a future reduction in DAS for currently active vessels. ***Questions: Is the DAS usage based on total number of DAS used in the period, compared to total allocated, or on the average for each year?***