

Golden Crab AP Catch Shares Report

The Golden Crab AP met on Sunday, January 29, 2012 at the Marriott Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from 1 pm until 4 pm.

Present were the following AP members: Howard Rau, Glenn Ulrich, Chip Bethell, David Nielsen, and Randy Manchester

Also present were: Brad Whipple (Golden Crab Fisherman), Nuno Almeida (Golden Crab Fisherman), John Paiva (Golden Crab Fisherman), Scott Crosson (NMFS SEFSC), Kate Quigley (CapLog Group), Brian Chevront (SAFMC Staff).

The AP deferred selecting new chair and vice chair until after the June Council meeting when the empty seat on the AP was filled.

The AP reviewed Golden Crab Amendment 6 and made the following motions:

Action 1

AP agrees with council preferred

Action 2

AP agrees with council preferred

Action 3

Motion to change preferred sub-alt 2a to 2d. Rau/Bethell. To maximize the distribution initially. Carries unanimously

Action 4

Motion to make alt 2 as the preferred. Rau/Manchester. Worried about someone from outside the fishery from coming outside the fishery to hold shares for speculation. Was the APs previous preferred. Motion carries unanimously

Action 5

AP supports Council's preferred alt.

Action 6

Motion to make sub-alt 2a the preferred. Rau/Bethell. Difficult to track transfers. Keeps the shares working. 10% allows it to be easier for qualifying in case of problems, such as temporary health issues or vessel issues. Could prevent issues later if there is no stock assessment and the SSC has to make ABC calls based on landings alone. Motion carries unanimously.

Action 7

AP concurs with the Council's preferred sub-alt.

Action 8

Motion to create a new alternative that modifies Alt 1 and changes the percentage to 35%. Manchester/Bethell

The AP also requests the Council consider moving this action with the new alternative to CE-BA 3. Reasoning for this is safety, to keep factory processors from vacuuming the bottom, to avoid gear conflicts among vessels in these smaller areas. Motion carries unanimously.

Action 9

Motion to recommend alternative 2 as the preferred. Rau/Bethell. Original intent was to eliminate gear conflicts in where traps are laid so they don't get laid on top of each other and dangerous to retrieve them especially when there are other traps in the area. It can be very costly if gear is damaged or lost. Could drift into Coral HAPCs while untangling gear. Motion carries unanimously.

Action 10

Motion to recommend alt. 2 as the preferred to get rid of the small vessel subzone. Rau/Manchester. Not needed any more because of boat length limit rule is in effect. The big boats are gone. Larger vessels like king crab vessels are no longer an issue. Some vessels are currently ignoring the rule anyway. Motion carries unanimously.

Action 11

Change to "Establish criteria for the number of permits on a vessel." Fishermen want to maintain the zones, but allow vessels to fish more than one zone on a single trip (tied into Action 9.) Administrative ease is what they want as a permit must be tied to a vessel, even if they don't own it. Actions 9 & 11 are tied together. Very common to have multiple permits for different zones, but fishermen only own one vessel. So it makes sense to allow more than one permit on the vessel at a time.

Motion to select alt 3 with modified language as the preferred. Add the following language to the alternative "This alternative would ease the administrative burden on fishermen."

Rau/Bethell. Motion carries unanimously.

Action 12

Motion is to make alter 1 the preferred. Manchester/Bethell. Prefer to do hail in hail out. VMS doesn't track where gear are located. Need to know where traps are on the bottom. Would recommend that in the future the council consider requiring pingers on traps. VMS could show vessel in a zone that is being transited, but not permitted in. Motion carries unanimously.

Action 13

Motion to recommend adding an alternative that says "Set aside 1% of the golden crab ACL to be auctioned off to new permit holders." New permit holders are considered to be persons who did not previously own a golden crab permit for any zone at the time of purchase. A new permit holder must participate in the first auction that occurs after the purchase of the permit.

Ulrich/Manchester. Motions carries unanimously.

Motion to recommend the council consider the new alternative as the preferred. Rau/Bethell. Motion carries unanimously.

Action 14

Motion to recommend the Council choose alt.3 as the preferred. Rau/Bethell. Reduce wasting the resource and is of benefit fishermen with a smaller allocation. Motion carries unanimously.

Action 15

AP supports the Council's preferred alternative.