



NOAA
FISHERIES
Northeast
Regional
Office

Proposal for an Omnibus Baseline Amendment

Presentation for Scallop Committee
By Travis Ford

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Proposed Action

NERO develop an omnibus amendment

1. Eliminate gross and net tonnage specifications
 - Most variable of specifications
 - Documentation is costly to get and verify
 - Negligible impact to harvest capacity
2. Remove the one-time upgrade restriction
 - Provide more flexibility and fairness
 - Streamline the replacement process
 - Negligible impact to harvest capacity

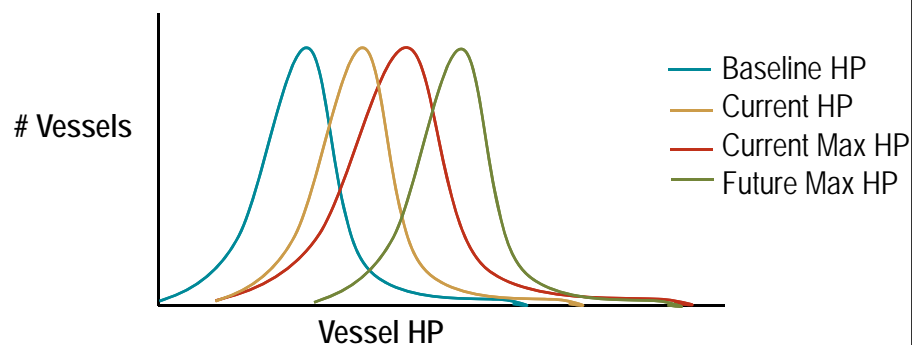
Proposed Analysis

- Comparison: baseline fleet vs. current vs. current max vs. future max (for HP, LOA, NT, GT)
 - By fishery and port/state/region
- # vessels that have used one-time upgrade and maxed vs. # vessels used one-time upgrade and not maxed vs. # vessels remaining (for HP, size)
- Cost burden to fishermen and NMFS



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Example



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Questions for the Committee today

- What other type of analysis do you wish to see in the amendment?



Process and Timeline

Date	Action
August-September 2013 Council meetings	Present plan to Councils
January 2014	Gather input from species committees
January-March 2014	Analyze alternatives and draft amendment
April 2014 Council meetings	Councils adopt draft amendment, hold public info sessions if needed
May 2014	30-day comment period on draft amendment
June 2014 Council meetings	Final Council approval of amendment document
July 2014-December 2014	Proposed and Final rulemaking
May 1, 2015	Final rule effective





Adding Alternatives

- Current alternatives are simple changes that are policy neutral, but still reduce the burden to industry & NMFS.
- Adding alternatives would significantly complicate the analysis. If the Councils wish to add alternatives, we recommend:
 1. Initiate another omnibus action, Council-led, to analyze other alternatives, or,
 2. Use the existing amendment to make policy changes to the baseline program, with Councils as lead.
- In either option, have to weigh against other priorities.

Background

- Most NE limited access fisheries have vessel upgrade restrictions
- Purpose is to limit increases in harvest capacity
- Now have effort controls and Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)
- Upgrade restrictions a burden to industry and NMFS
- Could simplify without undermining conservation



Baseline Workgroup

- Created by NRCC in 2011
- White paper
 - 5 suggestions
 - ANPR
- ANPR published Oct. 5, 2011
- Public comment period ended Dec. 5, 2011



Public Comments

- Total comments = 35
 - Oppose all proposed changes
 - Support removal of all upgrade restrictions
 - Support removing tonnages
 - Support removing one-time upgrade limit
 - Exempt vessels under 30 ft
 - Change to series of size classes
 - Other suggestions

