



NOAA
FISHERIES

Northeast
Region

Proposal for an Omnibus Baseline Amendment

Presentation for NEFMC

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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

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

Process and Timeline

Date	Action
August-September 2013 Council meetings	Present plan to Councils
October-November 2013	Gather input from species committees
November 2013-March 2014	Analyze alternatives and draft amendment
March-April 2014	Present draft amendment to species committees
April 2014 Council meetings	Present draft amendment to Councils for adoption
June 2014 Council meetings	Hold public hearings
August-September 2014 Council meetings	Final Council approval of amendment document
September 2014-February 2015	Proposed and Final rulemaking
May 1, 2015	Final rule effective

Questions for the Council today

- Do you wish the species committees to provide input to the amendment?
- Do you wish to schedule species committee meetings in conjunction with the November and April Council meetings?
- If a species committee is not scheduled to meet, should the amendment be delayed?
- How should any proposed changes be reconciled between the two Councils?



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